

Dubai sees 30% jump in foreign investment

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DUBAI — Dubai expects a significant jump in foreign direct investment (FDI) this year on increasing interest of companies from new markets, said Fahd Al Gergawi, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai FDI.

“We are seeing at least double in terms of enquiries and requests of investments while comparing first quarter of this year to 2010,” Al Gergawi told *Khaleej Times* on Monday on the sidelines of a news conference where Rubenius announced Dubai as its global headquarters.

The enquires and interest coming from new markets are more than double, he said, adding: “We see a trend of newcomers to Dubai from Latin America, South America, especially Brazil and Chile, China, Korea, some from the United States and Europe.”

For rest of the three quarters, he said that the interest of investors increasing slowly and “I hope it will be within the same trend [of Q1].”

In February, Gergawi said Dubai expected a 30 per cent jump in FDI this year, compared to last year on rising confidence. Earlier at the news conference, Gergawi said, “We are seeing increasing trend of multinational companies considering Dubai as a global headquarters. He mentioned that Dubai is known as a gateway for the region. So companies starting operations in Dubai means there will be some benefit to the region, he said, adding: “The strength of Dubai and UAE is the strength of the whole region.”

“A strong appetite for growth, nurtured and promoted by an enabling government, unrivalled infrastructure, competitive trade practices and innovative public-private partnerships, is reinforcing Dubai’s reputation as a hub of business and gateway to the fast-emerging markets in the world,” he said.

FDI Dubai focuses on optimising this environment for the benefit of Dubai and those who choose to invest in the Emirate, he added.

A latest study conducted from January 23 to February 12 by Bain & Company revealed that ninety per cent of respondents to a survey believe that the UAE is ideal for the setting up of regional headquarters because of the unrivalled quality of infrastructure, the low taxes, the security of expatriates and the strength of the market.

Another recent study by A.T. Kearney ranked Dubai among the top 25 global destinations. Dubai was also ranked 11th globally and first in the MENA region in their FDI Confidence Index for 2010.