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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

A pioneer in creative thinking and innovation, Michael J Gelb likes to point out that since our brain has a capacity for learning that is virtually limitless, every human being is a potential genius. Isn't that a wonderful thought?

And yet it should come as no surprise. Educating ourselves and those around us is the best investment in the future that we can make, and knowledge is truly a journey with no ending.

Since time began, it's been an amazing journey of innovation and breakthroughs as mankind has solved problems either through necessity or plain old curiosity. And if you think of how far we have come, imagine how far we can go as we strive to protect our planet, preserve our heritage and prepare for the future.

If an investment in knowledge pays the best interest it is imperative that we keep the flame of learning burning brightly and ignite a hunger for success, development and learning. We must invigorate our youth – our thought-leaders of tomorrow – here in the UAE and further afield.

On that note, I'm delighted to report that this year's Knowledge Summit, taking place in Dubai, on December 5 and 6, is already shaping up to be an enriching event, with a wealth of experts and keynote speakers from around the world

debating this year's theme – Youth and the Future of the Knowledge Economy.

As part of our quest to understand, develop and harness knowledge, the Global Knowledge Index 2018 will be revealed during the Summit. Launched last year as a joint project between the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation and the United Nations Development Program, the index is designed as an accurate and objective tool that monitors the state of knowledge in the world. It allows us to recognise opportunities and challenges around knowledge acquisition.

While data for last year's inaugural report was collected from 131 countries, the research team is busy compiling data from 195 countries for this year's index. I'm very much looking forward to seeing the results and the snapshot it affords us into global knowledge.

As you enjoy this issue's features on topics as diverse as heritage, humanity, technology, psychology and so much more, it's worth remembering that knowledge is an investment that will pay interest for the rest of your life.

Jamal Bin Huwairib

CEO of Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation