BUILD BACK BETTER INITIATIVE · SUDAN & EAST AFRICA

Evidence for Resilience - Policy. Communities. Change.

Dubai's Energy Expo Closes With a $3.25 Billion Storage Bet and a 5.2-Gigawatt Flagship Project. Sudan Wasn't in the Room.

2026-09-03 · Research Team

WWW.3BISUDAN.ORG

Contents

Middle East Energy 2026 closed in Dubai touting a $3.25B storage market and a 5.2GW flagship project. Sudan's grid crisis got no mention at the region's largest energy expo.

Situation Report — Middle East Energy 2026 Closes in Dubai: A $3.25 Billion Storage Bet and a 5.2-Gigawatt Flagship Project. Sudan Wasn't in the Room.

3Bi Research Team

Header

Situation: Middle East Energy 2026, Dubai World Trade Centre. First edition tracked by this Situation Report. Information cut-off: Thursday, 3 September 2026, end of day (Gulf Standard Time).

Headline Fact

Middle East Energy 2026 — the 50th edition of the region's largest energy trade exhibition, running 1–3 September at the Dubai World Trade Centre — closed today with UAE officials repeating, on its final day, the same framing they opened with three days earlier: that the country's clean-energy build-out is not an alternative to energy security but the mechanism for achieving it. Over the three days, organizers and officials attached hard numbers to that framing — a $3.25 billion domestic battery-storage market forecast and a 5.2-gigawatt solar-plus-storage flagship project — that Sudan's own energy sector, still without a functioning national grid strategy, has nothing to set against.

Timeline

- **1 September 2026** — Middle East Energy 2026 opens at the Dubai World Trade Centre, marking the exhibition's 50th edition, with more than 1,500 exhibitors from over 120 countries. The opening ceremony is attended by Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum (Chairman and CEO of Emirates Airline and Group) and Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure. Organizers highlight what they describe as the world's largest 24/7 solar-plus-storage project, planned at 5.2 gigawatts of solar generation paired with 19 gigawatt-hours of battery storage. Al Mazrouei is quoted stating the UAE is "build[ing] one of the region's most diversified energy portfolios, strengthening energy security while accelerating the transition towards cleaner and more sustainable sources of energy" (Zawya/ARN News Centre, 1 September 2026).
- **2 September 2026** — Chinese solar-technology manufacturer Trinasolar tells the Emirates News Agency (WAM), on the exhibition sidelines, that the UAE's battery energy-storage market is projected to reach approximately $3.25 billion by 2030, growing at a compound annual rate of 41.2% between 2025 and 2030 — among the fastest such growth rates forecast anywhere in the Middle East and Africa region (attaqa.net; Economy Middle East; Trade

Arabia, 2 September 2026).
- **3 September 2026 (today, final day)** — Eng. Sharif Al-Olama, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure for Energy and Petroleum Affairs, tells attaqa.net that the UAE's energy transition rests on "a balanced approach combining climate action, energy security, and the provision of supplies at reasonable cost and high reliability, alongside support for sustainable economic growth." He points to the 24/7 renewable project, the Barakah nuclear plant, and the state's role in the Global Alliance for Energy Efficiency, and states plainly that "the technology, the capital, and the demand all exist — the challenge, more often, is building the bridge that connects them" (attaqa.net, 3 September 2026).
- **Through the exhibition** — Organizers report anticipated agreements involving Siemens, Honeywell, Schneider Electric, First Abu Dhabi Bank, and Hitachi Energy, though as of this cut-off none of these has been confirmed signed and dated (Zawya, 1 September 2026).

What We Know / What We Don't

We know: the $3.25 billion 2030 storage-market forecast and the 41.2% compound annual growth figure come directly from Trinasolar's on-the-record comments to WAM, not from a 3Bi estimate. We know the 5.2-gigawatt/19-gigawatt-hour project figures and the ministerial quotes were distributed via the exhibition's own press materials and multiple UAE outlets carrying the same wire copy, which is standard practice for a hosted trade event and does not itself indicate the figures are inflated, but does mean independent verification of the project's financing and construction timeline has not yet been published. We know Sudan's only comparable battery-storage initiative on record — a UNDP/GEF-backed 2-megawatt solar, 6.9-megawatt-hour diesel-to-solar retrofit, budgeted at roughly $2.9 million — is unrelated in scale and was not referenced at this exhibition.

What we don't know: which, if any, of the Siemens/Honeywell/Schneider Electric/First Abu Dhabi Bank/Hitachi Energy agreements mentioned as "anticipated" were actually signed before the exhibition's close today, since organizer press materials as of this cut-off list them as expected rather than confirmed. We also don't know whether any Sudanese government, private-sector, or diaspora-business delegation attended Middle East Energy 2026 in any capacity; none appeared in exhibitor lists, wire coverage, or attaqa.net's reporting reviewed for this report, but the absence of a mention is not proof of absence at the event.

Do-No-Harm Note

This edition names no private individual and describes no community in a way that could expose anyone to identification or harm; all figures and quotes are attributed to named officials speaking in their public capacities or to a company's on-the-record market commentary. The conflict-sensitivity check required by 3Bi's editorial guidelines was run before publication.

What to Watch

Watch for confirmation, in exhibition wrap-up coverage over the coming days, of which of the five anticipated corporate agreements (Siemens, Honeywell, Schneider Electric, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Hitachi Energy) were actually signed. Watch for any published financing or construction timeline for the 5.2-gigawatt/19-gigawatt-hour project, since a headline capacity figure at a trade-show opening is not the same as a financed, contracted project. Separately, and unrelated to this exhibition, watch Sudan's Electricity Regulatory Authority and Ministry of Energy and Mining for any sign of a renewable-energy investment framework or grid-reconstruction financing plan — as of this cut-off, none has been published, and Sudan continues to report blackouts of up to 18 hours daily in army-controlled areas amid war damage to transmission infrastructure and the halted Ethiopian import line (Sudan Tribune, 22 July 2026; TimesLIVE/Reuters, 28 August 2026).

Sourcing & Next Update

Primary sources: attaqa.net (3 September 2026, Sharif Al-Olama statement; 2 September 2026, Trinasolar/WAM storage-market figures); Zawya, ARN News Centre, Dubai Eye, and Trade Arabia wire coverage of the exhibition's 1 September opening; Economy Middle East (2 September 2026). Sudan grid-crisis context drawn from previously verified reporting in Sudan Tribune (22 July 2026) and TimesLIVE, citing Reuters (28 August 2026). This is a single-edition Situation Report; 3Bi will publish a follow-up only if a materially new development — a confirmed signed agreement, a financing announcement, or a comparable Sudan-side development — emerges.

This piece was produced through 3Bi's automated daily publications workflow, which monitors regional and international climate and energy reporting.

This publication is produced with support from 3Bi's institutional donors; see the full funder list at 3bisudan.org.