

Dubai Business Associates Alumni Newsletter

The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a grid of 27 video thumbnails displays the graduates. On the right, a sidebar titled 'Graduates (27)' lists their names. Below the list are 'Invite' and 'Unmute Me' buttons. At the bottom right is the Dubai Business Associates logo.

Graduates (27)

Find a participant

- Abdelrahman Budair
- Aidana Assylbekova
- Ana Paula Poppi
- Chen Zhao
- Daniyar Batyrov
- Fatima Almoosa
- Fatma Sayed
- Guannan (Gloria) Mu
- Hassan Abul-Enein
- Hiba Saif Altamimi
- Jiajing Hu
- Jingyi (Monica) Yao
- Kun Yu
- Liangyao (Liane) Tang
- Liwang Huang
- Lu Li
- Mary Awortwi-Tandoh
- Maryam Almahri
- Mohammad Darwish
- Nadia Mahmood
- Phillip Johnson
- Shiny Chu
- Thomas Rivard
- Weiqi Li
- Xinyi Tong
- Yiyi Zhou
- Yumeng Zhang

Unmute Stop Video Participants Chat Share Screen Record Reactions

DUBAI BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

Year 6 Graduating Class
June 2020

Q3/2020

A message from the Director of Dubai Business Associates:

The Dubai Business Associates team is grateful, humble and proud that Year 6 was a success, setting the bar higher for future cohorts to match and exceed. DBA was busier than ever during Covid since our client companies were even keener to implement the consulting solutions, all with a six-figure impact. This result, achieved through the determination of the associates and seamless collaboration with learning partners Capadev, PwC's Academy, and Bon Education, increases our collective reputation.

We write this note to you before the commencement of Y7. We keep a close eye on travel updates and any news about Dubai airport that may impact the upcoming year. We remain grateful to the authorities in Dubai and the UAE, for their incredible collective efforts to keep the country safe. I am pleased to update you that we have returned to the office full-time and Falcon is busy with many projects under way. We are hopeful to start Year 7 on time mid-September (health and safety permitting).

This month, Falcon and DBA associates organized and managed the UAE-China Culture Week, a 5-day virtual colloquium celebrating the strong ties and steadfast friendship between the UAE and China. During the Opening Launch event, His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Minister of State, said his priority is to "ensure that we make use of culture to help get us through this pandemic more united, more compassionate, and more creative than ever before." Indeed, culture, cultural connections, and storytelling are vital for encouraging collaboration and fostering understanding and tolerance, especially during these challenging times.

We appreciate your ongoing support and your role as cultural ambassadors for Dubai and the UAE, telling the story of Dubai to your networks, to your friends and family, and to the world. For those of you outside of the UAE, dotted around the globe, we hope that when it is safe and feasible to do so, you will come to visit Dubai. Perhaps we can all meet at Expo 2020, which will take place from October 2021 to March 2022.

We trust you will keep well and keep in touch, as always.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the DBA team,

James Maughan



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Year 6: Consulting Projects

In February, the associates began their consulting skills training in class with Karen Manasfi (Capadev), and welcomed a new consulting skills coach, Stephanie Richards. Following the training and 2 weeks on-site at the client sites, all 7 consulting project teams quickly adapted to working remotely and succeeded in delivering outstanding project results, with work, workshops, and presentations moving online.



DBA Year 6: Consulting Projects (7 partners, 1st March to 21st May 2020)

#	DBA Partner	Project Title	Context/Solutions
1	 DP WORLD	Maximizing Supply Chain Sustainability and Social Impact Through Collaboration	Identifying, evaluating, and mapping collaborative initiatives with customers in three industries to address and solve key sustainability challenges.
2	 DUBAI OPERA	Designing an Individual Sponsorship Scheme for Dubai Opera	Creating a customized individual sponsorship scheme that will draw Dubai's residents closer to and raise revenue for Dubai Opera.
3		Material Flow Optimization in the Aircraft Supply Chains	Designing a revised, future-proof operating model to improve the material flow process of aircraft cabin dressing material.
4	 دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Creating a Future Jobs Index: Human Capital Forecasting	Developing an advisory document outlining a high-level quantification of required skilled jobs over time and making recommendations for a Future Jobs Index annual report.
5	 دبي العطاء Dubai Cares	Dignified Storytelling in Development & Aid	Establishing guidelines for best practice in storytelling within the development and aid sector and identifying incentives for their adoption.
6	 غرفة دبي DUBAI CHAMBER	Chamber 4.0: The Future Chamber of Commerce	Determining how Dubai Chamber's data can be leveraged to improve economic performance and contribute to a global knowledge base, positioning Dubai Chamber at the forefront of chamber development worldwide.
7	 دبي الذكية SMART DUBAI	Building the Case for an IoT Testbed	Constructing a case for establishing an IoT testbed, including recommendations for future implementation.

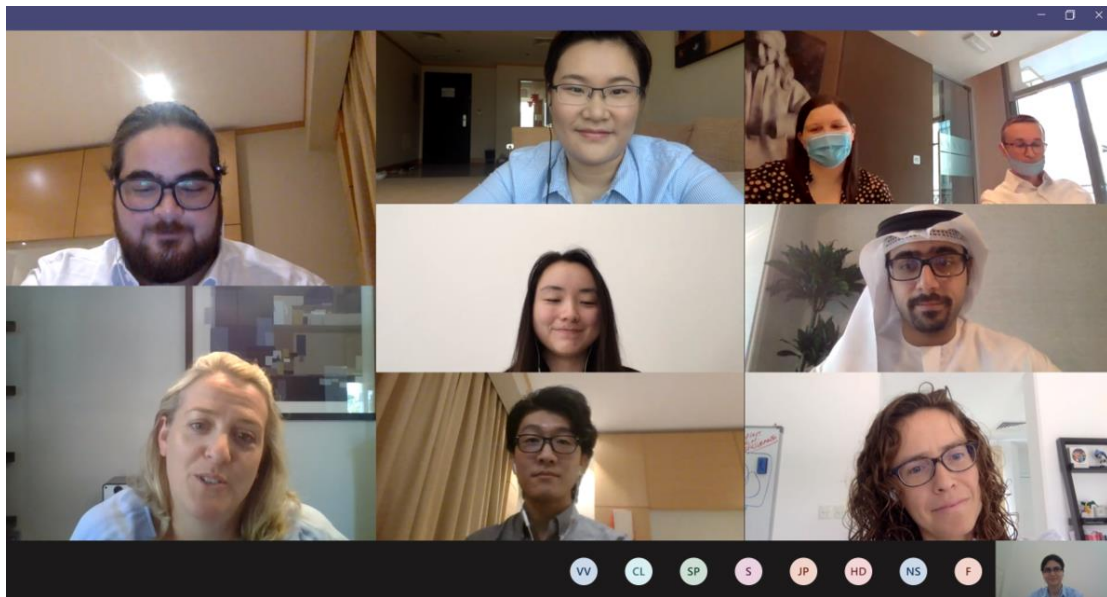
27 associates from 10 nationalities, including 6 Emirati associates joining from:



THE EMIRATES GROUP



DED Consulting Project team presenting Future Jobs Index: Human Capital Forecasting
Winner of Outstanding Project Award



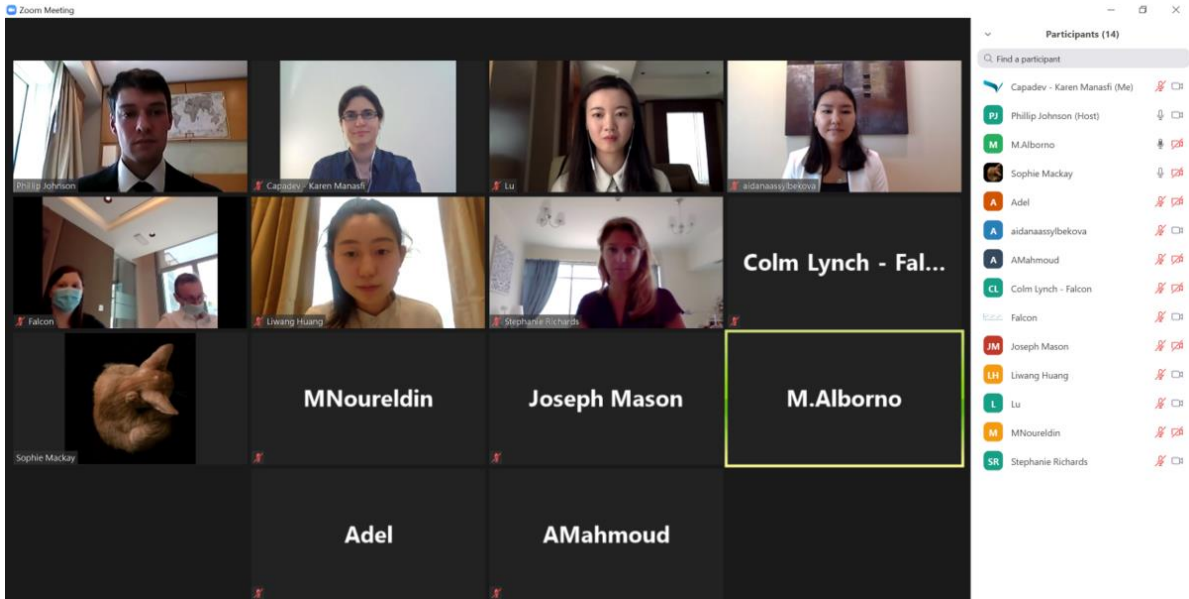
DP World Consulting Project team presenting Maximizing Supply Chain Sustainability and
Social Impact Through Collaboration



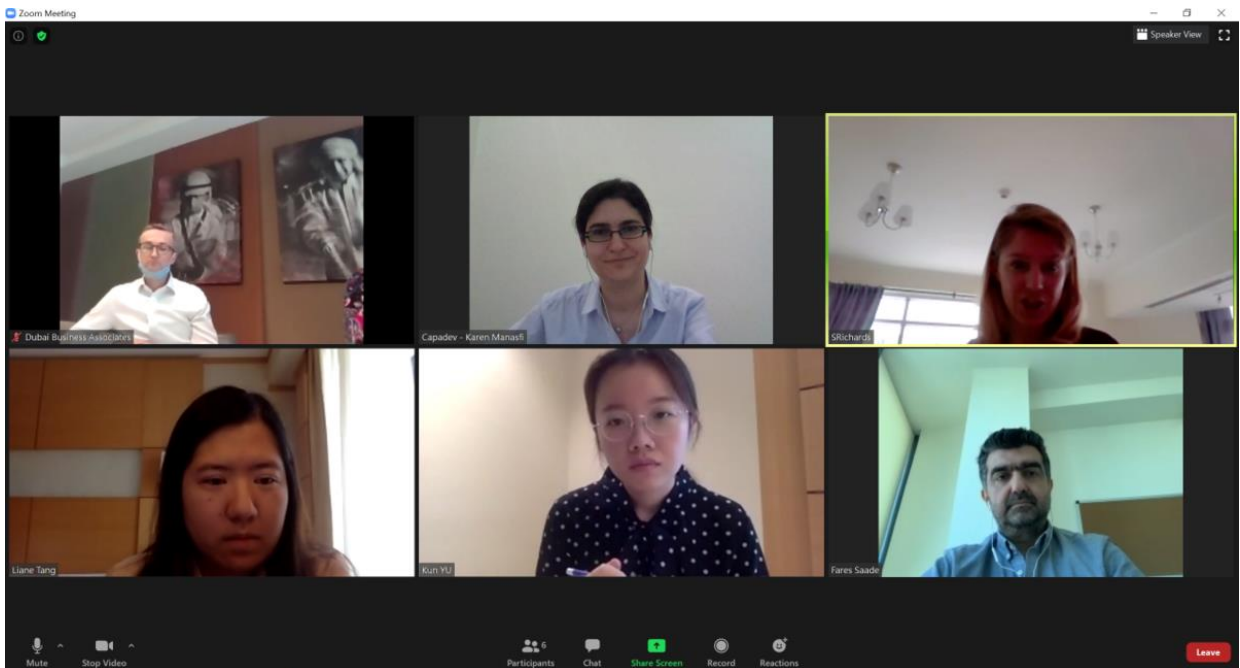
Dubai Chamber Consulting Project team presenting Chamber 4.0: The Future Chamber of Commerce



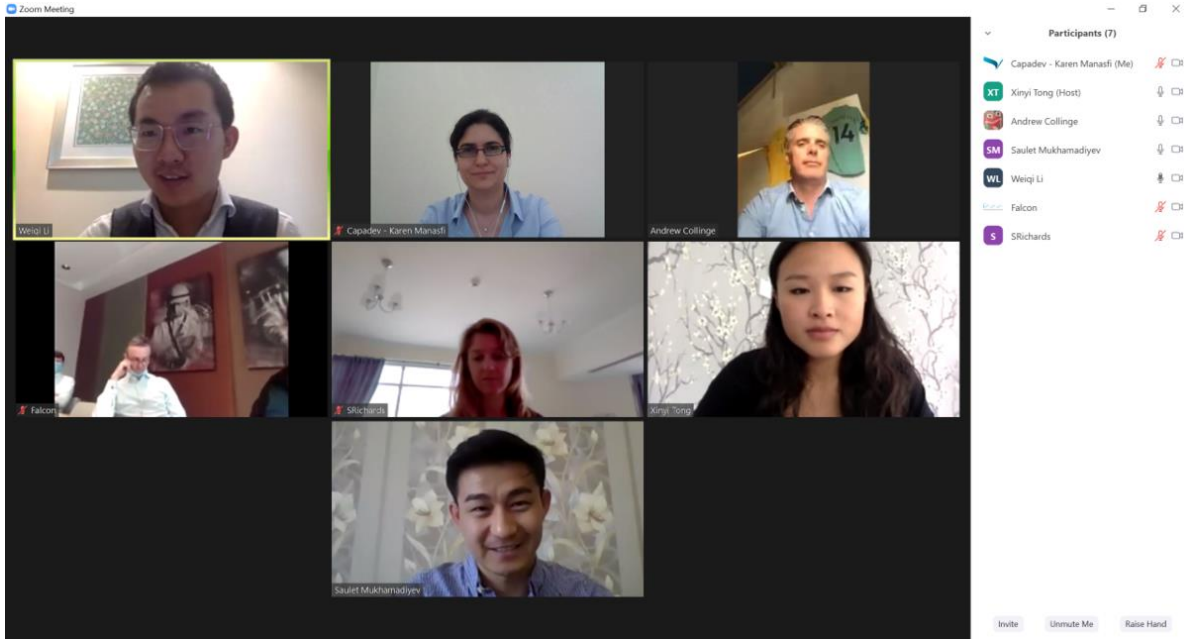
dnata Consulting Project team presenting Material Flow Optimization in Aircraft Supply Chains
Winner of Outstanding Project Award



Dubai Opera Consulting Project team presenting Designing an Individual Sponsorship Scheme for Dubai Opera



Dubai Cares Consulting Project team presenting Dignified Storytelling in Development & Aid



Smart Dubai Consulting Project team presenting Building the Case for an IoT Testbed

Our congratulations to all teams for their great work!

Year 6: Consulting Badge

We also wish to congratulate this year's recipients of the Consulting Badge, awarded by Capadev:

Abdelrahman Budair

Chen Zhao

Hiba Altamimi

Jiajing Hu

Shiny Chu

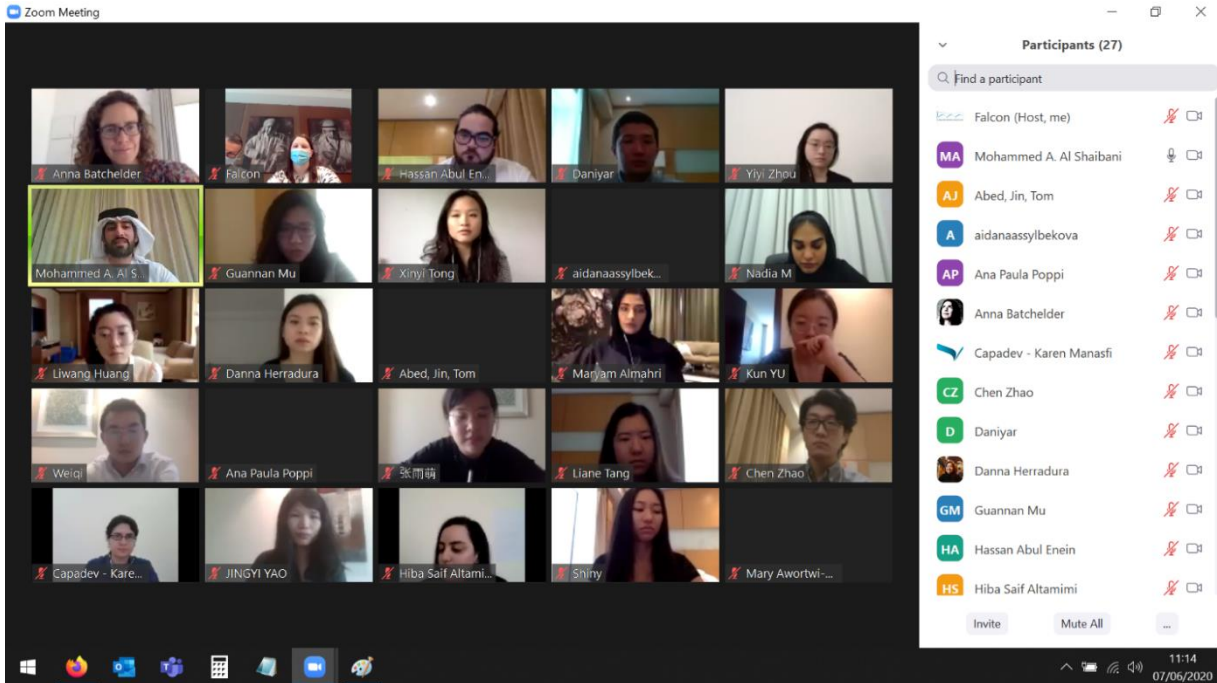
Thomas Rivard

CAPADEV CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



Year 6: Final Falcon Sunday

The final Falcon Sunday began with two outstanding virtual fireside chats. First, associates met with Mohammed Al Shaibani, Assistant Vice President of ICD, who led a great session about ICD's investment strategy.



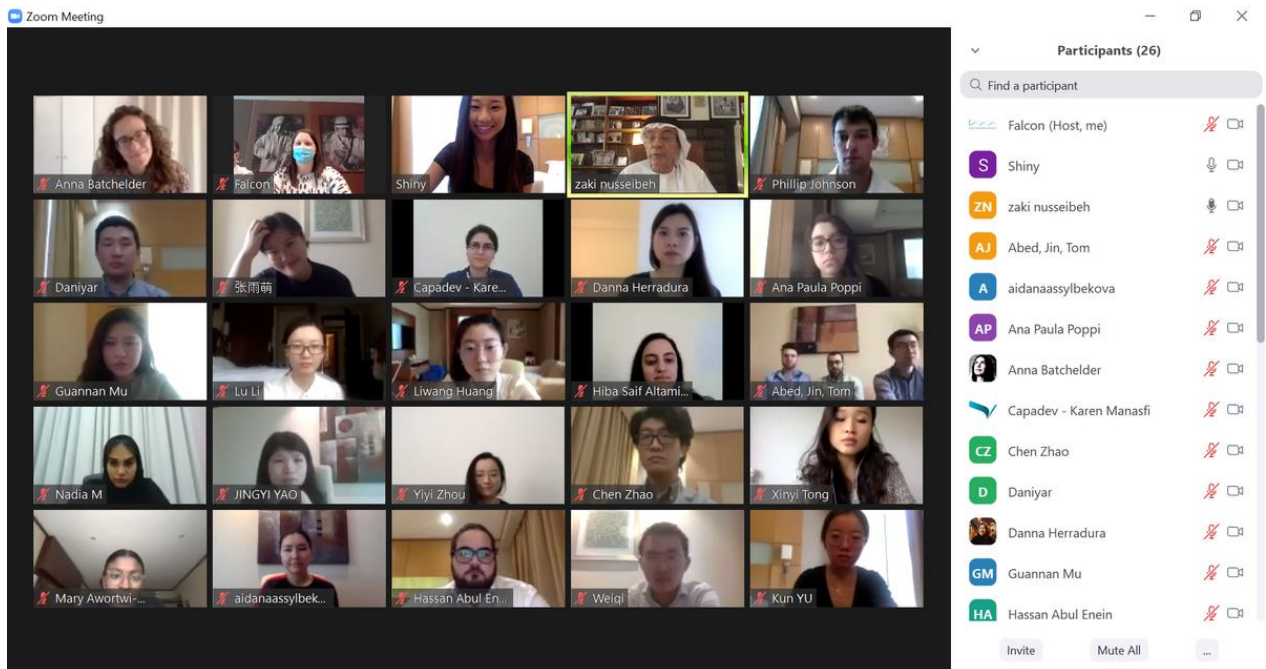
Zoom fireside with Mohammed Al Shaibani, Assistant VP of ICD



The cohort then met with His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, UAE Minister of State, who delivered a masterclass on the importance of public and cultural diplomacy. He shared first-hand stories about Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founder of the UAE, for whom he was an advisor and translator, and talked about life in the UAE when a one-lane road connected Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The session was moderated by associate Shiny Chu.



Zoom fireside with H.E. Zaki Nusseibeh, Minister of State



Following these informative, uplifting talks, in an engaging activity led by Bon Education, the associates and DBA programme team shared their closing reflections about the year – how had they changed this year, and where did they see themselves going in the future?



End-of-year reflections and thoughts



Yiyi sharing her reflections



Mohammad shares his closing thoughts

Year 6: Graduation

For the first time ever, DBA graduation was held online this year, with guests logging in from around the world to celebrate the associates' achievements. We invite you to [watch the ceremony in full](#) and to check out [this year's graduation video](#)! Highlights from the ceremony included:



A keynote address from His Excellency Dr. Tariq Al Gurg, CEO of Dubai Cares



Encouraging remarks from His Excellency Tom Fletcher, former British Ambassador



Inspiring advice from Dr. Noah Raford, Dubai Future Foundation's Futurist-in Chief and Chief of Global Affairs



Wonderful address by His Excellency Li Xuhang, Consul General, Consulate of the People's Republic of China in Dubai



Uplifting, motivational words from Mohammed Shael Al Saadi, CEO of Corporate Strategic Affairs at DED



Positive parting remarks from Ji Yongjun, Deputy Director General, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)



James Maughan announced each graduate's name to applause from the attendees, after which this year's Special Awards were presented:

Falcon Award: Hassan Abul-Enein *and* Hiba Saif Altamimi

Faculty Award: Jiajing Hu

Best Fellow Award: Daniyar Batyrov

Outstanding Project Award: dnata *and* DED

dnata team: Abdelrahman Budair, Jiajing Hu, Monica Yao, Thomas Rivard
DED team: Ana Paula Poppi, Gloria Mu, Hiba Saif Altamimi, Nadia Mahmood

Erin Langlands Award: Shiny Chu

And finally, Mary Awortwi-Tandoh and Hiba Saif Altamimi delivered wonderful speeches on behalf of their fellow associates:

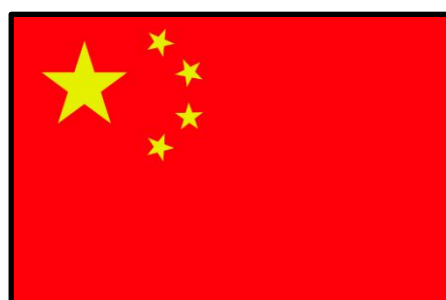


Mary delivering her graduation speech



Hiba speaking on behalf of her fellow associates

UAE-China Culture Week



DBA supported the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) with organizing UAE-China Culture Week, the first ever UAE-China cultural marathon held virtually, in continuation of the inaugural UAE-China Culture Week launched in 2018 on the occasion of China's President Xi Jinping's visit to the UAE. The UAE-China Culture Week was a 5-day virtual colloquium celebrating ties between the UAE and China.

With support from DBA associates and alumni, Falcon and Associates delivered an outstanding dual-language event that highlighted the immense power culture and cross-cultural exchange can have in building diplomatic relationships. The event was featured in [The National](#) and on [MoFAIC's website](#).



UAE-China Culture Week, July 2020

Virtual Colloquium, 5-day agenda



Day 1 – 5 th July	Day 2 – 6 th July	Day 3 – 7 th July	Day 4 – 8 th July	Day 5 – 9 th July
<p>Opening Launch of cultural marathon (Panel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, UAE Minister of MoFA • HE Dr Ali Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to China (moderator) • Mr Zhang Shenfeng, Vice Chairman, CCPIT • HE Ni Jian, China Ambassador to UAE • Dr. Liu Jingzhen, Chairman of the Board of Directors, China National Pharmaceutical Group Co., Ltd. <p>Chinese culture performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ya Yue (traditional Chinese music) 	<p>Expo & museum culture: from Shanghai to Dubai (panel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lorelei Liu (Liu Xiuhua), Director, World Expo Museum • Lath Carlson, Executive Director, Museum of the Future, Dubai • Ms Maha Al Gargawi, Vice President, Political Affairs, Expo 2020 Dubai • Mr Fang Ke, Deputy Director of World Expo Affairs, CCPIT <p>Moderator: James Maughan</p> <p>Chinese culture performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese traditional handicraft 	<p>Cultural differences & tolerance (talk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nasif Kayed, CEO, The Arab Culturalist <p>Food of UAE & China (panel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yumeng Zhang, DBA Alumna • Nasif Kayed <p>Guzheng Chinese instrument (performance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Wu & Yujia Guo, DBA alumnae <p>Chinese & Middle East traditional music (panel & performance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Wu & Yujia Guo, DBA alumnae • Kamal Musallam, Arabic Fusion Guitarist 	<p>People exchange panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education in UAE for Chinese • China's friendship & people exchange along the Silk Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Zhou, CEO & Founder, Oriental Wise Educational Consultancy • Mr Yongjun Ji, Deputy Director General, Department of American & Oceanian Affairs, CPAFFC <p>UAE culture - Chinese perceptions & reality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBA Chinese associates: Hang Guo (co-moderator), Nicholas Zhu, Carmen Luo, Kun Yu, Weining Qiu • James Maughan, Director, Falcon and Associates (co-moderator) <p>Middle East traditional music performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oud solo by Kamal Musallam 	<p>The Future of Cultural Industry at the post-epidemic era (panel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Dr Ali Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to China (moderator) • Mr Ren Haifeng, Deputy Director of the China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Centre for Young People • Mr Ji Pengcheng, Executive Curator of China Millennium Monument Art Museum <p>Chinese culture performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Chinese calligraphy

Day 1: Opening Launch



The event was opened by His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Minister of State, in conversation with His Excellency Dr. Ali Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to China; His Excellency Ni Jian, China Ambassador to UAE; Mr Zhang Shenfeng, Vice Chairman of CCPIT; and Dr. Liu Jingzhen, Chairman of the Board of Directors, China National Pharmaceutical Group (SinoPharm). [Click here to watch the Day 1 broadcast.](#)



Ali Obaid Al Dhaheri
@aalyabhouni

Excellent opening to #UAEChina 🇦🇪 🇨🇳
Virtual Cultural week particularly a vibrant panel discussion alongside His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, UAE Minister of State alongside a number of special guests. Four more days of cultural activities ahead



Day 2: Expo & Museum Culture – From Shanghai to Dubai

Day 2's panel discussion was an uplifting conversation about the how events like World Expos and museum culture impact cities, and all of the exciting things to look forward to as Dubai gets ready to welcome the world to Expo 2020. [Click here to watch the Day 2 broadcast.](#)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة الخارجية
والتعاون الدولي



Expo and Museum Culture – from Shanghai to Dubai: in conversation with Lorelei Liu, Director, World Expo Museum; Lath Carlson, Executive Director, Museum of the Future; Fang Ke, Deputy Director of World Expo Affairs, CCPIT; and Maha Al Gargawi, Vice President, Political Affairs, Expo 2020 Dubai; the panel discussion was moderated by James Maughan.

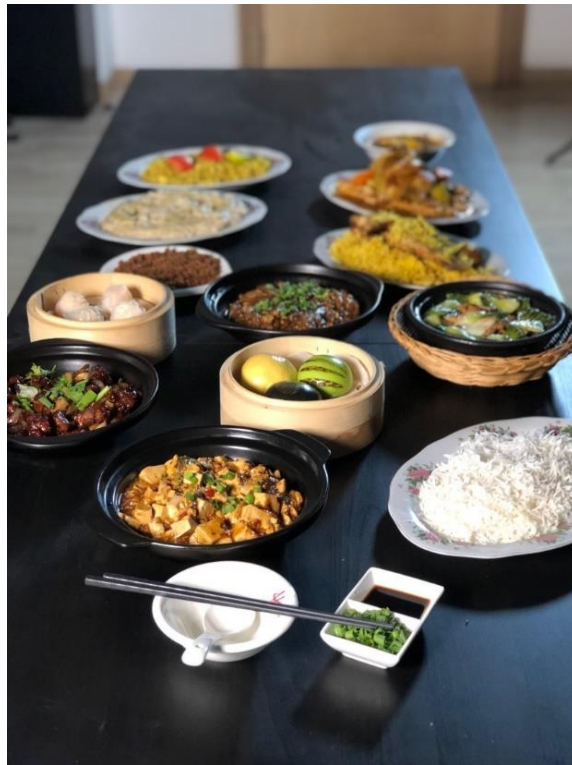
Day 3: Culture, Food, and Music

The third day featured multiple exciting sessions, beginning with a talk on understanding cultural differences, hosted by Nasif Kayed:



Discussing the importance of fostering cultural understanding

Then, a session on foods of the UAE and China:



Traditional dishes from the UAE and China





Nasif and Yumeng (DBA Y6) discussing the history of traditional Emirati and Chinese cuisine

The final segment focused on music, featuring guzheng performances from DBA alumni Amanda (Y5) and Yujia (Y3), a guzheng-oud duet with Kamal Musallam (an Arabic fusion guitarist), an oud solo performance, and a panel discussion on music of China and the Middle East:



Amanda (Y5)



Yujia (Y3) and Kamal Musallam



Panel discussion: traditional music of China and the UAE

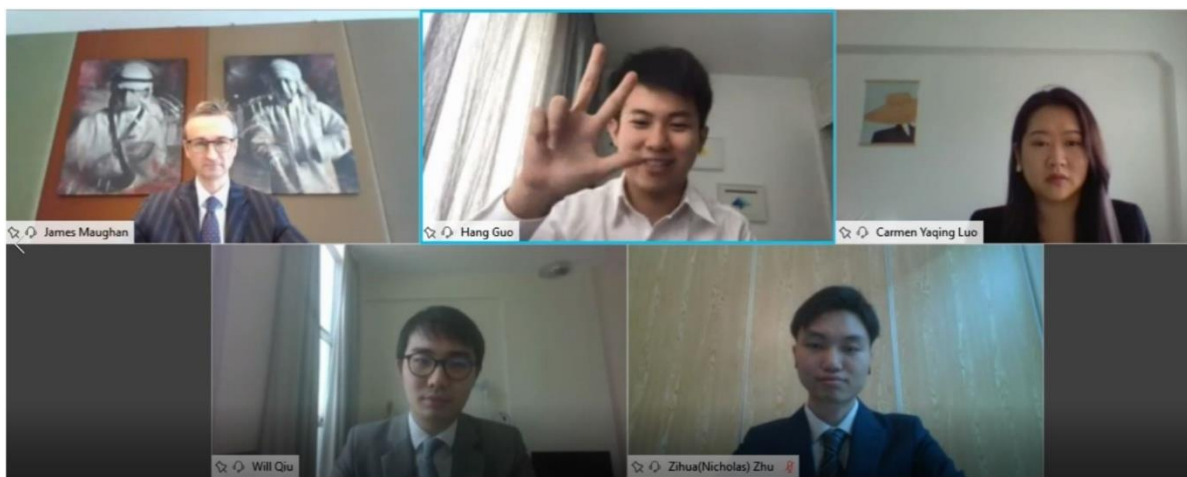
[Click here to watch the Day 3 broadcast.](#)

Day 4: Language and People Exchange

The fourth day featured several DBA alumni, fitting since the topic was the impact and importance of language and people exchange. The panel discussion, moderated by James Maughan, featured Yongjun Ji (Deputy Director General of CPAFFC), Jenny Zhou (CEO, Oriental Wise Education Consultancy), DBA alumni Carmen (Y2), Hang (Y1), Will (Y1), Nicholas (Y4), and Kun (Y6) sharing their reflections on UAE-China relations and cross-cultural perceptions. [Click here to watch the Day 4 broadcast.](#)



Panel discussion on language and people exchange



Day 5: The Future of Cultural Industry at the Post-Pandemic Era

On the final day of UAE-China Culture Week, His Excellency Dr. Ali Al Dhaheri, UAE Ambassador to China, discussed the importance of culture as a feature of a knowledge-based economy, in conversation with Ren Haifeng, Deputy Director of the China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Centre, and Ji Pengcheng, Executive Curator of China Millennium Monument Art Museum. [Click here to watch the Day 5 broadcast.](#)



Day 5's discussion of the future of cultural industry at the post-COVID era

DBA Summer Projects

In addition to facilitating the UAE-China Culture Week, other summer projects DBA Y6 associates are working on include a business plan for filling the careers education gap in the UAE and a feasibility study on a hydroponics venture.



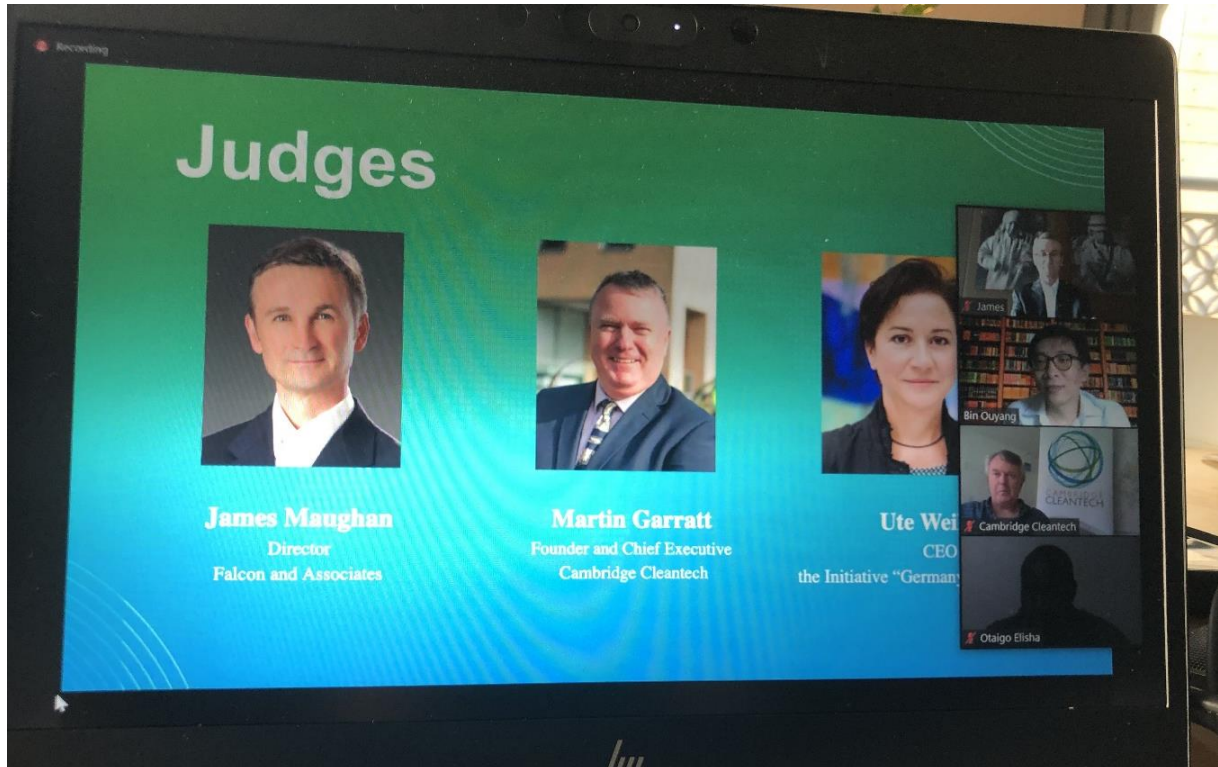
A business plan for filling the careers education gap



The hydroponics team on a site visit

Young Green Tech

Young Green Tech, which brings together entrepreneurs who are striving to make the world a greener place, has [just announced the YGT 2020 winners](#). Carmen (Y2) was a reviewer of this year's 100 applications, and James was one of the final-round judges:

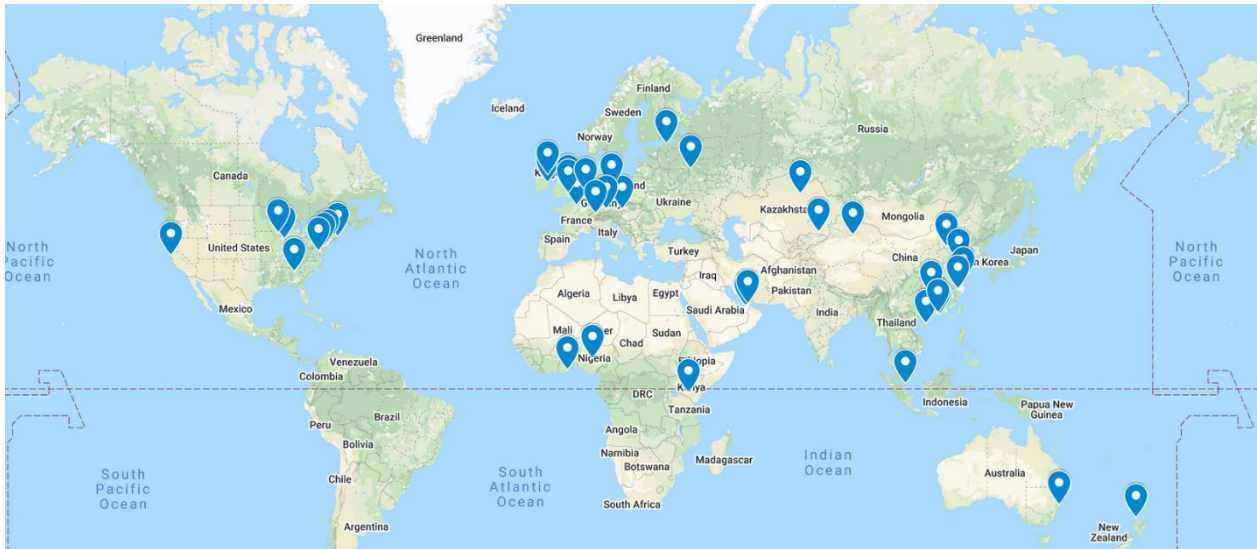


[Click here](#) to see the post by YGT founder Bin Ouyang and watch James' welcome message and advice for the YGT 2020 cohort.



Alumni Whereabouts

Including the Year 6 associates, there are now 180 DBA alumni. While the Year 6 associates settle themselves into new locations and roles, we have mapped where Year 1-5 alumni are currently residing in 19 countries/41 cities around the world:



Australia: Sydney

Austria: Vienna

China: Beijing, Guangzhou, Hainan, Hong Kong, Hunan Province, Qingdao, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Xinjiang, Zhejiang

France: Paris

Germany: Berlin, Munich

Ghana: Accra

Ireland: Dublin

Kazakhstan: Almaty, Astana

Kenya: Nairobi

Netherlands: Rosmalen

New Zealand: Auckland

Nigeria: Abuja

Russia: Moscow, Saint Petersburg

Singapore

Switzerland: Zurich

UAE: Abu Dhabi, Dubai

UK: Cambridge, Co. Antrim, London

USA: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Madison, New Jersey, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Washington DC

We encourage you to reach out to your fellow alumni if you are visiting or moving to any of the cities above. Please see the alumni list (appendix) for LinkedIn contact information.