

## CITY TIMES

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### SHAKING HANDS INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

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Dubai has entered the record books and it's all thanks to a one-minute long handshake between 150 couples. The feat was accomplished at the Deira City Centre and the event was organised by HQ Creative.

Terming the activities at this year's DSF as 'fantastic', Sue Pengelly, the event and entertainment coordinator at HQ said about the record, "it was great, a very spiritual moment. Different nationalities, sharing an experience together."

Special arrangements were made and witnesses were hired to observe a clean handshake between the participating couples. The couples covered the entire front area of the stage and on the upper level of the centre court. There were two invigilators from the Guinness Book of World Records, observing the proceedings and the preparations.

The previous record was set by 28 couples at the 'Vitality Show' in London, UK. That was a 30 second long handshake and now Dubai's handshake breaks the record by the length of time, as well as the number of participants.

Event co-coordinator, Shamsher Ahmed praised his team and said the success of the event exceeded his expectations. "It was a blast. I felt like this is a New Year's countdown at midnight and some party is going on. The crowd co-operated really well...I was scared, since no one has set up a record like this, by recruiting so many people out of the blue, spontaneously," he said.

Jasdeep Singh a trained witness present to observe the couples during their handshakes said he was glad they were able to get all the proceedings done quickly. "You know we had trained for this over and over; how to arrange the couples so that everyone could see them, and training everyone. But the participants were from the general public so I was nervous as to whether we would be able to find the adequate number of participants from the passersby in the mall," he confided.

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"It's been an experience I will never forget. It's wonderful how the DSF bundles this big world into a small exciting package," said Jimmy the supervisor at the City Centre.



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