

# gastro2016

EGHS-WGO International Congress

17 - 19 November 2016

*1st Announcement*



Co-organized by



شعبة الامارات لأمراض الجهاز الهضمي و الكبد  
GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY SOCIETY



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# Organizing Bodies

## WGO Invitation

Welcome to Gastro 2016.

It is a pleasure to invite you to attend the Gastro 2016: EGHS/WGO International Conference, November 17–19, 2016 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

This is the first time in the history of WGO that it joins forces with an Arab based organization to jointly hold a co-organized meeting in the Middle East, which only emphasizes the growing scope and demand for expertise in the UAE and the region.

We are planning an outstanding program with renowned speakers, the latest in scientific practice, and exhibits of the latest innovations, clinical research, drugs and equipment; all enriched by attendees and representatives from countries throughout the world.

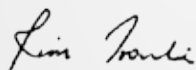
Gastro 2016 will offer leading international experts presenting a rich variety of topics over three days of academic excellence, showcasing a wide selection of quality research and clinical contributions.

The format of the meeting will include a Postgraduate Course, Workshop, Symposia, Debates, State-of-the-Art Lectures and Free Papers.

With Abu Dhabi as the backdrop, you will be sure to enjoy the region's unique heritage.

Along with the hosts the Emirates Gastroenterology Society and on behalf of the World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO), I encourage you to join us in Abu Dhabi.

Yours sincerely,



**Jim Toouli**  
Emeritus Professor of Surgery  
Co-chair Steering Committee – Gastro 2016

## EGHS Invitation

Dear Colleagues,

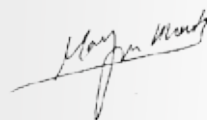
This year and for the very first time in the region, EGHS will join hands with the World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO) to jointly stage Gastro 2016. This development comes as a new landmark to confirm the commitment of the UAE as a supporter of scientific innovation and the improvement of health care systems and aspires to actively contribute to the advancement of scientific and medical practices locally, regionally and internationally.

The joint EGHS/WGO scientific committee is developing a rich educational program, featuring highly respected faculty of international and local speakers over three days of scientific and networking events, symposia, forums, debates, including the live broadcasting of a series of live endoscopy cases directly from one of the UAE's leading hospitals. We look forward to an exciting meeting that promises great educational content and to the interaction with all distinguished guests and colleagues from around the world.

I encourage you to use this excellent opportunity to gain first insight into the current and future developments in the United Arab Emirates and experience the unique social and cultural heritage together with the warm hospitality of Abu Dhabi.

I look forward to welcoming you at Gastro 2016.

Kind regards,



**Dr. Maryam Al Khatry**  
President EGHS  
Co-chair Steering Committee – Gastro 2016

# Organizing Bodies

## International Steering Committee

### World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO)



**Prof. James Toouli – (Co-Chair)**

Australia  
Emeritus Professor of Surgery  
Adelaide, SA



**Prof. David Bjorkman**

USA  
Dean, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine  
Boca Raton, FL



**Prof. Cihan Yurdaydin**

Turkey  
Hepatology Institute, Chief,  
University of Ankara  
Professor of Gastroenterology,  
Department of Gastroenterology,  
University of Ankara Medical School Ankara

### Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Society



**Dr. Maryam Al Khatry - (Co-Chair)**

United Arab Emirates  
Head of Gastroenterology and  
Endoscopy Department  
IBHO Hospital  
Ministry of Health



**Dr. Yousif Al Sarkal**

United Arab Emirates  
Assistant Undersecretary for Hospitals Sector  
Ministry of Health

# Organizing Bodies

## International Program Committee

### World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO)



**Prof. Naima Amrani - (Co-Chair)**  
Morocco  
University Mohammed 5,  
Faculty of Medicine & Pharmacy - Rabat



**Prof. Geoffrey Metz**  
Australia  
Epworth Hospital  
Richmond, VIC

### Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Society



**Dr Abdulla Alhassani**  
United Arab Emirates  
Head - Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Department  
Zayed Military Hospital  
Abu Dhabi



**Dr. Sameer Al Awadhi**  
United Arab Emirates  
Head Gastroenterology and  
Endoscopy Department  
Rashid Hospital  
Dubai



# Organizing Bodies

## Local Host Committee

### Chair

**Dr. Yousif Al Sarkal**  
United Arab Emirates  
Assistant Undersecretary for Hospitals Sector  
Ministry of Health

### Co-Chair

**Dr. Maryam Al Khatry**  
United Arab Emirates  
Head of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Department IBHO Hospital  
Ministry of Health

### Members

**Dr. Huda Al Quraishi**  
United Arab Emirates

**Dr. Huda Khatta**  
United Arab Emirates

**Dr. Hussam Saleh**  
United Arab Emirates

**Dr. Mazin Al Jabiri**  
United Arab Emirates

**Dr. Mostafa Abdulaziz**  
United Arab Emirates

**Dr. Rami Moucari**  
United Arab Emirates

**Dr. Samer Al Asala**  
United Arab Emirates

**Dr. Subash Gautham**  
United Arab Emirates



# Organizing Bodies

## Local Scientific Committee

### Co-Chair

#### **Dr. Abdulla Alhassani**

Head - Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Department  
Zayed Military Hospital  
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

### Co-Chair

#### **Dr. Sameer Al Awadhi**

Head Gastroenterology and  
Endoscopy Department  
Rashid Hospital  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### Members

#### **Dr. AbdulQader Al Massabi**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Adnan Abuhammour**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Ahmad Al Jazzar**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Assad Dajani**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. ElHassan Sidahmed ElHassan**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Emad Fayyad**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Imad Zeitar**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Jamil Akhras**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Khadhim Fahad**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Khaled Bamakhrama**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Makky Fayyad**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Mohamed Miqdady**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Muhammad Al Haddad**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Mustafa Sabri**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Salem Awadh**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Srinath Dore**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Tarek Saleh**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Thomas Cherukara**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Urooj Ahmed**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Wagdy Mikail**

United Arab Emirates

#### **Dr. Zaher Koutoubi**

United Arab Emirates

# World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO)

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) is a federation of over 100 Member Societies and four Regional Associations of gastroenterology representing over 50,000 individual members worldwide.

The WGO focuses on the improvement of standards in training, education, and the practice of Gastroenterology and Hepatology worldwide with a focus on low-resource nations. Our educational initiatives include Training Centers around the world, Train the Trainers Workshops, Outreach Programs bringing endoscopic services and equipment to developing countries, public awareness campaigns such as World Digestive Health Day and Global Guidelines with a special Cascade feature providing solutions adaptable to varying resource levels around the world.

## Mission of the WGO

To promote, to the general public and health care professionals alike, an awareness of the world wide prevalence and optimal care of digestive disorders through the provision of high quality, accessible, and independent education and training.

## The WGO Vision: Global Guardian of Digestive Health. Serving the World

Digestive disorders are pre-eminent among health care issues globally, a significant burden to national healthcare budgets and the single greatest cause of cancer death. While an increasing awareness of causative factors, coupled with dramatic advances in diagnostic and therapeutic approaches have led to improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of digestive disorders, these benefits have not been transmitted equally across the world and, especially, to those in greatest need.

As the global representative for gastroenterology, the role of the WGO is to:

- Increase global public awareness of digestive disorders
- Provide independent and high quality educational opportunities to medical, nursing and other healthcare professionals in digestive disorders throughout the world, regardless of location
- Support healthcare professionals who care for those with digestive disorders throughout the world

## The WGO Foundation

The WGO Foundation, incorporated in 2007, is dedicated to raising funds to support WGO educational programs and activities. Donors interested in supporting the work of the WGO are invited to visit this section for further information and opportunities to give.

## Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Society (EGHS)

From humble beginnings this forum has grown into one of the most active, professional medical societies in UAE maintaining a high standard.

Currently, the society has around 160 active members from various specialties such as Medical and Surgical Gastroenterology, Paediatrics, Radiology, Pathology, General Medicine and Surgery.

The Society meets every month with a set agenda to ensure its members have an active schedule of events, seminars and forums covering clinical problems related to the specialty.

There are on-going plans to conduct epidemiological studies, clinical trials and basic research so as to have authentic data on the common and relevant clinical problems in the UAE.





# Gastro 2016: EGHS / WGO International Congress

In addition to the World Congress of Gastroenterology held every two years, the WGO is collaborating with its member societies and regional associations to host joint meetings in-between World Congresses.

The first of these International Conferences, Gastro 2016: EGHS-WGO International Congress, will take place on 17-19 November 2016 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This meeting is jointly organized with the Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Society (EGHS.)

This is the first time in the history of WGO that it joins forces with an Arab based organisation to jointly hold a co-organised meeting, which only emphasises the growing scope and demand for expertise in the UAE and the region.

The meeting, which promises to be the largest ever Gastroenterology & Hepatology gathering in the Middle East & Africa region, will be jointly held with the Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Annual Meeting – EGHC - in the same year; and is expected to attract close to 2,500 health care professionals, medical specialists, policy makers at national, regional and international levels as well as academics and researchers.

The international Scientific Program Committee with representatives from both organizations is developing a rich educational program over three days of scientific and networking events, symposia, forums, debate, including the live broadcasting of a series of live endoscopy cases directly from one of the UAE's leading hospitals.

In addition to the Keynote speeches, Video Presentations as well as oral and poster presentations and panel discussions, Gastro 2016 will also include the highly in demand onsite "Hands-on Training" sessions as well as Post Graduate Courses.

This development comes as a new landmark to confirm the commitment of the UAE as a supporter of scientific innovation and the improvement of health care systems and aspires to actively contribute in the advancement of scientific and medical practices locally, regionally and internationally.

The meeting has the support of Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau – a one-stop resource of Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (TCA Abu Dhabi) –, which is assisting the emirate to increasingly advance its reputation in the medical meetings sector.

We look forward to an exciting meeting that promises great scientific debate and enjoyable social interaction and to welcoming all distinguished guests and colleagues from around the world in Abu Dhabi at Gastro 2016. The meeting is also an excellent opportunity to gain first insight into the current and future developments in the United Arab Emirates as well as for members and their families to experience the warm hospitality of Abu Dhabi.

## Why Attend?

In numerous lectures, presentations, courses, posters and videos, leading experts will present the latest scientific knowledge and state of the art research in Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Gastro 2016 offers a unique platform and the opportunity to meet and network with a truly international audience and gain insight into the latest product information and trends.

Do not miss this opportunity to meet gastroenterologists, surgeons and researchers from around the globe. By attending Gastro 2016, you are also support World Gastroenterology Organization in realizing its objectives and programs:

- Gastroenterologists
- Hepatologists
- Endoscopy Specialists
- Family Practitioners
- Internal Medicine
- Surgeons
- Oncologists
- Pathologists
- Researchers
- Academia
- Allied Health
- Nursing Staff

## WGO Objectives

- To promote public awareness of digestive disorders worldwide
- To provide the highest standards in education and training in gastroenterology throughout the world and objectively assess the outcomes thereof
- To create an educational network readily accessible and relevant to gastroenterologists in emerging societies to support their local professional development
- To promote multi-disciplinary approaches to primary prevention, screening, early detection and optimal care of digestive cancers
- To develop and disseminate global guidelines on important global issues in the clinical practice of gastroenterology
- To promote an ethical approach to all aspects of the practice of gastroenterology
- To promote the formation of gastroenterological organizations and encourage them to be members of WGO
- To support and collaborate closely with all organizations interested in digestive disorders, including nursing, other healthcare workers and patient advocacy groups
- To solicit financial support for the purpose of undertaking WGO's global and emerging society programs and activities
- To regularly communicate WGO's strategic plan, activities and outcomes to its constituents

## Who Should Attend?



# Scientific Program

## Highlights

- International Faculty of Experts
- Topics of regional focus
- Instruction Courses
- Postgraduate Course
- Workshops, Symposia, interactive Debates
- State-of-the-Art Lectures
- Abstract Submission for Free Papers, Posters and Videos

## Scientific Program Topics Areas

- Live Endoscopy combined with pre-prepared video endoscopy vignettes
- IBD
- Hepatology (including new treatments for Hepatitis, HCC)
- Neuro-gastroenterology (including achalasia, gastroparesis, other motility disturbances)
- Acid-related diseases (including GERD)
- GI bleeding and/or causes of anemia
- Celiac disease and other causes of malabsorption, malnutrition
- IBS, including relationship between diet and GI symptoms
- Microbiota
- Pancreatic diseases
- H. pylori and other infectious diseases
- GI Cancers (including epidemiology, mechanisms, diagnosis and surveillance, therapy)
- Obesity and surgery



# Important Dates

**30** January  
2016

List of hotels available on the internet

**15** July  
2016

Notification on abstract submission to first author

**01** February  
2016

First Early bird registration for participants and speakers open

**15** July  
2016

Invited program completed and speakers informed

**07** February  
2016

Abstract submission opens for free papers/posters/videos

**30** July  
2016

Early bird registration deadline

**22** February  
2016

Hotel reservation open on web site

**01** September  
2016

Scientific program available on the web site

**08** April  
2016

Preliminary program/announcement of deadlines and schedule

**01** October  
2016

Final Program available on the web site

**30** April  
2016

Advance program (subjects of symposia) available on the web site

**01** November  
2016

Standard registration deadline

**30** April  
2016

Early bird deadline for Sponsorship and Commercial Exhibition

**15** November  
2016

On Site

**01** June  
2016

Abstract submission deadline

**17** November  
2016

Gastro 2016!

# Abu Dhabi Your Host City for Gastro 2016

Meaning 'Land of the Gazelle' in Arabic, Abu Dhabi was founded when a young antelope led a wandering tribe to fresh water, on an island with no more than 300 palm ('barasti') huts, a few coral buildings and the Ruler's fort. This simple island settlement has since been transformed into the modern, cosmopolitan city of Abu Dhabi and the high-rise capital of the United Arab Emirates.

Find out more about Abu Dhabi's religion and traditions with a visit to one of the world's most impressive landmarks, the stunning Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. This architectural marvel, with a capacity for an astonishing 40,000 worshippers, features 80 domes, over 1,000 columns, gold plated chandeliers and the world's largest hand woven carpet.

Head to our landmark Corniche and enjoy an impressive eight kilometres of manicured waterfront that includes children's play areas, separate cycle and pedestrian pathways, cafés and restaurants, and the Corniche Beach - a lifeguarded beach park. Beachgoers should also spend some time on the stunning Saadiyat and Yas public beaches or for a spot of luxury they can book a day in the uber-luxurious Monte Carlo Beach Club, Saadiyat.

While in Abu Dhabi, don't forget to get on the water! From wake-boarding to surfing and parasailing, from cruising in a traditional pearling boat to kayaking through our natural mangrove forests, from zooming to the pace of a speedboat tour to diving, cruising, snorkelling or swimming, the emirate's waters are yours to discover.

For a 360° entertainment experience, head to Yas Island where you can burn rubber at Yas Marina Circuit – home to the annual Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, have a coffee or stay at the iconic Yas Viceroy - the world's only hotel to straddle an F1 race track - ride the world's fastest roller coaster at Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, have a giant splash at Yas Waterworld, play Arabia's only links course and relax on a white sandy beach.

Shopping is something of a national pastime in Abu Dhabi, perhaps because it's so diverse and tax-free: everything from luxurious and ultra-modern malls with the latest brands, to small, souk-like shops where you can buy traditional perfumes, handicrafts, spices and carpets.

To explore our lifestyle, head to The Collection at The St Regis, Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi and enjoy high-end shops, restaurants and cafés - all within a Mediterranean-style 'village' complete with terraces, courtyards and piazzas. Alternatively, visit the Eastern Mangroves Promenade for a mix of restaurants, health & beauty and leisure venues, with an arch-fronted open pedestrian zone and stunning mangroves-view terraces. For a more-community orientated experience, take the family to Al Raha Beach Plazas and shop, dine or relax on the promenade with stunning Arabian Gulf views.

If you're interested in culture and heritage, catch a cab to the Heritage Village on the Corniche Breakwater and step back in time to a traditional desert lifestyle. Bargain with souvenir sellers and watch craftsmen at work producing pottery, weaving and metal work.

Diversity of experiences characterise Abu Dhabi's great golf offering – whether it's championship-ready parkland, ocean or Links facilities, a gentle urban centre course, the sheer uniqueness of a world-class 'sand' course or a country course in our heritage heartland of Al Ain.

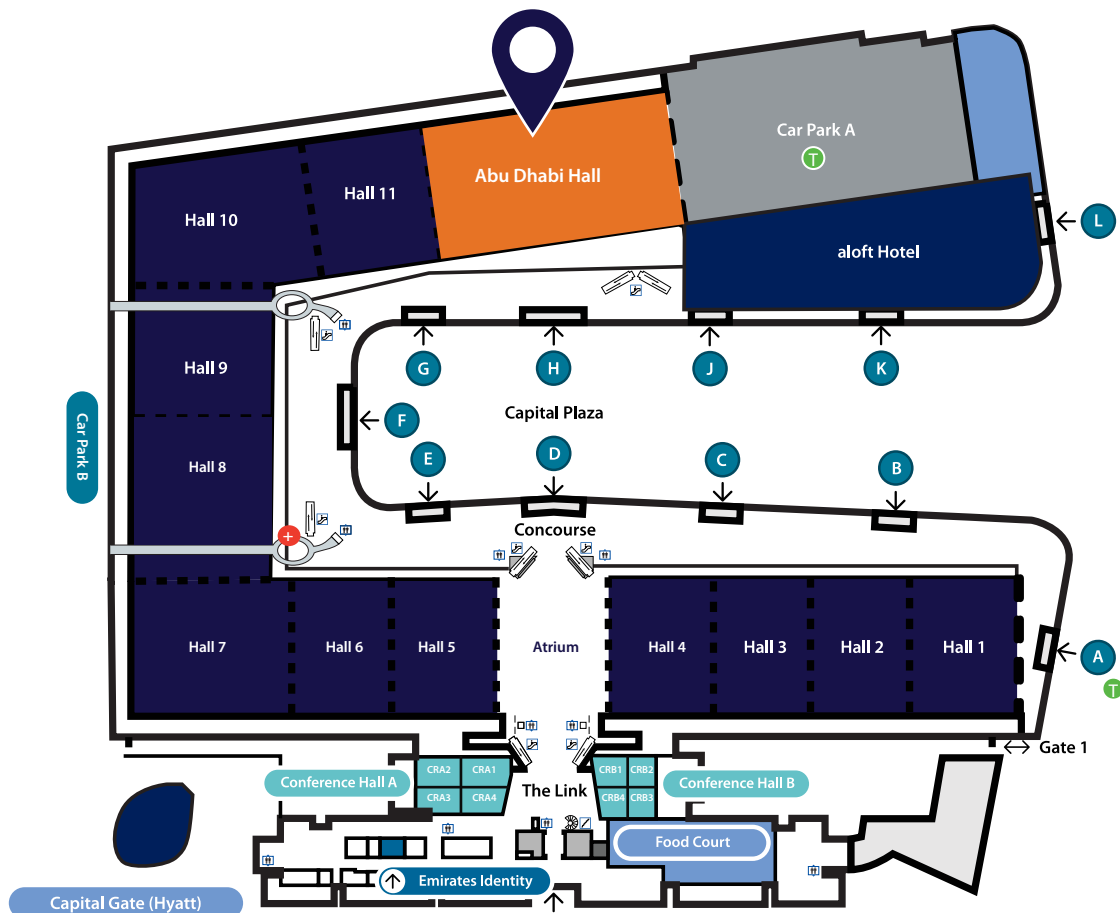
For further information please visit [www.visitabudhabi.ae](http://www.visitabudhabi.ae)

# The Venue

The Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, the most modern exhibition centre in the world, was opened by the president of UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 18th February, 2007.

Since then, the centre welcomes over one million visitors and hosts over 100 events every year. From large scale public shows such as the Abu Dhabi Book Fair to international trade exhibitions such as IDEX and ADIPEC, ADNEC is becoming famous for hosting high profile, large-scale exhibitions while it is also known to promote smaller specialist shows by developing, providing help and support to event organisers. With 12 Halls totalling 55,000 square metres (180,000 square feet), ADNEC is the largest exhibition venue in the Middle East.

The flexible, flat-floored, interconnected halls offer endless possibilities for all types of exhibitions and events; these facilities are complemented by extensive event services including imaginative conference and banqueting facilities. The Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre is managed by Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company, a modern and dynamic organisation that is also masterminding the Capital Centre development. The stunning new exhibition complex illustrates the company's commitment to providing the city with world-class facilities for business and its bold plans for the future development of Abu Dhabi as a commercial destination.



# Information from A to Z

## A

### Accommodation/Hotel Reservation

Whether you are looking for a hotel in downtown Abu Dhabi or a serviced apartment in the Abu Dhabi suburbs, Abu Dhabi has two-star, three-star, four-star and five-star hotels as well as serviced hotel-apartments at your finger-tips. Abu Dhabi welcomes millions of visitors every year and Abu Dhabi hotels ensure that every guest receives the warmest of welcomes. From the five-star luxuries of Abu Dhabi's beachfront hotels to the tranquil peace of Abu Dhabi's desert retreat hotels.

Abu Dhabi is a world class ultramodern and cosmopolitan destination located at the crossroads of Asia, Europe and Africa, with the most up-to-date infrastructure and accommodation to please visitors from anywhere in the world.

Please be sure to book early to take advantage of the rates and proximity of the meetings and other functions. It should be noted that this is a very popular business and tourist location and is expected to sell out very early. As a result we ask attendees to reserve earlier than usual to guarantee reservations of your choice. Group rates will be secured for Gastro 2016 delegates and will be available for booking online for all attendees of the Congress. Hotel reservations can be made via the congress website [www.gastro2016.com](http://www.gastro2016.com)

### Air Travel

Abu Dhabi International Airport is the second largest airport in the UAE. In 2008, its passenger traffic achieved a record 9.02 million passenger. Located 32km from the heart of Abu Dhabi city, the airport is built over an area of 350,000 square meter. Three highways lead from the city center to the airport: Khaleej Al Arabi (Highway 30), Sheikh Rashid Al Maktoum Street (Highway 2), and Salam Street (Highway 8). All three highways merge into E10 on approach to the airport. The airport operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its second runway, which was completed in 2008, is 4.1 kilometres long and 60 meters wide.

Abu Dhabi International Airport's new terminal three (T3) serves as base to Etihad Airways, the fast-growing national flag carrier of the United Arab Emirates. T3 was opened in early 2009, raising the airport capacity to 12 million passengers per

### Alcohol

Alcohol is freely available in hotels, clubs, restaurants and bars. However, many restaurants outside hotels are not permitted to serve alcoholic beverages.

## B

### Banks

Many international banks are represented by branches in Abu Dhabi. Bank hours vary but in general are 0800 to 1400, Sunday to Thursday and 0800 – 1200, Saturday.

### Bargaining

Bargaining is expected in the souq and is quite usual elsewhere. Vendors will usually drop the price and often quite substantially, particularly for a cash sale.

### Business Hours

Business: 0800-1300 and 1600-1930, Sunday to Thursday.

Most of the multinational companies work from 0900-1800 with a one hour lunch break.

Government offices: 07:30-14:30, Sunday to Thursday.

Exchange houses: 10:00-22:00.

Shopping malls: 10:00-22:00, Sunday to Wednesday and 10:00-00:00, Thursday and Friday.

## C

### Cancellation Policy

Cancellations of registration will only be accepted in writing sent to the PCO by email or fax. The notification must include all relevant information regarding the bank account to which a possible refund may be remitted. In case of cancellation before 15 October 2016 registration fees will be refunded minus a handling fee of US\$ 75. After this date there will be no refund.

### Car Park

ADNEC has capacity for up to 6,000 vehicles on site in Car Park A, Car Park B and Capital Plaza Parking. Vehicles are managed by VMS (Variable Messaging System) which directs traffic to areas of the car parks with the most capacity, thus improving traffic flow. Highly trained parking personnel on-site 24 hours a day are available to assist with traffic management and manage any issues which may arise. Abu Dhabi inspired colors and imagery are present throughout the Multi-storey car parks. Each floor follows a specific theme such as Desert Sun, Skyline, Arabian Gulf, Sunrise, Oasis and other concepts which pay tribute to the rich heritage of the emirate. These aesthetic enhancements serve a dual purpose, creating a pleasant environment and providing striking imagery and colors which act as focal points for visitors. A full valet service is also provided for VIP visitors.

# Information from A to Z

## C

### Car Rental

All major international and local car rental companies have office at Abu Dhabi international airport and within the city. The minimum age for renting a vehicle is usually 21. A credit card, valid driving license and passport copy are required for the rental procedure. Most of the car hire companies are located on Al Wahda Road, King Faisal Road, Al Mina Street and Al Estiqlal Road and some have representative desks in the main hotels.

### Climate

The UAE has a sub-tropical, arid climate. May to September is summer, when temperatures range between 40C and 48C. However, during the winter months, between November and March, temperatures range from 10C to 30C. Rainfall is predominantly in winter and amounts to some 13cm annually.

### Clothing

Summer clothing may be worn for most of the year but the temperature can drop during the winter. At the pool or on the private beaches, swimwear is quite acceptable, but when in the city and public areas, care should be taken not to give offence by wearing clothing that may be considered revealing.

### CME Credits/Certification

The Congress program will be CME accredited by the respective Accreditation Council/s. Delegates who are interested in the CME accreditation have the possibility to apply for it through the congress web site.

### Credit Cards

American Express, Diners Club, Visa, MasterCard, etc. are generally accepted in the main hotels and shops

### Congress Organizer

#### Professional Congress Organizer (PCO)

Please do not hesitate to contact the PCO if you require any additional information or assistance.

Meeting Minds – Experts  
Dubai Media City  
Shatha Tower – Office 3113  
P.O.Box 502464  
T: +9714 4270492  
F: +9714 4270493  
pco@gastro2016.com  
www.meetingmindsdubai.com

### Congress Venue

The Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, the most modern exhibition centre in the world, was opened by the president of UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 18th February, 2007. With 12 Halls totaling 55,000 square meters (180,000 square feet), ADNEC is the largest exhibition venue in the Middle East.

### Currency

The monetary unit is the Dirham (AED), which is divided into 100 fils. It is fixed to the US dollar at a current rate of US\$1 = Dhs3.675

## D

### Dress Code

Compared to other Arab cities, this city has a calm and relaxed dress code. In summer, lightweight clothing is always advisable. Even though this city is famous as a summer destination, it is necessary to carry warm clothes in winter as temperatures are quite low in the evenings. Improper dressing should be avoided in public areas but swimsuits or short clothes are allowed on the beaches.

### Driving

Cars are driven on the right hand side of the road. Seat belts must be worn in the front and it is recommended that passengers buckle up in the back as well. Speed limits vary from around 70 kmph in built up areas to 120 kmph on the highways. There are plenty of speed cameras and zero tolerance for drinking and driving.

### Driving License

A.G.C.C. nationals may drive on their respective licenses within the UAE. Visitors can rent a self drive car provided they hold either a valid international driving license issued by their home country or a temporary license issued by the Abu Dhabi Police Traffic & Licensing Department.

Visitors on a visit visa can obtain a temporary driving license provided they have a valid license from a recognized country: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and USA.



# Information from A to Z

## E

### Electricity

The electricity supply in Abu Dhabi is 220/240 volts at 50 cycles. Standard, British square three-pin plugs are the norm in most hotels. US-made appliances may need a transformer.

### Exhibition

The commercial exhibition will be located in Abu Dhabi Hall at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. The exhibition area will also house catering areas and the poster exhibition from 16th February 2012 through 20th February 2012.

**The opening hours of commercial exhibition are as follows:**

Thursday 16th February 2012	9:30 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.
Friday 17th February 2012	9:30 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.
Saturday 18th February 2012	9:30 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.
Sunday 19th February 2012	9:30 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.
Monday 20th February 2012	9:30 a.m. – 03:30 p.m.

## H

### How to get to The Congress Venue—ADNEC

#### From Abu Dhabi

Abu Dhabi International Airport is just 15 minutes from ADNEC. Over 25 international airlines operate a schedule of flights connecting Abu Dhabi to Africa, Europe, Asia, Australasia, and the Americas and the surrounding GCC. Metered taxis are readily available outside the arrivals hall.

#### From Dubai

The journey from Dubai to Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre is extremely easy and straightforward. From Jebel Ali, Dubai to ADNEC the drive should take no more than 45 minutes.

## L

### Language

The official language of the Congress is English. No simultaneous interpretation will be offered. The official language in Abu Dhabi is Arabic but English is widely spoken and understood throughout the country.

### Letter of Invitation

Delegates requiring a formal letter of invitation to enable them to make their arrangements to participate in the congress may request a letter via the PCO. Please note that this letter cannot be regarded as a commitment regarding scheduling or financial support from the organizers. All expenses incurred in relation to the congress are the sole responsibility of the delegates.

### Liability

The PCO Meeting Minds – Experts acts solely as an agent and is not liable for any losses, accidents, injuries to persons or damage to property of any kind. This does not affect the liability of persons or companies charged with providing the relevant service. Oral arrangements require a written confirmation. The sole court of jurisdiction is UAE.

**Delegates accept the above mentioned conditions by registering for the congress.**

### Local time

Gulf Standard Time: + 4 hours GMT

## M

### Medical

Medical services in Abu Dhabi are of international standards.

# Information from A to Z

## P

### Parking

ADNEC has capacity for up to 6,000 vehicles on site in Car Park A, Car Park B and Capital Plaza Parking. Vehicles are managed by VMS (Variable Messaging System) which directs traffic to areas of the car parks with the most capacity, thus improving traffic flow. Highly trained parking personnel on-site 24 hours a day are available to assist with traffic management and manage any issues which may arise. Abu Dhabi inspired colors and imagery are present throughout the Multi-storey car parks.

Parking Fees (subject to change)

Charge	Period
AED 10	up to 4 hours
AED 15	4 - 7 hours
AED 20	7 - 12 hours
AED 40	12 - 24 hours
AED 100	over 24 hours

### Photography

Normal tourist photography is acceptable but like anywhere in the world, it is courteous to ask permission before photographing people, especially local women.

### Public Holidays

Islamic holidays are based on the Hijri calendar which is controlled by the sighting of the moon. As a result the dates of holidays are often confirmed less than 24 hours in advance. Some of these are Eid Al Fitr (three days), Eid Al Adha (four days), Al Hejra (one day), Mawlid Al Nabi (one day) and Al Isra Wal Miraj (one day).

Fixed dates on the calendar are New Year's Day (January 1) and UAE National Day (December 2).

## R

### Registration

Membership of EGHS / WGO or confirmation of any oral presentation, video or poster does not automatically include the registration for the Gastro 2016. Therefore, all members and all speakers are requested to register prior to the congress. Registration can be made solely online through the web site [www.gastro2016.com](http://www.gastro2016.com) Please note the registration and payment terms.

Registration fee includes entrance to all Gastro 2016 Scientific Sessions, the Exhibition and Receptions, unless otherwise specified. It also includes the Congress Proceedings.

**Conference delegates** are entitled to the following:

- Official conference documentation, including advance program and proceedings
- Opening ceremony and Welcome reception
- Transfers to and from the venue and official conference hotels
- Coffee breaks during/within official conference program/venue
- Delegate bag

**Accompanying Persons** are entitled to the following:

- Opening ceremony and Welcome reception
- Transfers to and from the venue and official conference hotels

Please note conference registration fees do not include accommodation, visa and optional tours

#### Additional Information

- 1) Registration requests will be processed on "first-come, first-served" basis.
- 2) Registration Forms received without payment will not be processed.
- 3) Cash payments will not be accepted.
- 4) Each delegate should complete a separate registration form.
- 5) Group registrations are available through the conference web site.
- 6) Please carry along a print out of your registration confirmation for badge collection.
- 7) Conference proceedings are subject to change without prior notice.
- 8) Enquiries, changes and cancellations should be made in writing to the PCO at [pco@gastro2016.com](mailto:pco@gastro2016.com)

### Registration Fees

Residents/Students: A valid certificate (official certificate of the head of department including the date of birth/ student ID valid for November 2016) will have been submitted at the time of badge collection.

# Information from A to Z

## R

### Registration of Groups

Registrations of groups can be made via the congress website [www.gastro2016.com](http://www.gastro2016.com) by using the official registration system. Please add new participants via one main account. For any assistance, please contact the PCO via [pco@gastro2016.com](mailto:pco@gastro2016.com)

## S

### Safety

Abu Dhabi is considered a very safe city and crime rate is very low. Even though crime rate is near to zero, city police still maintain tight control over security and safety issues. Therefore, it has become one of the lowest crime rate cities in the world.

### Sponsorship Opportunities & Exhibition

Please contact the PCO at [pco@gastro2016.com](mailto:pco@gastro2016.com) for assistance.

### Smoking Policy

Smoking is banned in public areas but many places provide smoking rooms. The Health Minister of the city is planning to introduce stricter laws regarding smoking in public areas due to the increasing number of smokers especially aged between 12 and 16. Few cities like Dubai are in the phase to ban smoking completely and it is extended to hotels along with other public areas. Tobacco consumption, advertisement and promotion are banned by the Health Authority of Abu Dhabi

## T

### Taxis

All taxis are metered. Taxis can be ordered or flagged down outside the hotels and in town. It is good to know a landmark close to your destination in order to direct the driver.

### Tipping

Tipping practices are similar to most other parts of the world. Most restaurants include a 10% service charge, but tipping in general is at the customer's discretion.

### Transportation

To travel around the city, there are four major means of transportation available; taxi, bus, tour, and rental cars or private cars. There is a good network of roads in the city and hardly any major traffic jams issues even in peak time. Modern bus transportation is available at all major places 24 hours. Another more economical option is to explore the city will be by taxi or car rental, which are conveniently located all around the city.

### Tourist Information

Abu Dhabi is one of the most modern cities in the world with broad boulevards, high rises, apartment buildings and busy shops. This wealthy city has fascinating culture and provides fantastic opportunities to the tourists. Furthermore, several major islands surround Abu Dhabi and some of them are in the process of developing multi-billion dollar resorts, which are set to enrich the emirates' profile even further.

Please find several recommendations and addresses on the congress' website under "**Places to Go**" and "**Things To Do**" sections at [www.gastro2016.com](http://www.gastro2016.com)

# Information from A to Z

## V

### Visa Requirements

Visa requirements for entering Abu Dhabi vary greatly between different nationalities and it is always advised to check regulations before travelling. Currently, every nationality entering the UAE needs a visa except citizens of GCC countries (Gulf Cooperation Council: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia) expatriate residents of the GCC (certain nationalities and professions) and British citizens with the right of abode in the UK.

Nationals of the following countries do not require Visas to enter the UAE: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vatican.

GCC nationals can stay more or less as long they like. British citizens can stay for a month and then apply for a visa for a further two months. European, American, South African and Australian citizens may obtain a visit visa from the UAE embassy in their respective countries before departure.

#### Other Nationalities

For all other nationalities, a visa must be applied for before the visitor enters the country either through their respective embassy, a local UAE sponsor or a local hotel.

#### Visas through Hotels

Tourists can get a visa from a tourist company or a hotel by first making a reservation for at least one night. They must fax/courier the hotel a copy of their passport along with the reason for the visit (tourism is an acceptable reason) and their arrival date. You must also make sure that the hotel faxes you a copy of the visa when it is ready.

Airlines may require confirmation (preferably a fax copy of the document) that a visa is held before check-in at the airport. The original is held at Abu Dhabi Airport for collection before passport control.

#### Tourist Visa

This visa is issued through tourist companies and it is valid for 30 days. You cannot renew it or extend it. If the Visa holder (tourist) stays more than the 30 days, then that person has to pay a fine per day plus some charges for an out pass.

#### Visit Visa

This visa is issued through Department of Neutralization and Residence. It is stamped for 30 days validity but it is valid for 60 days and can be extended for 30 more days by paying some amount. The extension needs to be done before the 60th day. If the visitor stays more than 60 days or more than 90 days (after the extension) they will have to pay a fine per day plus some charges for an out pass.

### Venue

Gastro 2016: EGHS/WGO International Conference will be held at:  
ADNEC – Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Company grounds  
Khaleej Al Arabi Street  
P.O. Box 5546  
Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates  
ADNEC Call Centre - 800 ADNEC (23632)  
International : +971 (0) 2 444 6900  
Facsimile +971 (0) 2 444 6135  
Email [feedback@adnec.ae](mailto:feedback@adnec.ae)  
For more information, please visit the ADNEC website [www.adnec.ae](http://www.adnec.ae)

Gastro 2016

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