

DUBAI'S TALL CLAIMS TO FAME

WHILE THE Burj Dubai is just months away from completion, another tower in Dubai made it to the top of the 10 tallest buildings completed during 2007. At 333 metres high and 72 storeys, the Rose Rotana Tower has been accorded this status by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

Featuring 480 suites, the development is also the world's tallest single-use hotel building. It is owned by the Bonyan International Investment Group.

The New York Times Building (at 319 metres) and the China International Center Tower (at 269 metres) were placed second and third.

Not surprisingly, the Middle East has

displaced China in having the most buildings in the 'annual tallest constructed' list. Four out of the tallest 10 built during 2007 are in the UAE and Bahrain.

To be eligible for consideration, the buildings should have been completed in 2007 and either be 'open for business' or at 'least partially occupied'.

"When speaking of the tallest buildings in the world, it is important to specify exactly what is being measured," says Antony Wood, CTBUH's Executive Director. "Our list of the tallest buildings - drawn from an extensive database - is based on the height of the building to the structural or architectural top, which in-

cludes spires and pinnacles, but does not include antennas, masts or flagpoles."

While, the 268-meter Naberezhnaya Tower in Moscow was fourth, the 261-meter Hotel Panorama in Hong Kong was fifth, the 260-meter Dual Tower 1 and 2 in Manama Bahrain were sixth and seventh respectively. The Emirates Marina Serviced Apartments and Spa, at 254 metres was in the eighth spot, and the 250-meter Park Tower in China was ninth. The 248 meter Mid Town Tower in Japan rounded off the top 10 rankings

"As cities and their skylines continue to evolve, tall buildings can make positive contributions to city life," Wood states.

"They can affect the image and identity of a city as a whole and serve as beacons of regeneration and stimulate further investment. Therefore, tall building design and construction has a role in addressing the need for both a dense, sustainable city and all-inclusive urban living."

Contrary to prevalent assumptions just a decade or two ago that the tallest buildings in the world would be located in the US, CTBUH's list of the projected 20 buildings set to be the world's tallest in 2020 shows that nine of the tallest buildings in the world will be in Asia, eight in the Middle East, two in North America and one in Europe.

■ Dubai skyline with the Burj Dubai. The 8th Congress of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat will be held in Dubai in March

BURJ DUBAI - THE WORLD'S TALLEST

■ "Within the next two years, the Burj Dubai is set to be completed at over 800 metres in height, some 300 meters taller than the Taipei 101. With new high-rise proposals continually striving for these massive heights, the dizzying realization of a mile-high tower is perhaps not that far away," says Antony Wood. According to the council, the Al Burj tower in Dubai will lead the list of the 20 tallest buildings in 2020 if built, followed by Mubarak Tower in Kuwait and Burj Dubai in the UAE. The Doha Convention Center in Qatar will come in 10th and the Pentominium Tower and Burj Al Alam,

both in Dubai, at the 12th and 13th spots. The Abraj Al Bait in Saudi Arabia will be 17th and Damac Heights in Dubai 19th. "The most startling feature of the 'Tallest 20 in 2020' is that we can see in little more than a decade that the world's current tallest building - Taipei 101 - actually stands at 14th in the list, while the Petronas Towers, currently 2nd and 3rd, will be 20th. Furthermore iconic buildings such as the Sears Tower and Empire State Building, the latter of which has been in the tallest 10 for over 70 years, are nowhere to be seen," Wood forecasts.

