

## **Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Inaugurates “Prototypes for Humanity”**

**The world’s most diverse assembly of academic innovation that have the power to change the world, and brings together stakeholders from the private and public sectors, to leverage academic innovation and accelerate change**

- On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) and member of the Dubai Council opened the inaugural Prototypes for Humanity exhibition at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).
- The Prototypes for Humanity exhibition showcases 100 best-in-class projects for social and environmental impact, by university students across all science, tech, and creative disciplines, chosen from 450 universities in over 100 countries
- In line with its mission, the unveiling of the programme gathered a high-profile group of Dubai leaders across multiple industries, who convened to discuss strategies and opportunities to leverage the city’s infrastructure to support the development of real-world solutions for a better world.
- 160 universities students and professors, hailing from over 50 countries, were welcomed to Dubai by DIFC’s CEO Arif Amiri, and were introduced to the city’s and DIFC’s efforts and initiatives towards building a sustainable future.
- The \$100,000 Prototypes for Humanity Award fund was given to 4 projects in the fields of health, society, environment, and corporate solutions.
- The exhibition will be open to public between November 16-17, 1-9pm at DIFC.

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## “Prototypes for Humanity” debuts in Dubai to become a catalyst for partnerships and action for good

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates, November 15 2022:** Inaugurated by its patron Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) and Member of the Dubai Council, Prototypes for Humanity sets out to become a key Dubai initiative for the creation of solutions for complex global problems – and their implications on everyone’s lives.

Held in partnership with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the leading global financial centre in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA) region, and supported by Dubai Culture and A.R.M. Holding, the Prototypes for Humanity exhibition has brought together 160 universities students and professors hailing from all four corners of the world, presenting 100 innovations that can spark change: from carbon-capturing mobility solutions to a portable defibrillator and off-grid electricity sources, the initiative seeks to raise awareness about the repercussions of social and environmental problems, but from a pragmatic problem-solving perspective.

At the launch, Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum along with **His Excellency Essa Kazim, Governor of DIFC**, announced the recipients of Prototypes for Humanity Award that aims to champion academic excellent in critical areas for sustainable development. Each received \$25,000 for their outstanding work. They are:

### HEALTH

**FormaCyte**, a revolutionary Implant for type 1 diabetes management  
By Nam Tran, Chi Pham and Chen Yang  
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

### SOCIETY

**AkoFresh**, a solar-powered cold storage solution reducing post-harvest loss  
By Mathias Charles Yabe, Dhruvika Sosa and Arina Machine  
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

### ENVIRONMENT

**Aerostat**, a smart helium-filled balloon for early forest fire detection  
By Merve Kalan  
Middle East Technical University, Turkey

### CORPORATE SOLUTIONS

**Carbon Capture Battery**, a solution to generate energy whilst capturing carbon  
By Mohammad Saghafifar and Seyed Mojtaba Hashemi  
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

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Following the opening, Sheikha Latifa met with decision-makers and officials from the government and private sectors to exchange insights on initiatives implemented within their organisations. The meeting also discussed the immense opportunities associated with channeling international talent and innovation into Dubai's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The organisations Her Highness met with included HE Omar Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Remote Work Applications, HE Essa Kazim, Governor of DIFC, HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Managing Director/CEO, Dubai Electricity & Water Authority, HE Khalfan a Belhoul, Chief Executive Officer, Dubai Future Foundation, HE Eng. Dawoud Abdul Rahman Al Hajri, Director General of Dubai Municipality, HE Mohammed Lootah, President and CEO Dubai Chambers, HE Awadh Seghayer Al Ketbi, Director General of Dubai Health Authority, HE Hala Badri, Director General, Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, HE Aisha Miran, Assistant Secretary-General Strategy Management and Governance – The Executive Council of Dubai, Raga Al Gurg, Chairperson and Managing Director of the Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group (ESAG), Dr. Nawal Al Hosini, The Permanent Representative of the UAE to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Arif Amiri, CEO of DIFC Authority.

Commenting on the alignment between the programme and Dubai's approach to building the future by empowering its community and embracing innovation, **Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture) and Member of the Dubai Council**, said that 'Prototypes for Humanity' is in line with Dubai's strategy to embrace innovation and empower talent in order to build a better future for humanity. The initiative also reflects Dubai's vision to enhance awareness on sustainable development, creativity and innovation, Her Highness said, noting that the emirate has led key pioneering initiatives and global projects to achieve this objective.

"'Prototypes for Humanity' closely aligns with Dubai's ambitious vision and its commitment to empowering a creative and an innovation-embracing community. In light of the global challenges we constantly face, it is time to unite efforts and utilise our creativity to address these issues and build a better future for the world. I am highly confident in the capabilities of the participating students to foster a better and more sustainable tomorrow," Her Highness said. "With 100 best-in-class impact innovation projects being presented in the fields of health, environment, society and corporate solutions, we look forward to seeing a world that is ready to embrace future innovations," she added.

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Sheikha Latifa also highlighted the importance of collaboration in accelerating change and building a sustainable future. Through bringing together stakeholders from the private and public sector, the venture capital community and academia, the event supports the transformation of scientific research into real-life solutions that address global challenges, further strengthening Dubai's rise as an innovation hub.

During the week leaders from private businesses, public agencies, investors, academics, local and international stakeholders, such as A.R.M. Holding who have a dedicated AED 10m fund to support innovations, will congregate at the DIFC to discuss how to unlock the potential of academic ingenuity to create a better world, today.

An emblematic representation of Dubai's industrious spirit and ability to transform vision into action, DIFC offers the ideal environment for the necessary academic-private-public connections to happen. Significant efforts towards innovation, future economy, entrepreneurship and ESG have been built and prospered within DIFC, creating a robust platform for impact-driven partnerships to come to fruition.

Commenting on the opportunities ahead, **His Excellency Essa Kazim, Governor of DIFC**, said: "DIFC's commitment to sustainably increase our contribution to Dubai's economy guides both the Centre's long-term vision and immediate plans. The global relevance that Dubai and DIFC has built provides us with credibility to be an enabler of partnerships for good whether within the finance industry, or more broadly across society. We believe that social prosperity and sustainability is essential to everyone's future and we want to play a leading role in accelerating it."

The exhibition is open to the public between November 16-17, 1-9pm, in DIFC, Atrium, Precinct Building 5 and is free to attend.

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*A comprehensive list of this year's 100 shortlisted entries is live on*

**[www.prototypesforhumanity.com](http://www.prototypesforhumanity.com)**

**[Press Images](#)**

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## **ABOUT PROTOTYPES FOR HUMANITY**

Prototypes for Humanity is the most diverse assembly of innovations that have the power to change the world, featuring programmes and activities aimed at raising awareness of global problems, celebrating solutions, and catalyse action for positive social and environmental impact. Each year, participating graduate projects offer audiences the opportunity to enter a universe of academic ingenuity rarely seen outside the campus through the work of young minds addressing complex issues around the world. The initiative brings together key stakeholders that can accelerate impact action, including graduates, professors, and leaders in government, corporates, and entrepreneurial ecosystems, leveraging academic innovation, and harnessing the power of partnerships to deliver tangible, real-world impact. Prototypes for Humanity debuts in 2022 as an evolution from Global Grad Show, which launched in 2015. An initiative by the Art Dubai Group, it is held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, in partnership with Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), and supported by Dubai Culture & Arts Authority and A.R.M. Holding. To learn more about Prototypes for Humanity, please visit: <https://www.prototypesforhumanity.com/>

## **ABOUT DUBAI CULTURE & ARTS AUTHORITY**

Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (Dubai Culture), under the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, is committed to enriching Dubai's cultural scene based on the U.A.E.'s heritage and is building bridges of constructive dialogue between various cultures to enhance Dubai's position as a global centre for culture, an incubator for creativity, and a thriving hub for talent. As part of its journey to position Dubai as the global capital of the creative economy, Dubai Culture is keen on reviving and preserving the emirate's historical heritage and developing the regulatory frameworks for the cultural and creative sector in line

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with its strategic roadmap 2020 – 2026. The Authority also seeks to empower the enablers that aim to support talents and stimulate active participation from society members by investing in the various cultural and heritage assets under its remit, including the management of six heritage sites, six museums, Al Jalila Cultural Centre for Children and eight Dubai Public Library branches, all of which help contribute to creating an economic system that stimulates the cultural and creative industries. For more information, please visit the Authority's website [www.dubaiculture.gov.ae](http://www.dubaiculture.gov.ae)

## ABOUT DIFC

Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) is one of the world's most advanced financial centres and the leading financial hub for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA), which comprises 72 countries with an approximate population of 3 billion and an estimated G.D.P. of USD 8 trillion. With a close to 20-year track record of facilitating trade and investment flows across the MEASA region, the Centre connects these fast-growing markets with the economies of Asia, Europe and the Americas through Dubai. DIFC is home to an internationally recognised, independent regulator and a proven judicial system with an English common law framework, as well as the region's largest financial ecosystem of almost 30,000 professionals working across over 4,000 active registered companies – making up the largest and most diverse pool of industry talent in the region. The Centre's vision is to drive the future of finance through cutting-edge technology, innovation, and partnerships. Today, it is the global future of finance and innovation hub, offering one of the region's most comprehensive FinTech and venture capital environments, including cost-effective licensing solutions, fit-for-purpose regulation, innovative accelerator programmes, and funding for growth-stage start-ups. Comprising a variety of world-renowned retail and dining venues, a dynamic art and culture scene, residential apartments, hotels and public spaces, DIFC continues to be one of Dubai's most sought-after business and lifestyle destinations. For further information, please visit: <https://www.difc.ae/>

## ABOUT A.R.M. HOLDING

A.R.M. Holding is a private investment firm and multi-focused economic enabler that creates synergies and opportunities through local, regional and global investments. At the core of the company's business strategy is its commitment to impactful investments, actively employing its resources to advance society and empower its players to pursue innovative solutions and inspire a better future. It collaborates with like-minded organisations and leverages its network and partnerships to create meaningful relationships and growth opportunities. A.R.M.

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Holding's investments are focused on tech-enabled industries and sophisticated technologies around the world that demonstrate strong potential for long-term positive social impact. It also holds equity stakes in various sectors of Dubai's foremost companies, including Banking, Telecom, FMCG, Real Estate, and Hospitality. A.R.M. Holding has contributed to society with significant investments in numerous industries and versatile projects. In 2021, it became the first corporate patron of the Dubai Collection, the first institutional art collection in the emirate of Dubai. To learn more about A.R.M. Holding, please visit: <https://www.armholding.ae/>

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