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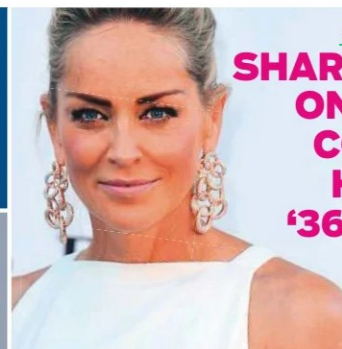
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National companies contribute Dh10.9b to UAE space economy

Country's interstellar advances, ambitions highlighted in South Korea conference

ABU DHABI

Gulf News Report

The UAE's space economy is thriving, with national companies contributing over Dh10.9 billion. This represents 40.7 per cent of the sector's total output, according to Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of Sports and Chairman of the UAE Space Agency.

Dr Al Falasi highlighted these figures during a panel discussion at the 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (Cospar) in Busan, South Korea.

Space leaps since 1997

Dr Al Falasi showcased the UAE's space programme's achievements over the past 26 years, including the establishment of Thuraya in 1997, which revolutionised satellite communications, and the launch of the Emirates Mars Mission, Hope Probe, in 2020.

He also outlined endeavours such as the UAE Astronaut Programme, the Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt slated for 2028, and the country's participation in the Artemis Lunar Gateway Project alongside the US, Japan, Canada, and the European Union.

Dr Al Falasi emphasised the



■ Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi addressing the 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research in Busan, South Korea, attended by a high-level UAE delegation.

UAE's commitment to using space technology to address global challenges, particularly climate change. He highlighted initiatives like the Space Data Centre, which is a comprehensive digital platform collecting and providing access to space data for scientists, scholars, public and private entities, start-ups, and community members to develop innovative solutions for national and global challenges.

SAS Programme

He also highlighted the Geo-Spatial Analytics Platform designed to facilitate access to satellite data and support innovative solutions to combat climate change, in addition to the Loss and Damage Atlas to assess the impact of climate change.

The Space Analytics and Solutions (SAS) Programme was also discussed for its role in combating climate change and enhancing food security. The UAE's leadership of the first space pavilion at COP28 underscored its dedication to international cooperation on space-based climate solutions, Dr Al Falasi said at the conference.

UAE-Korea collaboration

The high-level UAE delegation attending the conference also met with a team from the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI).

The two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation, share expertise, and explore the latest technological advancements and developments in the space sector.