

## NEWS IN BRIEF



Oman's Ministry of Manpower has praised **Gulf Agency Company (GAC)** for its continuous efforts to support the process of Omanisation by recruiting a growing number of nationals in the country. To mark the achievements, a special award was presented to GAC's managing director Patrik Hallden at Muscat's Al Bustan Palace Hotel. "We are most grateful for this recognition," he commented. "Some of our local staff have been with GAC for decades and we believe an experienced Omani workforce is one of the company's main assets."

**EMKE Group**, operator of the LuLu Hypermarkets chain in the Middle East, has implemented a warehouse management system from Ehrhardt + Partner Solutions (EPS). The LFS400 system has been installed at ten warehouse facilities in Abu Dhabi, with further rollouts being scheduled for the future. "Through a detailed project analysis, preparation and training, we were able to successfully introduce our system to EMKE's warehouses without any interruption to their storage operations," said Ramon Thoms, regional manager of EPS.

**Davies Turner** has transported a record volume of cargo for Tehran International Book Fair this year, with 300 tonnes of literature being delivered to the event. "Last year we served the Tehran International Book Fair for the 21st year and moved 291 tonnes of material by road," stated Philip Stephenson, joint managing director of Davies Turner. "This year, we supported the event's exhibitors by moving 307 tonnes of books overland, plus several tonnes of additional literature by airfreight."

## Dubai joint venture launched by UPS

Courier company will cover the the Middle East, Turkey and Central Asia regions with its latest project

**EXPRESS** UPS has established a joint venture in Dubai to manage its express package, freight forwarding and logistics services in the Middle East, Turkey and certain parts of Central Asia.

Specific terms of the agreement have not been revealed, although UPS will assume a majority stake in the project and acquired the small package operations of Unsped, its service agent for the Turkish market.

"UPS has experienced a growth in demand from this emerging area, which covers 21 countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain," said Dan Brutto, president of UPS International.

"This part of the world has become a leading transportation bridge and near-sourcing location for Europe, Russia and Asia," he added.



□ Dan Brutto from UPS and Haluk Undeger from Unsped celebrate their partnership

Haluk Undeger, Unsped's chief executive officer, has been tasked with leading the project and also received a minority share in the business.

In addition, the workforce of almost 2500 personnel from the Turkish company will continue their employment as part of the joint venture.

## CILT explores partnerships with universities

**ASSOCIATION** Universities in the United Arab Emirates are being encouraged to work with CILT (Chartered Institute of Logistics and Trans-

port) to expand the local scope of education courses in supply chain management.

The global trade association, which has reported a positive

response for its training courses in the Middle East, is exploring partnerships with the University of Wollongong in Dubai, Bolton University in Ras Al Khaimah and Emirates Aviation College.

"Since starting our operations in Dubai, we have received a steady number of bookings from students that are looking for qualification programmes in logistics, supply chain and transport management," stated Alex Borg, director of CILT's operations in the region.

"This positive response has continued in 2009 and we are looking into fresh opportunities for students to finish a diploma or advanced diploma with CILT and enroll onto a leading postgraduate programme with a partner university. Meetings have already been held with a few institutes and we hope to make progress with the idea later in the year," he added.



□ CILT's Alex Borg is planning an alliance with universities in Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah