



The Middle East Gaming Summit - MEGS

June 20-22, 2023

The Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah

Join us for an invite only event over two days where key stakeholders will engage in conversations between you, other key members of the supplier community, and leaders within Ras Al Khaimah that have been advancing the foundations for the first integrated resort in the MENA region and the gaming regulatory structure.



Day 0 - Tuesday, June 20

<p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Opening Dinner Reception: Welcome to Ras Al Khaimah Hosted at the Peacock Alley, Waldorf Astoria</p> <p>Join us in Peacock Alley in the iconic Waldorf Astoria for an opening reception as we kick off The Middle East Gaming Summit. Mingle and have dinner with fellow suppliers, and sip on refreshing beverages. Don't miss this unforgettable opportunity to network, make connections with key individuals in RAK, and set the stage for a remarkable conference experience.</p>
------------------	---

Day 1 - Wednesday, June 21

<p>8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Opening Breakfast at Waldorf Astoria</p>
<p>9:00 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.</p>	<p>Welcome to MEGS Speaker: Tom Nieman</p> <p>Tom Nieman will provide an overview of the event's objectives, highlighting the key topics and discussions to be held throughout the summit. Tom's welcome note aims to set the stage for an engaging and informative experience, bringing together industry professionals to explore the future of gaming in the Middle East.</p>
<p>9:10 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.</p>	<p>Welcome from Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority Speaker: Raki Phillips, CEO, Ras Al Khaimah</p> <p>As a key figure in the region's tourism and development landscape, Raki will offer insights into the significance of the gaming industry for Ras Al Khaimah's growth and the exciting opportunities it presents. This welcoming address aims to foster a spirit of collaboration and innovation among government, regulators, operators and suppliers, to explore the future of gaming in the Middle East.</p>
<p>9:20 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.</p>	<p>Vision for Wynn Al Marjan Island Speaker: Chris Gordon, Wynn Resorts Development</p> <p>Chris Gordon, a key figure at Wynn Resorts Development, will unveil the visionary plans for the highly anticipated Wynn Al Marjan Island. The session will provide an exclusive, in-depth look at the resort's innovative design, state-of-the-art facilities, and commitment to sustainability. Attendees will gain insight into the unique blend of luxury and eco-consciousness that will define this new landmark destination. Chris will also discuss the potential economic impact, job creation, and regional growth expected to stem from this ambitious project. Finally, the session will touch upon the challenges faced during the development process and how Wynn Resorts is addressing them to create a lasting legacy in the Middle East's luxury hospitality landscape. Join us for an exciting glimpse into the future of Wynn Resorts and the Al Marjan Island.</p>

Day 1 - Wednesday, June 21

<p>9:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.</p>	<p>RAKS Regulations 101: Introduction to the Gaming Regulations Speakers: Brendan Bussmann and Bill Bryson</p> <p>This session by seasoned industry experts Brendan Bussmann and Bill Bryson will provide a comprehensive introduction to the gaming regulations in Ras Al Khaimah (RAK). They will cover the key aspects of the regulatory framework, including licensing requirements, compliance measures, and Responsible Gambling initiatives. You can expect to gain a solid understanding of the legal landscape governing RAK's emerging gaming industry and learn about best practices for operating within this jurisdiction. The session will also touch upon the potential challenges and opportunities for gaming stakeholders in this emerging market.</p>
<p>10:50 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.</p>	<p>Refreshment Break</p>
<p>11:10 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.</p>	<p>RAK Gaming Regs 101:Discussion Discussion led by Brendan Bussmann and Bill Bryson, B Global</p> <p>Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in an open discussion following the RAK Regs 101 session. Participants can ask questions, share their thoughts, and explore the implications of the gaming regulations in Ras Al Khaimah (RAK). The discussion aims to foster a collaborative environment where attendees can exchange ideas, experiences, and insights related to navigating the regulatory landscape of RAK's gaming industry.</p>
<p>12:10 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>1:10 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.</p>	<p>Doing Business as a gaming supplier to a licensee in RAK Speaker from RAK Economic Zone - RAKEZ</p> <p>This session will offer valuable insights into the advantages and opportunities that RAK presents for entrepreneurs, investors, and businesses looking to establish a presence in the region. During the session, the speaker will discuss the diverse sectors and industries that are thriving in RAK, as well as the incentives, support, and infrastructure provided by RAKEZ to facilitate business growth. Attendees can expect to learn about the practical steps for setting up a company, navigating the legal and regulatory environment, and leveraging the available resources to maximize their business potential in RAK.</p>

Day 1 - Wednesday, June 21

<p>1:40 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.</p>	<p>RAKS Regs 202: Suppliers, Manufacturers, and Distributors Speakers: Brendan Bussmann and Bill Bryson, B Global</p> <p>Industry experts Brendan Bussmann and Bill Bryson will delve deeper into the regulatory landscape of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) as it pertains to suppliers, manufacturers, and distributors in the gaming industry. Building on the foundational knowledge provided in RAK Regs 101, this session will focus on the specific regulations and compliance requirements affecting these crucial stakeholders. Attendees can expect to gain a thorough understanding of the licensing procedures, quality standards, and ongoing obligations for suppliers, manufacturers, and distributors in RAK. The speakers will also discuss potential challenges and opportunities in this market, offering insights into best practices for achieving and maintaining compliance.</p>
<p>2:25 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.</p>	<p>RAK Regs 230: Licensing Requirements Speaker: Brandon Loeschner, Partner, Rubin Brown</p> <p>Brandon Loeschner will provide a concise overview of the licensing requirements for the gaming industry in Ras Al Khaimah (RAK). Attendees will gain a clear understanding of the application process, essential documentation, and key criteria for securing a gaming license in the region.</p>
<p>3:10 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.</p>	<p>Refreshment Break</p>
<p>3:40 p.m. - 4:55 p.m.</p> <p>These sessions run concurrently</p>	<p>Roundtables / Breakout Session 1 - Creating a Gaming Zone</p> <p>Hosts: RAKEZ and RAK Gaming Regulator</p> <p>Room 1: Gaming Infrastructure In this collaborative roundtable session, participants will explore the development of land-based gaming in Ras Al Khaimah. Engage in stimulating discussions on the design, planning, and execution while considering key factors such as regulatory compliance, local infrastructure, and market demand. Do not miss this opportunity to share insights and best practices with fellow industry professionals, and contribute to shaping the future of land-based gaming in the region.</p> <p>Room 2: Gaming Ecosystem In this collaborative roundtable session, participants will be able to discuss the external areas of banking, ports, hospitality, education, social safeguards, and other intersections in the development and growth of gaming in Ras Al Khaimah. Participate in lively conversations about the opportunities, challenges, and strategies for the broader gaming ecosystem. Be part of this collaborative experience, sharing insights and best practices with fellow industry professionals, as we work together to shape the future of gaming and hospitality in the region.</p>

Day 1 - Wednesday, June 21

<p>4:55 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Wrap Up Speaker: Tom Nieman</p> <p>In this closing session, Tom Nieman will provide a summary of the key takeaways, insights, and highlights from the Middle East Gaming Summit.</p>
<p>6:30 p.m. onwards</p>	<p>Evening Gala Dinner at the Sonora</p> <p>Join us for an unforgettable evening of networking and dinner at the stunning Sonora venue in the Al Wadi Desert. Indulge in a array of local culinary delights, expertly crafted by talented chefs, in a cultural environment that give you a window into the regional experience. This event offers the perfect setting to unwind, network, and forge new connections with fellow attendees in a relaxed and vibrant atmosphere.</p>

Day 2 - Thursday, June 22

<p>8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Opening Breakfast at Waldorf Astoria</p>
<p>9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.</p>	<p>Transportation to Al Marjan Island</p>
<p>9:20 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.</p>	<p>Al Marjan Overview</p> <p>Embark on an enlightening excursion to the Marjan Office for a comprehensive overview of the Al Marjan Island development. During this visit, you will gain valuable insights into the project's vision, master plan, and progress, along with the unique opportunities it presents for the gaming and hospitality industries. Discover the strategic importance of this ambitious project for Ras Al Khaimah's growth, and learn how it aims to shape the future of the region's tourism landscape. This excursion offers a unique chance to witness first-hand the transformative potential of the development of Al Marjan Island and its impact on the Emirate.</p>
<p>9:35 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.</p>	<p>Tour Marjan & Island 3</p> <p>Following the Al Marjan Overview, join us on an exclusive guided tour of Marjan Island and the Island 3 development site. This trip will provide a first-hand look at the development, and stunning landscape that makes this island stand out. Gain a deeper understanding of the planning, design, and vision behind this iconic destination.</p>
<p>10:20 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.</p>	<p>Return to Waldorf Astoria</p>

Day 2 - Thursday, June 22

10:35 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Refreshment Break
11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<p>Doing Business in the UAE: People, Processes, and the Law (AML, Banking, Tax, Compliance) Speaker: TBC</p> <p>Gain valuable insights into the essential aspects of doing business in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a focus on people, processes, and the law. The discussion will cover key topics such as anti-money laundering (AML), banking, taxation, and compliance, providing a comprehensive understanding of the UAE's legal and regulatory landscape. This session aims to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of conducting business in the region while maintaining adherence to local and international standards.</p>
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	<p>RAK Regs 300: Tech Standards Speaker: Brandon Loeschner, Partner, Rubin Brown</p> <p>Brandon Loeschner will delve into the critical areas of Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS) and technology standards with a focus on suppliers to the gaming industry of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK). Attendees will gain insights into the guidelines and requirements that govern operational processes, controls, and technology systems in RAK's gaming sector. This session aims to help participants understand the importance of adherence to MICS and tech standards, ensuring the integrity, security, and efficiency of their gaming operations in the region.</p>
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	<p>Developing a Center of Excellence Speaker: Donald Bremner, COO, RAK Hospitality Holdings</p> <p>Donald Bremner will explore the concept of developing a Center of Excellence within the gaming industry within RAK. Attendees will engage in discussions about the key elements, strategies, and best practices for fostering innovation, collaboration, and expertise to drive industry growth and maintain a competitive edge. This interactive session offers a unique opportunity to network with fellow professionals while gaining valuable insights into elevating your organization's performance and success in the gaming landscape and creating a centre of excellence</p>

Day 2 - Thursday, June 22

<p>2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Collaborating to Create a Framework: A Dialogue Among Industry Suppliers, Regulators, and Operators</p> <p>Moderator: RAKEZ and RAK Gaming Regulator</p> <p>This session provides a unique opportunity for industry stakeholders to come together to collaboratively work on the framework for this new jurisdiction. With regulations yet to be finalised, this is a chance for all stakeholders to provide input and share their perspectives on what the framework should look like. Participants will engage in a facilitated dialogue aimed at identifying the key issues that need to be addressed and exploring potential solutions. Through this interactive session, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the various perspectives at play and the challenges that must be overcome. Topics may include licensing, compliance, risk management, and emerging trends in the regulatory environment. Join us for an engaging and collaborative conversation that will lay the groundwork for a successful regulatory framework in this new jurisdiction.</p>
<p>4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Refreshment Break</p>
<p>4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Doing Business in RAK</p> <p>This session will highlight the future development and regulatory timeline and milestones in the startup of this new integrated resort. While the property may not be official opening until 2027, the groundwork for that effort begins today.</p> <p>Understanding the journey in this new emerging jurisdiction will be key as gaming comes to Ras Al Khaimah and has the first integrated resort in the United Arab Emirates.</p>
<p>5:00 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.</p>	<p>Closing Remarks Speaker: Tom Nieman</p> <p>In this closing session, Tom Nieman will provide a summary of the key takeaways, insights, and next steps from the Middle East Gaming Summit. This will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss priorities, milestones, and strategies for moving forward, fostering a collaborative environment that encourages collective progress. Join this session to contribute to the conversation and help shape the future trajectory of the gaming landscape in the region.</p>

Day 2 - Thursday, June 22

6:30 p.m onwards

Closing Dinner - Lexington Grill Waldorf Astoria

As the conference draws to a close, we invite all attendees to join us for a delightful closing dinner. This event offers the perfect setting to relax, network, and celebrate the accomplishments of the conference in a warm and convivial atmosphere. Enjoy a delicious array of culinary delights, and take the opportunity to forge new connections and strengthen existing relationships with fellow industry professionals. Don't miss this final chance to share your experiences, exchange ideas, and toast to the success of the conference and the future of the gaming industry.

Day 3 - Friday, June 23

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Meet the Local breakfast session

As we conclude the conference, we invite all attendees who stay over on the Thursday evening, to join us for a special closing breakfast, where you'll have the opportunity to participate in a "Meet the Locals" networking breakfast. This event provides a relaxed and informal setting for participants to connect with locals, enabling them the opportunity to Ask Me Anything. This will give attendees the opportunity to really understand what it means to live and work in the UAE so that they can prepare their company for doing business in the region and what they need to provide or expect from living locally and working. You can foster valuable cross-cultural exchanges as we all get to know the region culturally. Enjoy a delicious breakfast while engaging in stimulating conversations, sharing experiences, and exchanging ideas and insights.

10:00 a.m. - onwards

A range of bookable excursions will also be available to book depending on your schedule in addition to the above breakfast to help you gain a deeper understanding of this beautiful destination.

Examples: Trip to Dubai, visit local sites in Ras Al Khaimch, explore the desert, or go up to the top of Jebel Jais to go on the world's longest zip line.

These excursions will be available for you to book direct with Safarak at the event.

Event Closes