

Global Free Zones of the Future 2010/11 **Winners**

FDI MAGAZINE'S FIRST GLOBAL RANKING OF ECONOMIC ZONES HAS AWARDED SHANGHAI WAIGAOQIAO FREE TRADE ZONE THE TITLE OF GLOBAL FREE ZONE OF THE FUTURE 2010/11. **JACQUELINE HEGARTY** REPORTS ON THE RESULTS



Shanghai Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone (WFTZ), the largest free-trade zone in China, has been recognized by fDi Magazine as the 'Global Free Zone of the Future 2010/11'. This is in part due to the large number of companies that have set up operations in Shanghai WFTZ; more than 9000 companies – accounting for one-third of all foreign companies moving into Shanghai – have set up in this zone. Shanghai WFTZ also came top in the categories of 'Best Facilities' and 'Best Port Zone'.

Economic zones based in the United Arab Emirates dominated the Free Zones of the Future 2010/11 ranking, with seven of the top 25 zones coming from the UAE. Not only did Dubai Airport Free Zone rank as second overall, it also ranked second in the 'Best FDI Promotion Strategy' and 'Best Transportation' categories.

The top three in the 'Best Economic Potential' category was led by the city of San Luis Potosi in Mexico, followed closely by Industrial Estates in Thailand and the Jebel Ali Free Zone in the UAE. Clark Freeport

in the Philippines, Togo Export Processing Zone, and Chittagong Export Processing Zone in Bangladesh were the top three in the 'Best Cost Effectiveness' category.

fDi Magazine's rankings, which took more than four months to compile, ranked eight UAE zones in the 'Best Transportation' top 10, with Jebel Ali Free Zone and Dubai Airport Free Zone taking the top two positions and Dubai Media City and Dubai Knowledge Village ranking joint in third position. Dubai Media City, Dubai Airport Free Zone and Dubai Knowledge Village also claimed the top positions in the 'Best FDI Promotion Strategy' category.

The independent judging panel scored Dubai Knowledge Village, Dubai Media City and Ajman Free Zone (UAE) as the top three zones in 'Best Incentives'.

South Carolina Foreign Trade Zones # 21 & 38, based in the US, topped the 'Best Airport Zone' category, followed by Aqaba Special Economic Zone (Jordan), Tanger Free Zone (Morocco), El Paso FTZ # 68 (US) and Bahrain International Airport.

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GLOBAL FREE ZONES OF THE FUTURE 2010/11

TOP 10 BEST ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

RANK	NAME OF ZONE	COUNTRY
1	San Luis Potosi	Mexico
2	Industrial Estates of Thailand	Thailand
3	Jebel Ali Free Zone	UAE
4	Chittagong Export Processing Zone	Bangladesh
5	Jubail Industrial City II	Saudia Arabia
6	Amata Nakorn Industrial Estate	Thailand
7	Clark Freeport	Philippines
8	Aqaba Special Economic Zone	Jordan
9	Jazan Economic City	Saudi Arabia
10=	Masan Free Trade Zone	South Korea
10=	Rakia Industrial Zone	UAE

TOP 10 BEST COST EFFECTIVENESS

RANK	NAME OF ZONE	COUNTRY
1	Clark Freeport	Philippines
2	Togo Export Processing Zone	Togo
3	Chittagong Export Processing Zone	Bangladesh
4	Free Port of Ventspils	Latvia
5	International Media Production Zone	UAE
6	Rezekne Special Economic Zone	Lativa
7	San Luis Potosi	Mexico
8	Mauritius Freeport	Mauritius
9	Industrial Estates of Thailand	Thailand
10	Starachowice Special Economic Zone	Poland