

A full-page background image of a bright blue sky filled with large, fluffy white clouds.

Daikin In The Spotlight:

Shaping Tomorrow's Comfort

Newsletter August 2025

Table of Contents

People of Daikin

- 2 Daikin Middle East and Africa listed in Forbes Global Meets Local 2025
 - 3 Daikin MEA listed in Utilities Middle East's Women in UME Powerlist 2025
 - 4 Interview of Sherif Elogeiry with Khaleej Times on Daikin MEA's unwavering commitment to cultivating a positive, inclusive, and empowering workplace culture
 - 5 Sherif Elogeiry's interview with People Matters: how Daikin MEA built a 'employer of choice' workplace.
 - 6 Sherif Elogeiry's interview in the Gulf News supplement Business Leaders: the article highlighted Daikin MEA's strong commitment to building a positive, inclusive, and empowering workplace culture
-

Daikin Affiliates News

- 8 Daikin opens new headquarters in Egypt to drive future growth and innovation
 - 10 Daikin UAE Iftar 2025
 - 10 Daikin UAE partners with Al Shola, to deliver scalable, energy-efficient Rental Cooling Solutions across the Gulf region
 - 11 CoolWell unveils state-of-the-art HVAC experience center in Dubai: the dawn of a new era in air conditioning solutions
-

Industry Talks

- 12 Daikin MEA listed in MEP Middle East's 2025 HVAC Power 30 list
- 13 Video interview of Sanjeev Maheshwari with VAR by Integrator Media
- 14 Daikin featured on Sudlows Consulting 2025 brochure by Business Focus Magazine
- 16 Welcome Ramadan with Khaleej Times: Addressing Food Waste in the UAE- featured an article attributed to Sanjeev Maheshwari, General Manager- After Sales & Refrigeration at Daikin Middle East & Africa
- 18 Daikin Middle East and Africa introduces Daikin360:
A groundbreaking service framework for HVAC systems

PEOPLE OF DAIKIN

Insights into our people and culture

Daikin Middle East and Africa listed in Forbes Global Meets Local 2025

61. Hasan Onder

Designation: President—Middle East, Türkiye, & Africa
Company: Daikin Middle East & Africa
Nationality: Turkish
Global Headquarters: Japan
Sector: Manufacturing

Onder assumed his current position in November 2023. The company and its subsidiaries employ 800 people in the region. In February 2025, it inaugurated its new head office in New Cairo, dedicated to its Egyptian business. Since 2023, Daikin has established four training centers and centers of excellence across Africa in partnership with Nigeria's Etiwa Tech, Field of Skills and Dream, Morocco's OFPPT, and DMDC in the Côte d'Ivoire. Onder joined Daikin in 2011 as the CEO of Daikin Türkiye. He is also a board member at Daikin Europe N.V.



Daikin MEA listed in Utilities Middle East's Women in UME Powerlist 2025

Daikin Middle East and Africa's Regional Key Account Business Director Laila Sahaf featured in the list titled 'Women in Power: The Leading Women Changing the Future of Energy' by Utilities Middle East. This list features the Top 20 women in the utilities sector for their outstanding contributions in an industry traditionally dominated by men. The list is open to professionals from all roles within the utilities sector, not just engineers, but also those in marketing, HR, finance, procurement, and administration, with the goal being to spotlight the significant impact of women across all areas.



Interview of Sherif Elogeiry with Khaleej Times on Daikin MEA's unwavering commitment to cultivating a positive, inclusive, and empowering workplace culture.

Daikin Middle East and Africa (MEA), a leading manufacturer of Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration (HVAC-R) solutions, has recently achieved the prestigious 'Great Place to Work' certification. The certification covers Daikin MEA's affiliates in the UAE, KSA, Egypt, and Qatar, based on comprehensive employee feedback and a detailed assessment of the company's workplace culture.

Reflecting on this accolade, Sherif Elogeiry, general manager of HR and general affairs at Daikin Middle East and Africa, expressed that the recognition highlights Daikin MEA's dedication to fostering an environment where employees feel genuinely valued, supported, and motivated to excel. He noted that receiving the Great Place to Work certification emphasises the company's ongoing commitment to building a workplace rooted in trust, respect, and collaboration.

Daikin is dedicated to empowering its workforce by providing personalised training, skill enhancement opportunities, and consistent support to enable employees to unlock their full potential. Central to Daikin's strategy are its focus on diversity and inclusion, which are key pillars in cultivating a dynamic and collaborative culture. These elements are not only critical for personal growth but also contribute to driving the company's success in a highly competitive industry.

Khaleej Times

Sherif further remarked that this recognition reflects the collective efforts of Daikin's employees and leadership in nurturing an inspiring and supportive environment. He emphasised that the achievement is especially significant as it coincides with Daikin's 100th anniversary, celebrating a century of innovation and excellence. The certification underlines Daikin's people-centered approach, which has been crucial to its sustained growth and success.

Envisioning the future, Sherif added that maintaining a positive work culture is an ongoing process. Daikin MEA is committed to continuous improvement, investing in programs for employee well-being, skill development, and career growth. Regular feedback will help adapt to employees' evolving needs. While being a Great Place to Work is important, it's crucial that team members feel engaged, valued, and motivated daily. With a strong foundation, Daikin MEA will continue to offer development opportunities, promote work-life balance, and encourage open communication, while prioritising transparency and employee engagement.

Daikin MEA is focused on prioritising initiatives that promote the personal and professional development of its employees. Through training programmes, ongoing upskilling opportunities, and fostering greater collaboration, Daikin MEA aims to transform the company into not just a great place to work, but an exceptional one, where employees are empowered, motivated, and proud to contribute to the collective success of the organisation.

Sherif Elogeiry's interview with People Matters: how Daikin MEA built a 'employer of choice' workplace.

What goes into creating an outstanding workplace is often revealed by the recognitions it earns. Recently, Daikin was certified as a Great Place to Work in December 2024 for its exceptional work culture across the Middle East region. To uncover what led to this achievement, we spoke with Sherif Elogeiry, General Manager of HR & General Affairs. Read on to discover the HR strategies, diversity initiatives, and people-centric policies that have positioned Daikin MEA as an employer of choice in the niche HVAC-R industry.

Cultural elements making a great place to work

Daikin MEA values and embraces diversity within its workforce, having employees from over 40 different countries, making it a unified and inclusive workplace culture. The culture follows a common language and set of values that enable effective communication and collaboration among employees from diverse backgrounds.

Sherif says, "This shared language is rooted in our Daikin Philosophy and core values. At Daikin, we consider all employees as part of our family and are committed to developing and implementing policies and processes that support both them and their families. This approach has fostered a unique, open and welcoming culture at Daikin, where management and the HR team are approachable, and employees feel heard,"

In addition to this, "engagement initiatives including social gatherings play a key role in cultivating the winning workplace culture," he reflected. How? "The initiatives emphasise nurturing positive and collaborative relationships across all levels of the organisation, while upholding an open-door policy..where employees feel valued and empowered to voice their opinions."

Also, leadership plays a crucial role in establishing an "international benchmark for measuring company culture, to identify areas for improvement, and create an open environment where everyone feels encouraged to share their thoughts and feedback,"

people matters

Impactful HR initiatives behind fostering a positive workplace culture

"One of the most impactful HR initiatives we have introduced is our people-centered management approach (PCM)," shared Sherif. He added the approach ensured "performance management, employee development, and other workforce policies are tailored to help our staff realise their full potential."

The approach is universal for all locations of Daikin, where "a dedicated HR Business Partner works closely with both employees and managers, offering guidance and coaching in problem-solving and people management," In addition to this, a Center of Excellence at MEA HQ in Dubai, oversees strategies for talent management, compensation, benefits, and overall workforce development.

"Our HR divisions work in unison, united by a common goal: to support the business and the people who contribute to its success," underlined Sherif.

How does the approach work? "This approach is helping our employees navigate both workplace challenges and external factors that impact their professional lives. For instance, during the COVID-19 crisis, we were proud to retain every employee and maintain salary levels without any reductions. We also responded quickly to support employees facing economic hardships, such as inflation or currency devaluation, by adjusting their compensation packages accordingly," he explained.

The organisation also implemented a remote work policy to promote work-life balance and empower staff with new technologies and tools. "Wellbeing also became a key focus on our HR agenda, leading us to enhance our medical insurance scheme, introduce wellness workshops, offer regular checkups, and provide various health communication resources," added Sherif.

Sherif Elogeiry’s interview in the Gulf News supplement Business Leaders: the article highlighted Daikin MEA’s strong commitment to building a positive, inclusive, and empowering workplace culture

At Daikin Middle East and Africa (MEA), we have always believed that the foundation of our success lies in our people. This belief drives our continuous efforts to create a workplace where every individual feels valued, supported, and inspired to excel. Recently, this commitment was recognised with the prestigious

Great Place to Work certification, covering our affiliates in the UAE, KSA, Egypt, and Qatar. This recognition is particularly meaningful because it is based on comprehensive employee feedback and a detailed assessment of our workplace culture.

This achievement is not just a milestone; it’s a testament to the trust, respect, and collaboration we’ve fostered as part of our people-centred approach. At Daikin MEA, empowering our workforce goes beyond just policies and programs—it’s embedded in our DNA.

The pillars of a positive workplace culture

Earning the Great Place to Work certification is a powerful reflection of Daikin MEA’s unwavering dedication to cultivating a positive, inclusive, and empowering workplace culture.

By providing a learning framework, skill enhancement opportunities, and consistent support, we enable our employees to unlock their full potential. These initiatives are critical not only for individual growth but also for our collective success in the highly competitive HVAC-R industry.

Central to our strategy is a focus on diversity and inclusion, which are key to fostering a dynamic and collaborative culture. We believe that when people from diverse backgrounds come together, they drive innovation and create value for our business. This diversity, coupled with our open-door HR policy, ensures that every employee feels seen, heard, and supported.



A milestone in a century of excellence

The timing of this recognition is particularly special, as it coincides with Daikin’s 100th anniversary — a century of innovation and excellence. This milestone is a celebration not only of our achievements as a global leader in HVAC-R solutions but also of the people who have driven our success over the decades.

The Great Place to Work certification is a reflection of the collective efforts of our employees and leadership to nurture an inspiring and supportive environment. It highlights our commitment to building a workplace that prioritises employee well-being, skill development, and career growth.

A commitment to continuous improvement

As we celebrate this recognition, we also understand that maintaining a positive work culture is an ongoing process. This certification is not an endpoint but a reminder of the responsibility we carry as an employer.

At Daikin MEA, we are committed to continuous improvement. Our focus moving forward is on initiatives that promote personal and professional development. Through training programs, ongoing upskilling opportunities, and fostering greater collaboration, we aim to transform Daikin MEA into not just a great place to work but an exceptional one.

A people-centred approach for the future

What sets Daikin apart is our people-centred management concept, which has been instrumental in our sustained growth. This approach emphasises transparency, open communication, and a genuine commitment to our employees’ well-being. Our leadership is deeply invested in the people agenda, ensuring that every decision and initiative aligns with our vision of an empowering and inclusive workplace.

The Great Place to Work survey has provided us with valuable insights, highlighting both our strengths and the gaps we need to address. These findings are a roadmap for our future, helping us prioritise areas that need attention while reinforcing our existing strengths.

The bigger picture

Being a great place to work is about more than just recognition — it’s about creating a legacy. It’s about ensuring that our employees feel proud to contribute to an organisation that values their contributions and supports their growth. It’s about building a culture that inspires excellence and empowers every individual to reach their full potential.

As we look ahead, our vision is clear. We will continue to offer development opportunities, promote work-life balance, and encourage open communication. By doing so, we aim to create an environment where our employees are not only motivated to succeed but also proud to be part of Daikin MEA.



DAIKIN AFFILIATES NEWS

Updates from Daikin's affiliates across MEA

Daikin opens new headquarters in Egypt to drive future growth and innovation

Daikin, a global leader in high-quality air conditioning, heating, ventilation, and refrigeration (HVAC-R) solutions for residential, commercial, and industrial applications, has officially inaugurated its new headquarters in New Cairo City, Egypt.

Strategically located in Marakez District 5, the upgraded facility enhances convenience and value for Daikin's customers and partners, positioning the company at the heart of growing business opportunities in the region. The grand opening was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Hasan Onder, President of Daikin Türkiye, Middle East, and Africa; Fumio Iwai, Ambassador of Japan to Egypt; and Sherif Soliman, Managing Director of Daikin Egypt.

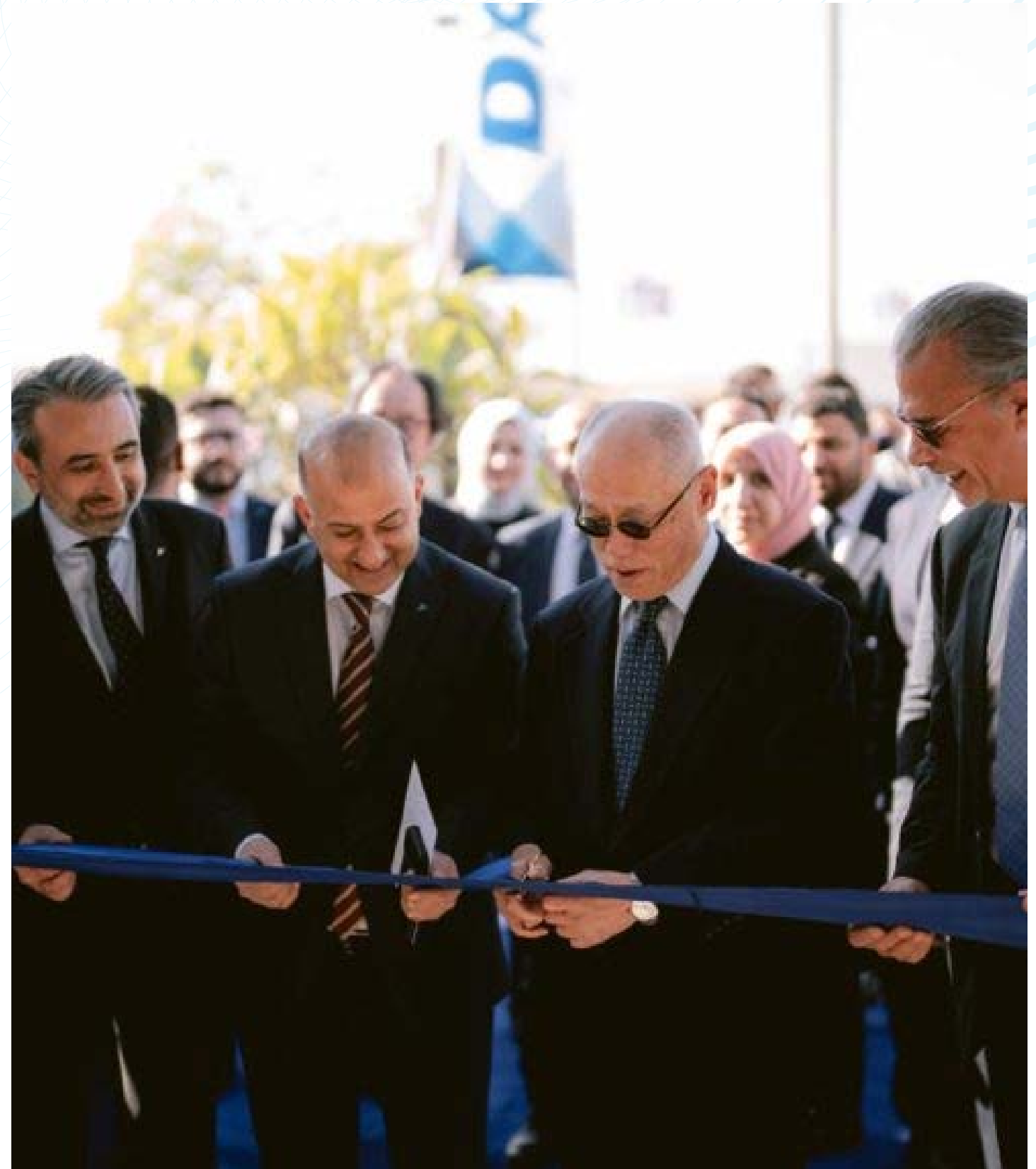
"With our new head office in Egypt, Daikin is better equipped to serve both residential and commercial markets, meet rising demand, and support our ambitions in the local market. The upgraded facilities will enable us to continue innovating and delivering customer-centric solutions that enhance the overall experience, strengthen our brand, and reinforce our long-term partnerships," said Hasan Onder.

Sherif Soliman, Managing Director of Daikin Egypt, emphasized the company's commitment to industry innovation, stating: "This upgraded facility reflects our dedication to advancing the HVAC-R industry and meeting the increasing demand for energy-efficient air conditioning solutions in the region."

The new headquarters features a state-of-the-art showroom showcasing Daikin's extensive range of advanced HVAC-R solutions. Customers and partners will have the opportunity to experience live product demonstrations in an interactive setting. Additionally, the facility includes a cutting-edge training and education center designed to equip professionals with the latest skills, reinforcing Daikin's mission to elevate industry standards.

Strategically positioned near major roads and business hubs, the head office streamlines operations for Daikin's customers and partners, offering easy accessibility and ample parking. A forthcoming free zone in the vicinity is set to further enhance convenience and operational efficiency. Designed with future expansion in mind, the facility also holds the potential to accommodate a local manufacturing unit.

This milestone comes as Daikin celebrates its 100th anniversary worldwide and follows the company's recent recognition as a Great Place to Work. The expansion not only strengthens Daikin's presence in Egypt but also underscores its ongoing commitment to delivering innovative HVAC-R solutions while fostering a dynamic work environment.



Daikin UAE Iftar 2025

Daikin UAE hosted an exclusive Iftar gathering at the One&Only One Za'abeel Hotel, welcoming external stakeholders, partners, distributors, and media representatives from the UAE. The evening offered a warm and engaging setting to build meaningful connections over a traditional Iftar meal. Samer Alawiah, Managing Director of Daikin UAE, interacted with the attending media and led insightful conversations.



Daikin UAE partners with Al Shola, to deliver scalable, energy-efficient Rental Cooling Solutions across the Gulf region

Daikin UAE announced a strategic partnership with Al Shola to provide scalable, energy-efficient rental cooling solutions across the Gulf region. This collaboration combines Daikin's advanced HVAC-R technologies with Al Shola's expertise in temporary cooling and rental services, offering end-to-end solutions from system supply to installation and maintenance. The partnership addresses the growing demand for reliable, cost-effective cooling for large-scale events, construction, energy, healthcare, and cultural projects, while supporting Daikin's goal to expand in the rental sector and contribute to sustainable infrastructure development in the UAE and beyond.



CoolWell unveils state-of-the-art HVAC experience center in Dubai: the dawn of a new era in air conditioning solutions

Coolwell announced the grand opening of its cutting-edge, immersive Experience Center in Dubai. The first-of-its-kind facility showcased Daikin's complete product range; from energy efficient Variable Refrigerant Volume (VRV) lineup to highly effective air purifiers, making it a comprehensive one-stop destination for all Daikin solutions tailored to the UAE. Located in the heart of Dubai in Al Quoz 4, the Experience Center demonstrated Coolwell's commitment to delivering turnkey HVAC systems tailored to the region's unique needs



INDUSTRY TALKS

Latest products, solutions, and industry perspectives

Mechanical Electrical & Plumbing

Daikin MEA listed in MEP Middle East's 2025 HVAC Power 30 list

In the Middle East, innovation and efficiency are driving the future of climate control. A select group of companies is setting new standards in delivering cutting-edge, sustainable, and efficient solutions for modern building needs.

Our annual HVAC power list highlights the top 30 companies leading the way with innovative technologies and exceptional service.

We extend our gratitude to the contractors, distributors, manufacturers, and suppliers across the GCC region who participated in our survey, offering valuable insights. While not every respondent made it to the final list, the top companies were carefully selected based on financial strength, project portfolios, contract wins, size, scope of work, resources, and market reputation. This list also recognises companies that are embracing digital transformation and committing to sustainable practices.

To maintain a focused representation, we have excluded district cooling and district heating firms, despite their significant contributions.

TOP HVAC COMPANIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST 2025

1. ALEMCO
2. JLW MIDDLE EAST
3. BLUE STAR INTERNATIONAL FZCO
4. RUBBER WORLD INDUSTRY
5. TAQEEF MIDDLE EAST
6. TROSTEN INDUSTRIES COMPANY
7. EMERSON
8. JOHNSON CONTROLS
9. CAMFIL MIDDLE EAST
10. CARRIER
11. CENTURY MECHANICAL SYSTEMS GLOBAL
12. CENTRAL VENTILATION SYSTEM
13. DAIKIN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA
14. DANFOSS
15. FUJITSU GENERAL
16. GRUNDFOS GULF DISTRIBUTION
17. HIRA INDUSTRIES
18. KAD AIR CONDITIONING
19. LEMINAR GLOBAL
20. LG ELECTRONICS
21. PRIME FOCUS GROUP
22. RHEEM MANUFACTURING
23. SAMSUNG GULF ELECTRONICS
24. SKM AIR CONDITIONING
25. TRANE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA
26. TROX MIDDLE EAST
27. ZAMIL AIR CONDITIONERS
28. ADEEB GROUP
29. BETAM
30. VOLTAS LIMITED



Video interview of Sanjeev Maheshwari with VAR by Integrator Media

In an exclusive interview with Integrator Media, Sanjeev Maheshwari, General Manager – After Sales and Refrigeration at Daikin Middle East and Africa, highlighted Daikin's century-long success, driven by its philosophy of "Perfecting the Air." He emphasized the company's focus on delivering tailored solutions for the region's demanding climates and the vital role of its often-overlooked after-sales service. Sanjeev also commented Daikin's relentless innovation, fueled by actively incorporating customer feedback to continuously enhance its offerings.



WATCH NOW

Daikin featured on Sudlows Consulting 2025 brochure by Business Focus Magazine

As part of the article published in Sudlows Consulting 2025, Samer Alawiah, Managing Director of Daikin UAE, emphasized that Daikin is playing a vital role in supporting the Middle East's AI-driven digital transformation by delivering advanced, energy-efficient cooling solutions tailored for data centers—the backbone of the region's growing digital economy. Rajneesh VK, Director of Data Center Business at Daikin UAE, also commented that Daikin's technologies address the significant energy demands of data centers, where cooling accounts for around 40% of consumption. Enhanced by smart platforms like the iPlant Manager and equipped with machine learning for real-time optimization, Daikin's solutions help data centers achieve superior performance, lower PUE, and reduced operating costs. Committed to sustainability and operational excellence, Daikin partners with operators from design to maintenance, ensuring data centers meet the region's digital and environmental ambitions.





Smarter Air for a Smarter World

800-DAIKIN (324546)

www.daikinmea.com

info@daikinmea.com

*Image used is for illustrative purposes only. Actual product may vary.



SUDLWS CONSULTING SEIZING THE MOMENT





SMART COOLING FOR A SMARTER FUTURE: DAIKIN'S ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST'S AI BOOM

THE ENGINE OF INNOVATION:
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION STARTS WITH DATA CENTRES. From smart cities and machine learning to autonomous vehicles, as the use of digital technologies and AI solutions accelerates across the Middle East, demand for scalable, high-performance digital infrastructure is growing rapidly. Data centers are the backbone of this digital transformation, powering enterprises and government entities with secure, high-speed processing and storage capabilities.

Under the strategic directives of the region's leaders, the Middle East is positioning itself as a global powerhouse in artificial intelligence and digital transformation. Spreading on the importance of the UAE has placed on data centers, Samer Alawiah, Managing Director of Daikin UAE, emphasized that data centers are a cornerstone of the UAE's economic digital transformation and economic diversification strategy. By leveraging its geographical position and balanced political relations, the UAE seeks to become a regional data hub.

Regional strategies such as the UAE Government Digital Strategy 2025, National AI Strategy 2025, and the UAE Charter for the Development and Use of AI, for example, emphasize legislation focused on data sovereignty and localization, champion ethical AI practices and international collaborations, and underpin the significant investments in digital infrastructure, laying the groundwork for data centers growth.

Building and operating a data center, however, is a complex and resource-intensive endeavor from a technical, financial, and environmental aspect. These facilities require uninterrupted power to function, resulting in substantial energy demand and environmental impact. Approximately 40% of this energy is consumed by cooling systems needed to prevent overheating.

ENGINEERED FOR CRITICAL APPLICATIONS: DAIKIN'S MIDDLE EAST-READY COOLING SOLUTIONS
Rajneesh VK, Director of Data Center Business at Daikin UAE, explains that Daikin's cooling solutions are precisely engineered to deliver exceptional reliability and energy efficiency, addressing the unique challenges faced by data center operators in the Middle East. The comprehensive product portfolio includes air-cooled efficient chillers, water-cooled chillers, PWB-W fan coil units, and PRO-C CRAM units, all complemented by extensive control solutions tailored to the needs of each customer.

The chiller portfolio includes screw compressor units equipped with variable frequency drives (VFD) designed, manufactured in-house and mounted onto the compressor for better reliability and efficiency. These units deliver superior energy efficiency, thanks to an optimized screw design and the integration of a specially engineered VFD. This integration enables precise matching of compressor output to the varying load demands of a data center, ensuring exceptional part-load efficiency, lower PUE (Power Usage Effectiveness), and reduced operating costs. Additionally, the use of intelligent-cooling significantly boosts reliability, especially for applications in extreme ambient conditions.

Despite their large cooling capacities, Daikin's products are compact. This is specifically true for free cooling units with a configuration that does not exceed the unit footprint. Dedicated data center configuration includes an integrated active harmonic filter in the unit's electrical panel to maintain compactness.

Daikin's Pro-W Fan Array Units offer unmatched flexibility and scalability. Thanks to the modular design for space constrained sites. Specifically engineered for large and hyperscale data centers, these units feature chilled water coils and advanced controls for real-time demand management, delivering cooling capacities of up to 1000 kW.

Recognizing the high energy consumption of data centers, Daikin's offerings are meticulously designed to achieve optimal Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE). This is accomplished with EC fans with VSD motors, optimized water coil circulation, pressure-independent control valves, and Active RoomPods.

Filters (HAF) to minimize harmonic distortions and enhance power. Daikin ensures reliability through an N+1 redundant design on fans, coupled with an integrated Active Harmonic Filter (AHF) within the unit's assembly.

The Pro-C CRAM from Daikin is a versatile solution for robust and hard floor installations, with a cooling capacity of 20 to 250 kilowatts. It features advanced heat exchangers, high-efficiency fans, control valves, and harmonic filters for stable performance. For reliability, it includes automatic transfer switches and auto-capacitors for rapid fan activation during power disruptions, ensuring consistent operation even during outages.

SMART OPTIMIZATION WITH DAIKIN'S iPLANT MANAGER
To help data center operators enhance cooling efficiency, Daikin has launched the iPlant Manager - a smart, centralized platform designed to optimize the performance of chiller plants. Leveraging machine learning and model predictive control, this advanced system significantly improves energy efficiency. In the UAE, all Daikin chillers are now equipped with smart connectivity features, allowing customers to remotely access and manage their systems, delivering greater operational insight and energy efficiency.

DAIKIN - A LONG-TERM PARTNER
Today's high-performance data centers are the backbone of digital economies. Their success depends on robust, efficient, and intelligent cooling systems that adapt to regional needs while maintaining superior performance. Understanding these needs, Daikin offers expert support every step of the way, from initial consultations and system design to fast delivery, smooth installation, and ongoing maintenance.

"Our world-class team of Daikin engineering experts is ready to work with you to design the ideal data center tailored to your needs. Our commitment is to deliver your smart efficiency and decrease your annual running costs, empowering you to drive the future of your business while enhancing performance, sustainability, and operational resilience," said Mr. Alawiah.



Samer Alawiah, Managing Director of Daikin UAE.

With over a century of cooling innovation, a global team of 93,000 professionals, and 130 manufacturing facilities across five continents, Daikin offers advanced solutions needed to support. These solutions are tailored to meet the Middle East's critical infrastructure needs, ensuring data centers driving the region's AI transformation are equipped with efficient, sustainable cooling systems for the digital future.

www.daikinmea.com

READ MORE

Welcome Ramadan with Khaleej Times: Addressing Food Waste in the UAE- featured an article attributed to Sanjeev Maheshwari, General Manager- After Sales & Refrigeration at Daikin Middle East & Africa

Across the Islamic world, food holds a special significance during the Holy Month of Ramadan, not only as something to be grateful for but also a means of generosity and giving. In the UAE, however, few go without, thanks to the country's prosperity and abundant food supply.

Shipped from around the world, the country's advanced infrastructure and strong economy, ensure a steady and reliable food supply. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the UAE government introduced several new initiatives to maintain food availability in the region. However, managing food waste, which occurs at multiple stages of the supply chain, remains a challenge. Wastage occurs during transportation due to spoilage, at retail centers from unsold stock, and from excessive purchasing that leads to unused leftovers.

Excessive purchasing often results in uneaten food, especially at hotel buffets where leftover food from the kitchen can be donated, but food on individual plates is discarded. It's important to be mindful when filling our plates to minimise food waste.

According to ne'ma, the UAE's National Food Loss and Waste Initiative, around 40 per cent of food is wasted in the UAE, amounting to a financial loss of Dh6 billion annually. Globally, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, estimates that approximately one-third of all food (approximately 1.3 billion tonnes) is wasted each year. With one billion people worldwide suffering from hunger, this level of food wastage is deeply concerning, particularly during the Holy Month of Ramadan, a time of reflection, gratitude, and charity.

Food wastage is not only a social and economic concern but also a major environmental one. Decomposing food is a major contributor to harmful greenhouse gases, responsible for accelerating climate change. In 2017 alone, food wastage accounted for 9.3 billion tonnes of CO2-equivalent (GtCO2e) emissions, a figure which is comparable to the combined emissions of the US and the EU that same year. Beyond the direct impact of decomposing food in landfills, the energy used for farming, processing, transporting, and refrigerating goes to waste, further increasing the carbon footprint.

Recognising the urgency of the issue, the UAE government has set an ambitious target to cut food waste by 50 per cent by 2030, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Today, it is actively working to promote behavioral change among consumers, encouraging social responsibility, and implementing policies that support these practices across the food supply chain.

When it comes to waste, one of the key challenges within the supply chain is the issue of food spoilage, with 23 per cent occurring at the handling and storage level, 10 per cent during processing and packing, and 13 per cent in distribution and retail.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025 **KHALEEJ TIMES**

WELCOME RAMADAN CREATING SUSTAINABLE FOOD ECOSYSTEMS

DAIKIN

ADDRESSING FOOD WASTE IN THE UAE: A RAMADAN REFLECTION

In support of a more sustainable food ecosystem, Daikin is working to reduce food waste with its advanced cold chain solutions, having natural refrigerants and energy-efficient technologies such as inverters

Sanjeev Maheshwari

Across the Islamic world, food holds a special significance during the Holy Month of Ramadan, not only as something to be grateful for but also a means of generosity and giving. In the UAE, however, few go without, thanks to the country's prosperity and abundant food supply.

Shipped from around the world, the country's advanced infrastructure and strong economy, ensure a steady and reliable food supply. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the UAE government introduced several new initiatives to maintain food availability in the region. However, managing food waste, which occurs at multiple stages of the supply chain, remains a challenge. Wastage occurs during transportation due to spoilage, at retail centers from unsold stock, and from excessive purchasing that leads to unused leftovers.

Excessive purchasing often results in uneaten food, especially at hotel buffets where leftover food from the kitchen can be donated, but food on individual plates is discarded. It's important to be mindful when filling our plates to minimise food waste.

According to ne'ma, the UAE's National Food Loss and Waste Initiative, around 40 per cent of food is wasted in the UAE, amounting to a financial loss of Dh6 billion annually. Globally, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, estimates that approximately one-third of all food (approximately 1.3 billion tonnes) is wasted each year. With one billion people worldwide suffering from hunger, this level of food wastage is deeply concerning, particularly during the Holy Month of Ramadan, a time of reflection, gratitude, and charity.

Food wastage is not only a social and economic concern but also a major environmental one. Decomposing food is a major contributor to harmful greenhouse gases, responsible for accelerating climate change. In 2017 alone, food wastage accounted for 9.3 billion tonnes of CO2-equivalent (GtCO2e) emissions, a figure which is comparable to the combined emissions of the US and the EU that same year. Beyond the direct impact of decomposing food in landfills, the energy used for farming, processing, transporting, and refrigerating goes to waste, further increasing the carbon footprint.

Recognising the urgency of the issue, the UAE government has set an ambitious target to cut food waste by 50 per cent by 2030, in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Today, it is actively working to promote behavioral change among consumers, encouraging social responsibility, and implementing policies that support these practices across the food supply chain.

When it comes to waste, one of the key challenges within the supply chain is the issue of food spoilage, with 23 per cent occurring at the handling and storage level, 10 per cent during processing and packing, and 13 per cent in distribution and retail.

1.3 billion tonnes is wasted each year. With 1 billion people worldwide suffering from hunger, this level of food waste is deeply concerning, particularly during the Holy Month of Ramadan, a time of reflection, gratitude, and charity.

at Daikin, reducing food waste with our cold chain solutions is a strategic imperative. Fluctuations in cold storage temperatures can cause loss of nutrients, bacterial growth, and spoilage. Daikin's advanced inverter technology intelligently adjusts cooling based on demand, which creates stable conditions throughout storage and transportation. Studies also show that these innovations have improved energy efficiency by 40-50 per cent compared to a decade ago, reducing not only operational costs for businesses but also significantly reducing their environmental impact.

Beyond advanced cooling technology, Daikin's cold chain solutions incorporate the use of IoT sensors. We continuously track temperature and humidity levels, adjusting conditions in real time to ensure goods are stored in ideal conditions, while minimising the chance of spoilage. These innovations can help retailers, food distributors, and logistics companies extend the shelf life of food while simultaneously reducing waste and carbon emissions.

Beyond cold storage, another way to tackle food waste is by producing food close to where it is consumed. At Daikin, our innovations are supporting the growing trend of indoor farming in the Middle East, where extreme heat and dry conditions outside make it challenging to grow food traditionally. By providing our advanced HVAC-R technology to indoor and vertical farmers, our solutions ensure that crops receive optimal growing conditions year-round, while reducing energy consumption, making indoor farming more economically viable. By supporting local food production and reducing reliance on imports, indoor farming not only minimises food spoilage by shortening the supply chain but also contributes to the UAE's food security and sustainability goals.

With significant economic, social, and environmental consequences, addressing food waste is a global challenge and a question of ensuring sustainability for future generations. Through government-led initiatives, technological advancements, and industry collaboration, the UAE is taking proactive steps to maintain food loss and create a more efficient food supply chain. As Ramadan encourages reflection and gratitude, addressing food waste remains a shared responsibility. In alignment with the UAE's vision for a greener and more resilient future, Daikin is proud to be a part of the movement to address food waste.

By driving innovation in cold chain solutions, we continue to support businesses in reducing food loss during transportation and storage. Moreover, our solutions help lower carbon emissions for a more efficient and sustainable economy, and ultimately, a greener future.

—Sanjeev Maheshwari, the General Manager—After Sales & Refrigeration at Daikin Middle East & Africa.

Preserve wisely. Protect resources. Prevent waste.

Embrace a sustainable Ramadan with conscious food consumption, powered by Daikin's efficient refrigeration solutions.

DAIKIN

Gulf Construction

Daikin Middle East and Africa introduces Daikin360: A groundbreaking service framework for HVAC systems

Daikin Europe N.V., a prominent leader in air conditioning and air purification technologies, has announced the launch of Daikin360, its groundbreaking service framework for HVAC (heating, ventilation, air-conditioning) systems in the Middle East and Africa region.

Unveiling it at a conference in Frankfurt, Daikin said this comprehensive framework marks a pivotal advancement in HVAC management, meticulously tailored for the diverse climates and market needs of the Middle East and Africa, ensuring the delivery of holistic solutions that meticulously address every facet of their customers’ needs.

Daikin360 provides a holistic, lifecycle-based approach to HVAC management, crucial in the varied and demanding climates of the region.

This unified framework consolidates all of Daikin’s service offerings into one recognizable and efficient brand, designed to enhance system reliability, efficiency, and sustainability, it stated.



The key features of Daikin360 include:

- Connect & Maintain: Ensuring continuous operation with minimal downtime.
- Optimise: Tailoring solutions to maximize efficiency and system performance.
- Modernise: Updating systems with the latest technology to meet current and future needs.
- Replacements: Providing timely, efficient replacement of components or systems.
- Sustainable Business: Focusing on practices that reduce environmental impact and operational costs.
- Parts & Repairs: Offering quick and reliable access to essential parts and repair services and
- Meeting the challenges of sustainability and efficiency.

Daikin said its MEA subsidiary has powerfully embraced this turnkey service and solutions approach.

Given the region's unique environmental challenges and economic dynamics, it requires robust and adaptable HVAC solutions, it stated.

Daikin360 addresses this need by offering advanced, integrated services from installation to modernisation - all designed to optimize performance and exceed sustainability goals, it added.

Daikin360 aligns with the increasing sustainability initiatives and stringent energy regulations in MEA region.

By optimizing HVAC systems to perform more efficiently and with less environmental impact, Daikin360 supports the region's goals for energy conservation and reduced carbon emissions, it added.





Preserve wisely. Protect resources. Prevent waste.

Embrace a sustainable lifestyle with conscious food consumption, powered by Daikin's efficient refrigeration solutions.



DAIKIN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA FZE

P.O. Box 18674, Plot MO0426, JAFZA North, Jebel Ali Free Zone, Dubai, UAE
Tel: +971 (0) 4 815 9300 | Fax: +971 (0) 4 815 9311 | Website : www.daikinmea.com | E-mail : info@daikinmea.com Toll Free : 800-DAIKIN (324546)

Follow us for more updates

