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# OUR SCIENTISTS ARE THE REAL CHAMPS

*Leaders honour Hope Probe team, say our projects over next 50 years will be as ambitious as the Emirates Mars Mission*

**DUBAI**  
BY ANGEL TESORERO  
Senior Reporter

**T**he UAE leaders yesterday honoured the young Emirati engineers, who are part of the Emirates Mars Mission Hope Probe team, at a reception during the ministerial retreat at Bab Al Shams.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, led the special ceremony.

The reception was held in recognition of the team's efforts over the past six years to successfully build and launch the Hope Probe that made history with its entry to the Red Planet's orbit on February 9.

**Hope Probe best golden jubilee gift to UAE**

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid said: "Celebrating the Hope Probe team as part of the ministerial retreat is a message that our projects over the next 50 years will be as ambitious as the Emirates Mars Mission." He added: "The Hope Probe is the best gift to dedicate to the people of the UAE on the 50th anniversary of our country." Addressing the team, he said, "Today, our scientists and ex-



**“**Our people are known for their humility and persistence. Their feet are on the ground, but their ambitions reach the sky.”

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid at the retreat

perts are the real champions who will drive the journey of our country towards further achievements, excellence and success.”

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed said: "The Hope Probe team is the wealth of our na-

tion. They have worked tirelessly, and today, our country is reaping what they sow." He added: "Our young people made us proud, raised our country's flag to deep space and engraved the name of our nation in history."

**“**Our goal was not only to reach Mars, but to empower our people with knowledge and confidence and nurture capabilities...”

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed

**Focus on key areas**

The first day included 10 discussion sessions wherein the participants outlined important areas to focus in order to boost the country's global competitiveness. They included designing a future business

environment, encouraging entrepreneurship, encouraging foreign trade and partnerships and attracting investments, talent, skilled human resources, food security and media strategy.

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