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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

The largest sports and humanitarian event to be held in the world this year, the recent Special Olympics World Games 2019 put the UAE on the global stage once again.

The first time the Games had ever taken place in the Middle East North Africa region, the spectacular event brought 7,500 athletes of determination, from 192 countries, to Abu Dhabi, along with 3,000 coaches and 1,500 officials, while 20,000 volunteers dedicated their time to ensure the Games ran smoothly. An estimated half a million spectators from around the world added to the incredible atmosphere.

A wonderful celebration of the human spirit, it was especially fitting that the Special Olympics World Games 2019 should take place during the Year of Tolerance, which celebrates the UAE's spirit of inclusion and unity.

After experiencing the friendliness and renowned hospitality of its people, it's my hope that those who visited the Games have returned to their home countries spreading the message that the UAE is a global capital of tolerance and co-existence. Certainly, citizens and residents of the UAE can learn lessons of determination and courage, and the value of camaraderie, from the inspirational athletes that took part in the Games.

I'd like to congratulate everyone involved in the success of the Special Olympics World Games 2019.

From sporting champions to champions of knowledge, it's my great pleasure to announce that the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) is now welcoming nominations for this year's Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award (MBRKA).

Now in its sixth edition, the Knowledge Award seeks to honour knowledge pioneers – be they individuals or organisations – from around the world, who, through the dissemination of knowledge, improve the lives of individuals, organisations and communities, empowering them to play an effective role in development.

In my role as Secretary-General of the Knowledge Award, I'm always struck by the number of ordinary people making an extraordinary impact on other's lives by selflessly spreading knowledge where it is needed most.

The deadline for submissions is 30 June and I am very much looking forward to receiving this year's applications and embarking on the always difficult but thoroughly rewarding task of selecting this year's winners.

Jamal bin Huwaireb

CEO of Mohammed bin Rashid

Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation