



# PLANNING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN PROMOTING THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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## ABSTRACT

The research addresses the importance of planning special economic zones and their fundamental role in achieving integrated urban development. The research aims to clarify the nature of these zones, their role and factors for their success, by presenting international and Arab experiences, especially since these experiences have proven the importance of special economic zones and the investments accompanying them in making the region international fame, enhancing its ability to attract residents from different countries of the world, and disseminating knowledge and technology. In its basic structure, the research relied on three main discussions, the first of which relates to defining them and clarifying their types and the extent of their effective role at the local and global levels. The second deals with the importance of these areas in balanced urban development in order to achieve sustainability goals. The third and final relates to presenting and studying experiences, whether foreign or Arab. The experimental study showed that planning and developing these areas effectively contributes to achieving sustainable development goals. It contributes effectively to the urban development plan through the growth of communities and cities with diverse capabilities and resources. And also developing regions and reviving industries in most parts of the country. Increasing reliance on clean energy and providing many new job opportunities. This is what many countries need, especially in light of the challenges related to global climate change, which has made sustainable development not just an economic luxury, but an inevitable necessity that the world seeks.

**KEYWORDS:** Investment, competitiveness, sustainability.

## تخطيط المناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة وأهميتها في تعزيز مستقبل التنمية العمرانية المستدامة

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## الملخص

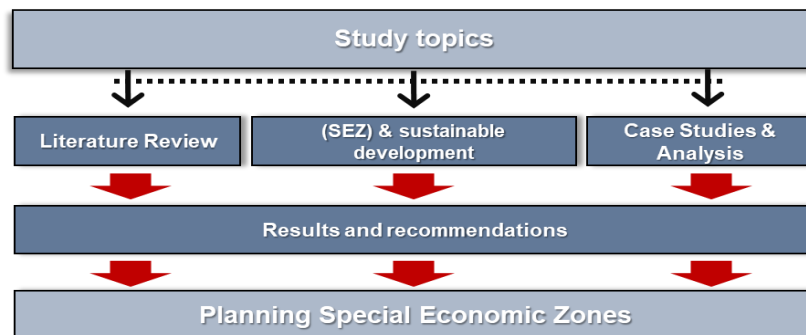
يتناول البحث أهمية تخطيط المناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة ودورها الأساسي في الوصول الي تنمية حضرية متكاملة ، ويهدف البحث إلى توضيح طبيعة هذه المناطق، ودورها وعوامل نجاحها، من خلال عرض التجارب العالمية والعربية، خاصة وأن هذه التجارب أثبتت أهمية المناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والاستثمارات المصاحبة لها في إكساب المنطقة شهرة عالمية، وتعزيز قدرتها على استقطاب المقيمين من مختلف دول العالم، ونشر المعرفة والتكنولوجيا. واعتمد البحث في هيكله الأساسي علي تناول ثلاثة مناقشات رئيسية، يتعلق الأول منها بتعريفها وتوضيح أنواعها ومدى دورها الفعال على المستوى المحلي والعالمى ، ويتناول الثاني أهمية هذه المناطق في التنمية العمرانية المتوازنة بما يحقق أهداف الاستدامة، وأما الثالث والآخر فيتعلق بعرض ودراسة

الخبرات سواء الأجنبية أو العربية. وأوضحت دراسة التجارب أن تخطيط وتنمية هذه المناطق يساهم بشكل فعال تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة. وتساهم بشكل فعال في خطة التنمية العمرانية من خلال نمو المجتمعات والمدن ذات الامكانيات والموارد المتنوعة. وايضا تطوير المناطق وانعاش الصناعات في معظم أنحاء البلاد. وزيادة الاعتماد علي الطاقة النظيفة وتوفير العديد من فرص العمل الجديدة. وهذا ما تحتاجه العديد من الدول وخاصة في ظل التحديات المتعلقة بالتغيرات المناخية العالمية، التي جعلت التنمية المستدامة ليست مجرد رفاهية اقتصادية بل ضرورة محتمة يسعى لها العالم.

**الكلمات المفتاحية :** الاستثمار ، التنافسية ، الاستدامة.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Special economic zones have become an increasingly popular tool for promoting economic development over the past three decades. They have proliferated as an effective component of emerging and transition economies, and countries promoting these zones have sought to stimulate economic development inside and outside the region. The types of these areas have diversified and their numbers have increased in the world, which indicates that they have become one of the main tools in developing the economy and achieving sustainable urban development, especially in developing countries. In its presentation of global experiences, the research emphasizes the role of special economic zones, the factors for their success, and the extent to which they can benefit from achieving the required urban development. Especially since these experiences demonstrated the importance of economic zones and the investments that accompany them in giving the region international fame. **Fig. 1.** shows topics of the study in the research.



**Fig. 1.** shows topics of the study in the research.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Definition of Special Economic Zones (SEZ)

Special economic zones<sup>1</sup> are geographical areas in a country that are exempt from internal laws, such as taxes, customs, foreign investment banks, labor laws, and other legal restrictions on business, and thus are able to manufacture and produce goods at globally competitive prices. Its classification includes different types of zones, such as FTZ: Zone Free Trade., Free Zones FZ: Free Zone, Export Processing Zones EPZ: Export Processing Zone, and Industrial Zones IZ: Industrial Zone. Free ports, free economic zones, construction project areas, etc. [1].

The World Bank indicated that special economic zones are geographically defined areas managed by a single body, and provide a range of incentives and benefits (including exemption from tax duties and simplified customs procedures, as well as the provision of high-quality infrastructure and efficient services) to companies that are physically located within the zones [2]. Mouan & Cotula (2018) point out that special economic zones are areas where the rules of doing business differ from the general economy; Its establishment is linked to infrastructure

developments (roads, railways, ports, and airports), with the aim of improving strategic locations to stimulate economic transformation [3].

In the same context, Al et Sharma (2017) pointed out that special economic zones are economic tools that enjoy high-quality infrastructure, efficient logistical services, and few regulatory and administrative restrictions. This is with the aim of accelerating the process of economic development, and then achieving economic transformation on a broader scale [4].

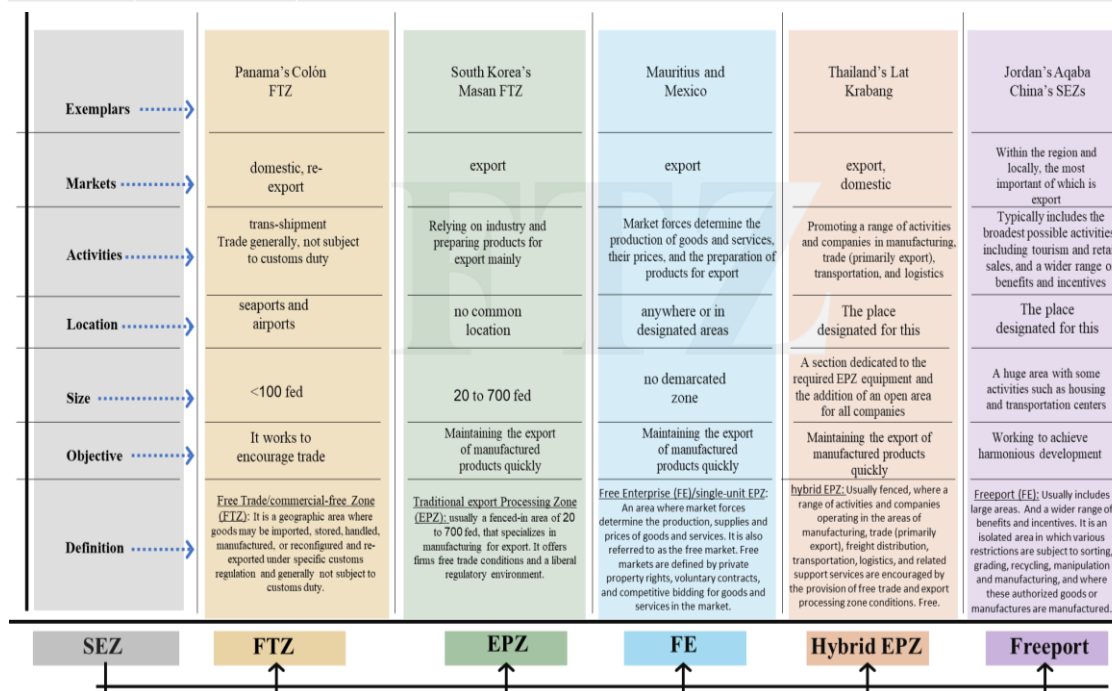
Definition of Special Economic Zones from the researcher’s point of view: They are specific geographical areas within a regional plan for comprehensive development (economically and urban) within the borders of the state, which include diverse and integrated activities (commercially, industrially, and logistically) aimed at attracting foreign investments to establish export industries through special policies stimulating investment.

### 2.2 Modality of Special Economic Zones (SEZ)

There are many types of SEZs due to each country's policy objectives and competitive differentiation strategy. There are five types of special economic zones, and each type and the difference between them can be identified in **Table 1.** and **Fig. 2.**

**Table 1. types of special economic zones [5].**

<b>FTZ</b>	<b>Free Trade/commercial-free Zone</b>	It is a geographic area where goods may be imported, stored, handled, manufactured, or reconfigured and re-exported under specific customs regulation and generally not subject to customs duty
<b>EPZ</b>	<b>Traditional export Processing Zone</b>	usually a fenced-in area of 20 to 700 fed, that specializes in manufacturing for export. It offers firms free trade conditions and a liberal regulatory environment.
<b>FE</b>	<b>Free Enterprise (FE)/single-unit</b>	An area where market forces determine the production, supplies and prices of goods and services. It is also referred to as the free market. Free markets are defined by private property rights, voluntary contracts, and competitive bidding for goods and services in the market.
<b>Hybrid EPZ</b>	<b>Hybrid EPZ</b>	Usually fenced, where a range of activities and companies operating in the areas of manufacturing, trade (primarily export), freight distribution, transportation, logistics, and related support services are encouraged by the provision of free trade and export processing zone conditions Free.
<b>Free port</b>	<b>Free port</b>	Usually includes large areas. And a wider range of benefits and incentives. It is an isolated area in which various restrictions are subject to sorting, grading, recycling, manipulation and manufacturing, and where these authorized goods or manufactures are manufactured



**Fig. 2. Characteristics of SEZ modalities [6].**

### **2.3 The importance of special economic zones for the future of sustainable urban development**

To learn about the role of these regions in achieving sustainable development, it was necessary to address the definition of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is defined as that economic activity that leads to increased social well-being with greater attention to available natural resources with minimal environmental damage and abuse [7].

Paget presented a definition of sustainable development (It is about preserving opportunities for future generations with the general idea that justice is transmitted between generations.) [8].

As for UNESCO, sustainable development believes that every generation must enjoy natural resources and leave them pure and unpolluted as they came to Earth.

Sustainable development has become a fundamental goal within global development policies within the framework of three dimensions: achieving economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability, in an effort to achieve human development. In the context of striving to achieve sustainable development, various countries have adopted several economic policies based on the principle of economic diversification capable of adapting to global economic changes. The global financial crisis in 2008 played a decisive role in accelerating policies to enhance competitiveness in countries' economies. There has been a move towards investing heavily in urban policies to attract industries in the growth and innovation sectors as an effective source of competitiveness and prosperity through.

#### **2.3.1 Economic Growth**

As special economic zones played a pivotal role as development tools that have stimulating effects that work to achieve economic growth and development, and enhance international competitiveness, as well-established special economic zones develop and distribute exports, attract foreign direct investment, as well as create job opportunities, in addition to Experimenting with new development policies and approaches. Special economic zones took various forms in order to achieve this, such as: industrial zones, comprehensive special economic zones, eco-industrial zones, technology zones, and innovation zones, so that these zones were promoted by national and regional governments to stimulate economic growth and capacity. Competitiveness.

Special economic zones have become an increasingly popular tool for promoting economic development over the past three decades. Special economic zones have spread as an active component in emerging economies and economies in transition. The countries that promoted these areas sought to stimulate economic development inside and outside the region. At home: Countries aim to attract investments that will lead to the clustering of companies, create new jobs, and facilitate the transfer of skills and technology. As for abroad: countries aim to generate synergies to enhance additional economic activity [9].

Since the early 1990s, many countries have viewed SEZs as engines of industrialization and economic modernization. The number of SEZs has increased significantly [10]. According to the World Investment Report, the number of special economic zones has increased by about 5,400 operating in 147 countries [11]. Therefore, many countries are working to upgrade their special economic zones into huge industrial blocs and commercial centers, while offering a variety of incentives and benefits to take advantage of their potential.

Special economic zones are characterized by a number of characteristics, such as: a distinct geographical location, so that special economic zones located next to an urban area enjoy easy access to companies, possess financial capabilities, skilled Labour, access to markets, and distinguished infrastructure (including ports, airports, and highways). Therefore, foreign investors were particularly keen to invest in special economic zones as a result of addressing the regulatory and administrative complexities raised by global trade and economic policies [12].

As a result of these zones possessing investment advantages, they provide more diverse opportunities to participate in foreign markets, expand the expertise for investors to choose the

field of investment, and then activate the ability of the special economic zones to use local resources (human and material), and stimulate and develop the production methods of the local population. Which leads to the development of local communities.

This is in addition to the fact that special economic zones and their development do not stop at merely direct social and economic returns, such as diversifying sources of income, raising the standard of living, and increasing the national product. Rather, urban planning of these areas leads to achieving indirect returns such as: -  
Reorganization of residential areas.

- Urban expansion.
- Creating what are known as global cities.

The openness of these economic cities to the world allows them to:

- Attracting individuals from different cultures and countries.
- Establishing various cultural and artistic institutions.
- Changing the infrastructure of existing cities and the country as a whole.
- It allows different peoples to interact culturally.

As well as global participation in the production of goods and services.

Special economic zones contribute to the urban development plan as follows:

First: The growth of urban communities and cities with diverse components and resources.

Second: It plays a role in supporting society and economic development in rural areas through:

- Providing rural residents with access to educational and health facilities
- Providing agricultural extension and industrial services
- Supporting agricultural industries related to local products.
- Small enterprise development.

Third: Developing backward areas and reviving industries in most parts of the country.

Therefore, special economic zones can be planned to achieve the desired integration of urban development in a region instead of settling cities only

This economic policy can ultimately achieve economic growth for the country.

### **2.3.2 The social dimensions of special economic zones,**

As these zones played an important role in improving the quality of social life, as a result of the availability of new job opportunities, ensuring decent wages, increasing family income, as well as improving living standards. These zones also contributed to the development of new urban communities, through improving the quality of housing, the quality of facilities and services: such as providing high-quality infrastructure and access to international markets, as well as directing urban growth towards the establishment of new urban areas. Special economic zones also contributed to increasing rates of social mobility as a result of the availability of job opportunities and high levels of income as well as possession of... Positions are held by some social strata within these regions and even in other regions surrounding them, and then move to a higher-class level and thus contribute to achieving human development and reducing poverty. These regions have worked to encourage strategies to support and encourage talent and attract highly skilled workers in a way that enhances and supports human development [13].

### **2.3.3 The environmental dimensions of the special economic zones**

As they played an important and stimulating role in supporting green manufacturing operations based on the principles of industrial solidarity, by reusing and recycling waste and then promoting clean production, as the special economic zones provide an ideal environment for applying environmental standards, including the use of economical production methods. Sustainable energy and transportation systems as well as clean technology research, development and dissemination [14]. Special economic zones engage in diverse activities to build a sustainable industrial system through efficient use of energy and resources, clustering of effective services, and

the application of environmental standards. Special economic zones are an effective tool in promoting more sustainable economic development and more innovative production as a result of the availability of high-quality infrastructure and facilities to meet the needs of... Target industries. Special economic zones also have the ability to promote economic development driven by innovation through the use of energy-saving production methods in a way that enhances and supports environmentally friendly development and production. He explained that effective environmental management in the most modern areas includes facilities specifically designed to meet the needs of the targeted industries, as well as waste treatment facilities. Then apply environmental standards more effectively [15].

### 3. Case Studies & Analysis

In this part of the research, a detailed discussion and analysis of different case studies will be carried out on the international and regional scale respectively in order to extract useful guidelines for each case, reflect them on the SEZ area standards and certainly avoid the negatives. And make sure it does not happen again.

The following points are studied using international experiences: - Resources and Possibilities - Land use structure - Success factors - Challenges - The development vision of the project.

#### Countries experience sites for economic zones projects: -

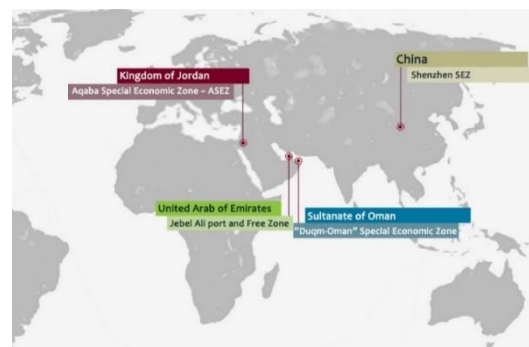
- **00International** (SHENZHEN-China).
- **Regional** (Aqaba–Kingdom of Jordan).
- (Jebel Ali–United Arab of Emirates).
- (Duqm - Sultanate of Oman).

As shown in the **Fig.3**.

#### 3.1 International case study “SHENZHEN-China”:

Shenzhen City, China's first special economic zone, The Shenzhen Special Economic Zone is located near Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Dongguan and Zhongshan City. **Fig. 4**. This unique geographical location of the economic region has been one of the main factors for the amazing success it has achieved in recent years. Shenzhen's pleasant climate and scenic coastal and mountainous scenery have turned it into an attractive travel destination. The urban structure of Shenzhen has played an important role in promoting economic development, as the city's economic efficiency is greatly influenced by its spatial structure. The Shenzhen Special Economic Zone has an area of 327 square kilometers, and Shenzhen's location just 20 kilometers from Hong Kong, China has been an important factor in its development [16].

**Resources:** -Shenzhen SEZ has grown as a poor neglected small fishing village with 30,000 inhabitants



**Fig. 3. Map shows Countries experience sites for SEZ**



**Fig. 4. Map shows the location of the (SEZ) in China [17].**



to a megacity of more than 15 million. This proves that current lack of human resources is not a permanent situation or a real obstacle in the DSEZ as soon as the development activities begin to prosper. It will become a population attractive environment.

**Land use structure:** - The variety of land use topology in Shenzhen (residential, international markets, electronics manufacturing centers, tourism sites, etc.) is a fully healthy and desirable urban strategy to create an integrated development that should be implemented in DSEZ to achieve a similar. [18]

**Success Factors:** -

- Cheap labor.
- flexible low Investors.
- Financial Privileges.
- International marketing.
- Total quality approach and smart research continuous process.

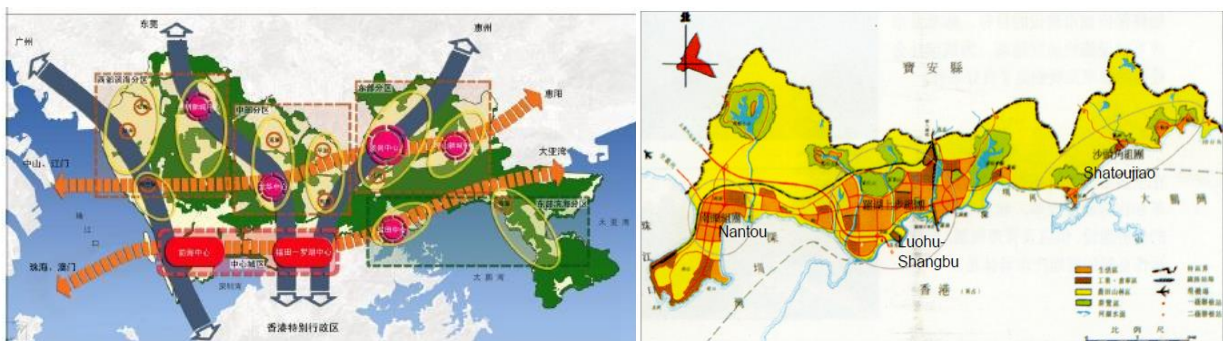


Fig. 5. The Spatial Structure of 1982 SEZ Masterplan [19].

**Negative indicators:** -

- Over speedy.
- Acceleration of investments size which generates economic problems such as excess production.

**Vision:** -Shenzhen’s vision stressed the independent economic base as an approach to achieve the social aspect of the well-off society, which reflects the necessity of “Economic independence methodology if we seize an outstanding progress for the DSEZ [20].

**Overview:** -The PRC’s first major experiment in urban-led economic development began as a typical neglected village through smart direction of abilities DSEZ could become the leading economic western gate of the sultanate specially with the unique location as a direct neighbor to KSA.

### 3.2 Regional case study “Aqaba -Jordan”

The Aqaba Special Economic Zone is considered a global hub, where three continents meet and form a global center for investors and tourists alike. **Fig. 6.** The area is located on the Gulf of Aqaba, which empties into the Red Sea. It extends to the borders of Palestine and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and connects the territorial waters of Egypt. It constitutes a strategic outlet for regional and global markets. The aim of establishing the Aqaba Special Economic Zone was to become a developed regional center in a strategic location in the Middle East, to be a link of integrated and multi-activity economic development, which includes tourism, recreational services, professional services, multimodal transportation, and value-added industries [21].



**Fig. 6.** Map shows the location of the “Aqaba- Jordan (SEZ) [21].

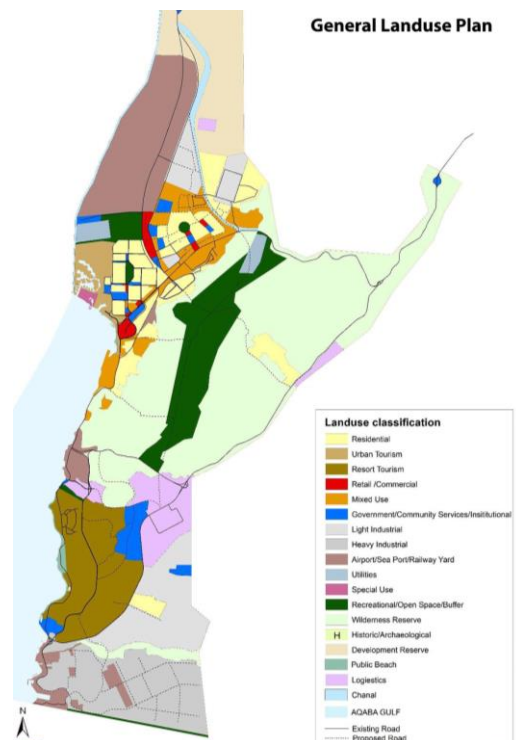
#### Resources: -

- Tourism Destination ‘Golden-Triangle.’
- Open-skies International Airport.
- Duty-Free Zone.
- Gateway to the Levant.

#### Land use structure: -

- The old city rises between the sea and the desert
- Aqaba Port
- Southern Coastal
- Southern Heavy Industries
- Airport Industrial Zone

As shown in the **Fig.7.**



**Fig. 7.** Master Plan Aqaba- Jordan (SEZ) [21].

#### Success Factors: -

- global hub, with three continents converging and forming a global hub for investors and tourists.
- Sea-ports, and International Airport.
- good governance & flexible laws.
- Cheaper labors.

#### Negative indicators: -

- The lack of many infrastructure requirements and the weak efficiency of the existing ones, which reduces the opportunities for investment attraction

**Vision:** -The vision of the Aqaba Economic Zone focuses on making the economic zone reach a competitive global level, at the commercial, tourism and entertainment levels [22].

**Overview:** -ASEZA adopted a comprehensive Master Plan encompassing all development activities in the Zone- Sea-ports, and International Airport; Population of over 140,000 people.



### 3.3 Regional case study "Jebel Ali- United Arab Emirates"

Project location: - The project is located 37 km south of the main port, and its area is approximately 14,500 hectares. **Fig. 8.**

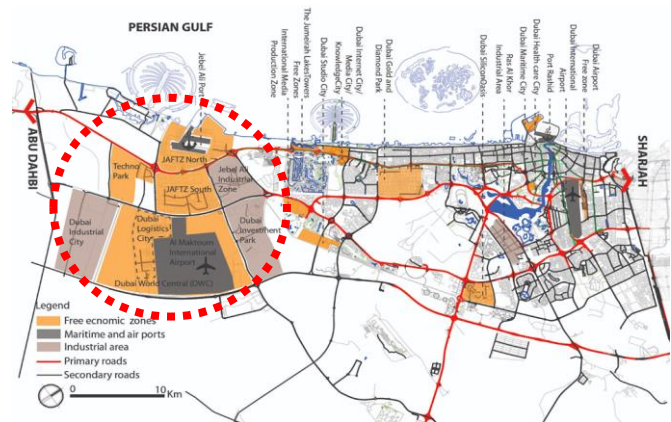
The project was started in 2006 as a free zone. It aims to provide integrated urbanization with all facilities in the project, such as transportation, entertainment attractions, commercial projects, job opportunities...etc. [23]

**Resources: -**

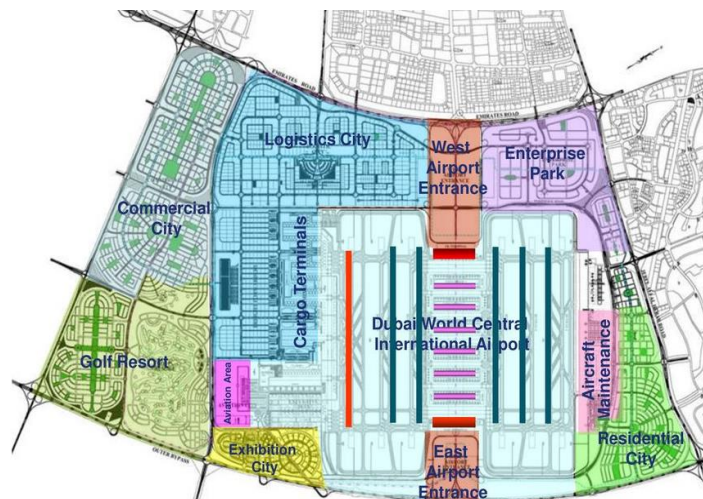
- No customs
- No taxes
- Liberal visa policy
- Free capital transfer
- 100% ownership
- logistics know-how
- Quality labor at competitive cost
- abundant space

**Land use structure: -**

- Dubai world central
- Residential City
- Golf Resort
- International Airport
- Logistics City
- Commercial City
- Enterprise Park.[24]



**Fig. 8. Map shows the location of the Jebel Ali- United Arab Emirates (SEZ) [23].**



**Fig. 9. Map shows Master plan of the JASEZ [24].**

As shown in the **Fig. 9.**

**Success Factors:** - The strategic planning of the Dubai Economic Zone led to the establishment of approximately 20 zones in various sectors such as industry, trade, logistics services, communications services, information technology, and others.

**Negative indicators:** - Potential global competition from other international regions, as well as the lack of required infrastructure.

**Vision:** - Jebel Ali Free Zone, one of the world's largest free zones specializing in industry, trade, and logistics, has played a key role in attracting international partners to the UAE.

**Overview:** - The free trade zone (FTZ) is a quintessential model within Dubai and the UAE more generally, which has now been implemented in other global regions as well.

### 3.4 Regional case study “Duqm-Oman SEZ”

The Duqm Special Economic Zone is located in the Sultanate of Oman, and the project is about 550 km from the city of Muscat. **Fig. 10.** It is considered the largest project in the region, whether in the Arab countries or in Africa. The project area is 200 thousand hectares [25].

#### Resources: -

- Strategic location on Arabian Sea.
- Attract investments to promote a wide spectrum of economic activities.
- The available urban environment of Duqm City

#### Land use structure: -

- Duqm Dry Dock (super structure, civil and marine)
- Frontier town project.
- Temporary fishing facilities.
- Duqm airport
- Rock garden fencing.
- Water supply network
- Electricity supply network
- Internal roads [26].

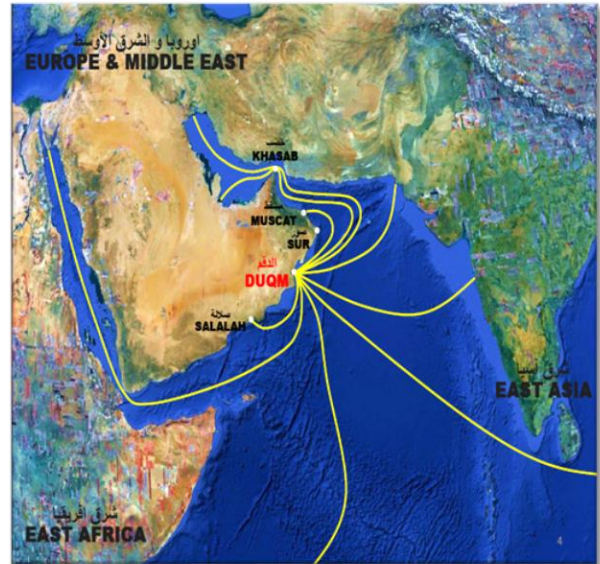
#### Success Factors: -

- Oversee, control, and develop Duqm's economic activity. -Plans, designs, and implements long-term infrastructure development initiatives.
- Attract investments to support a broad range of economic activity.

#### Negative indicators: -

- Infrastructure required to strengthen connectivity, provide the built environment, manpower, and build capacity

**Vision:** - By 2030, the Special Economic Zone in Duqm will be the preferred destination for diverse economic activities, logistical operations, and modern life in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.



**Fig. 10.** Map shows the location of the Duqm-Oman (SEZ) [26].

**Overview:** - The SEZAD includes 13,00 hectares of diverse land to develop urbanized regions of the city while protecting natural assets and assuring the city's growth potential.



Fig. 12. Map shows the zoning of the (SEZ) [26].



Fig. 11. Map shows the Master plan of the (SEZ) [26].

### 3-5 Lessons learned from studying global experiences in achieving sustainable development: -

- The need to benefit from special economic zones as models for energy transition in the economy and to embrace sustainable investment in energy. Therefore, many countries have already moved to create new investments in the field of sustainable energy within economic zones, including, for example, (the Emirati experience and the Omani experience).

Some developing economies (the Jordanian experience) have succeeded in attracting new investments to develop their industrial sector and provide job opportunities through special economic zones and logistical services because of their advantages in providing additional incentives such as tax exemptions and customs taxes.

- Special economic zones are considered extremely necessary to promote comprehensive and sustainable industrialization: because they help developing countries (the Jordanian experience) and economies in transition (the Chinese experience) to overcome many of the constraints that hinder the progress of industrialization. It can attract new investments in many manufacturing fields. This works to develop the manufacturing field, create new job opportunities, and develop the local and global economy. These economic zones help achieve sustainable development.

- The special economic zones for the case studies, according to international indicators, were an important reason for increasing investments in many countries, and worked to increase development, especially the industrial and urban sectors, and to increase reliance on clean energy and provide many new job opportunities. This is what many countries need, especially in light of the challenges related to global climate change, which has made sustainable development not just an economic luxury, but an inevitable necessity that the world seeks.



- Economic zones contribute effectively to the urban development plan (the Omani experience and the Jordanian experience) through the growth of urban communities and cities with diverse capabilities and resources. And also developing regions and reviving industries in most parts of the country.
- After presenting the case studies and studying a group of points such as resources and capabilities
- the structure of land uses - success factors - challenges - the development vision of the project, we arrived at a grouping of land uses in the special economic zones as shown in **Table. 2.**

**Table. 2. SEZ Land use Grouping**

Main use	Detailed uses		Main use	Detailed uses
Freight Facilities	Seaport		Industrial Facilities	Industrial District
	Dry port			Petro-chemical Industries Center
	International Airport			Agriculture Industries
	Logistics Transportation Center			Mining Center
	Multi-Modal Transportation Center			Fisheries
				Warehouses
Business Facilities	Business Center		Hospitality & Entertainment Facilities	Hotel Complex
	Cultural Center			Resort
	Flexi Facilities			Entertainment Area
	Business Incubators			Residential Area
	Outsource Zone			
Knowledge Facilities	Knowledge Center / park		Trade Facilities	Major Retail Hub
	High-tech Park			
	Islamic Civilization Center			
	Health & Education Area			
	Innovation HUB			

## CONCLUSIONS

- The research confirmed the idea that achieving sustainability has become a basic requirement for many, even most, projects. Therefore, sustainable development has become a fundamental goal within global development policies within the framework of three dimensions: achieving economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability.
- The research concluded with the characteristics that must be present in planning special economic zones, such as a distinguished geographical location, possessing financial capabilities, skilled labor, access to markets, and distinguished infrastructure.
- The research confirmed that planning special economic zones has an important role in achieving sustainability in direct social and economic aspects such as diversifying sources of income, raising the standard of living, increasing the national product, and also achieving indirect returns such as reorganizing residential areas, urban expansion, as well as creating... What are known as global cities, attract individuals from different cultures and countries, create diverse cultural and artistic institutions, change the structural structure of the state, and allow different peoples for cultural interaction, as well as global participation in the production of goods, services and arts.

- The research presented many international experiences that confirmed the many advantages of establishing and planning special economic zones, starting from their strategic location to providing support to you at every stage of your investment journey, such as: integrated government services, infrastructure with international specifications, a unique logistical network, and a communication network. Local and international, broad and comprehensive city planning...etc.
- The research presented the vision of establishing special economic zones based on the Chinese experience and the Omani experience, stating that the establishment of these zones has an effective role in social and economic development and that they will be a preferred destination for diverse economic activities, a multi-model center and a modern city that provides a high quality of life, while the Emirati experience and the Jordanian experience made it clear that the zones The private economic sector is working to reach a competitive global level at the commercial, tourism and entertainment levels, and to become one of the largest free zones in the world specialized in industry, trade and logistics services, and it has a major role in attracting international partners to the country.
- The research concluded, by presenting global experiences, that special economic zones share a set of basic elements and activities such as shipping facilities, industrial facilities, business facilities, hospitality and entertainment facilities, knowledge facilities, and commercial facilities.
- The research concluded that there should be a strategic framework and future outlook in the case of designing and establishing special economic zones, taking into account the study of the impact of the broader scope surrounding these zones within the country, such as policies related to investment, the tax structure, and commercial activity related to import and export.
- In presenting experiences and case studies, the research dealt with the fact that special economic zones have achieved success in countries around the world thanks to major factors related to the philosophy and new economic procedures adopted by the state, which is something worth contemplating and studying for the Arab countries in general, and Egypt in particular.
- The research presented case studies on the fact that these areas depend on the available competitive advantage, and it is recommended that the construction of these areas be built in a way that takes into account their financial sustainability so that they do not become expensive.
- The research concluded that the choice of location for special economic zones must be close to the infrastructure, which will be reflected in construction costs. Special economic zones must also be integrated with business clusters and programs, and the resources available around them must be at home and abroad.
- The research highlighted the importance of special economic zones in the urban development plan by taking advantage of the components and resources that many communities and cities enjoy, and employing those components in the prosperity of cities, improving the standard of living for individuals, and creating new job opportunities in society.



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