



UAE Aims to Become Global Leader in Artificial Intelligence by 2031

The UAE is ready to embrace technological advances and seeks to employ artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance everyday life in the country.

That was the message from His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, recently, when the UAE Cabinet adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031.

The AI Strategy is aimed at positioning the UAE as a global leader in artificial intelligence by 2031, and will push for the development of an integrated system that employs artificial intelligence in vital areas in the UAE.

“We have launched a national strategy for artificial intelligence to make it an integral part of our business, our lives and our government services,” said His Highness Sheikh Mohammed.

The National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031 includes eight strategic objectives. They include reaffirming the

UAE’s position as a global hub for artificial intelligence; increasing the competitive edge of the AI sector in the UAE; establishing an incubator for AI innovations; and employing AI in the field of customer services to improve the quality of life. The objectives also include attracting and training talents for jobs of the future; attracting leading research capabilities; providing a data-driven infrastructure to support AI experiments; and optimising AI governance and regulations.

A number of initiatives under the AI Strategy are aimed at employing artificial intelligence in vital areas such as education, government services and community wellbeing. Its implementation will be overseen by the Emirates Council for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transactions, in coordination with a number of local and federal entities.

The Cabinet meeting, at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi, heard that the strategy will focus on the fields of resources and energy, logistics and transportation,

tourism and hospitality, healthcare and cyber security as areas of priority during the first phase of implementation.

The strategy also includes a plan to build a well-established UAE brand of artificial intelligence through artificial intelligence activities that will make the UAE a test platform for AI technology, provide enhanced services with advanced technology training and qualification programmes, talent building, research, data development and governance.

His Highness Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of the Interior, and HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, also attended the Cabinet meeting. They heard that the national economy would witness an immediate positive impact from applying AI technologies. AI applications are expected to contribute to the national GDP in the coming years, which will create new economic opportunities. †

Winners of Arab Journalism Award Honoured



Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum honoured the winners of the 18th edition of the Arab Journalism Award recently.

Deputy Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum; HH Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future, His Excellency Mohammed Al Gergawi also attended the award ceremony, at Dubai World Trade Centre, which was held at the conclusion of the Arab Media Forum (AMF) 2019.

The Arab Journalism Award celebrated excellence in 13 different categories representing print and online media. The winners represented daily newspapers, magazines,

online web portals and media organisations from the Arab world.

HH Sheikh Mohammed presented Mohammed Jasim Al Saqr, founder and publisher of Kuwaiti daily newspaper *Al Jarida*, with the Media Personality of the Year award. Dr Abdel Moneim Said, Chairman of the Board of Egyptian newspaper *Al Masry Al Youm*, was presented with the Best Column award.

Secretary General of the Arab Journalism Award and Chairperson of the AMF Organising Committee, Her Excellency Mona Ghanem Al Marri, and Dhiyaa Rashwan, Chairman of the Board of the Arab Journalism Award, also attended the ceremony, along with a large number of prominent media personalities and Arab journalists. †

Search on for Distinguished Emirati Students

Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) is looking to provide scholarships to over 100 students in the third round of the Mohammed bin Rashid Distinguished Students Programme.

The programme offers scholarships for Emirati students throughout their academic life. So far, it has provided scholarships for 314 Emirati students.

The MBR Distinguished Students Programme aims to prepare young Emiratis and equip them with the skills needed to achieve success and excellence through innovative, smart and positive educational methods. It is managed by KHDA, in partnership with the Knowledge Fund and private school operators, under the direction of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice

President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Open to students in Grade 3 or above, applications for the latest round of scholarships were being accepted until 29 April.

Fatma Al Marri, CEO for Development of Emirati Student Education Programmes at KHDA, said: "The scholarship programme provides a stepping-stone to better opportunities in life. Our Emirati students thrive and flourish in environments that enable them to widen their horizons. Together with strategic partnerships, we want to make every effort to provide the best quality education for young learners in Dubai."

Al Marri lauded the efforts of public and private sector partners supporting the programme. †



Successful 'Knowledge Week' in Jordan Concludes

Knowledge Week Jordan, which concluded recently, has been hailed as a great success. The event was staged by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Jordanian Ministry of Youth and the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (AHSF).

Held in the Jordanian capital of Amman and attended by several prominent Jordanian universities and 750 college students, the week's activities included announcing and discussing the findings of the Global Knowledge Index 2018 (GKI), focusing on the metrics pertaining to Jordan, and discussing ways to improve the country's knowledge performance on the level of the seven sectors covered by the Index.

Also on the agenda was the announcement of several workshops as part of the 'Know Talks' programme, launched by MBRF at the Knowledge Summit 2018.

Knowledge Week Jordan kicked off with a series of sessions with university students and professors at the Hashemite University and the University of Jordan, followed by a Global Knowledge Index three-day workshop for youth selected from all provinces of the kingdom.

The objective of the workshop was to empower the youth to explore innovative ideas that tackle development challenges. Participants were provided with critical knowledge tools to build their future vision of Jordan and create a meaningful impact. They looked at the fields of pre-university education; higher education; technical and vocational education and training; research, development and innovation; information and communications technology; economics; and general enabling environments.

In collaboration with the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation and the Ministry of Youth, and under the patronage of Jordanian Prime Minister His Excellency Dr Omar Al Razzaz, the workshop sought to motivate the young participants to outline plans of action to address challenges preventing the establishment of a knowledge-based society in Jordan. The event closed with a ceremony that brought representatives from ministries, government departments, media outlets, research institutions and

private companies together with university students from all around the country.

Jordan's Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communications, and Government Spokesperson, Her Excellency Jumana Ghunaimat thanked MBRF and the UNDP for choosing Jordan to host Knowledge Week, noting that the Jordanian government intends to benefit from its outcome and the findings of the Global Knowledge Index to avoid falling behind on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Jordan's Minister of Youth and Culture, Dr Mohammed Abu Rumman announced the ministry's intentions to adopt several knowledge initiatives rooted in the outcomes of the GKI workshop and Knowledge Week and to provide full support for these initiatives through youth centres spread across Jordan.

MBRF CEO, His Excellency Jamal bin Huwaireb said the outcome of Knowledge Week Jordan was "in line with the strategic objectives MBRF and UNDP hope to achieve from holding such initiatives around the world, which include spreading the findings and recommendations of the Global Knowledge Index and fostering a meaningful exchange of knowledge, expertise and best practices".

Two of the teams participating in the Global Knowledge Index workshop won an opportunity to attend the Knowledge Summit, in Dubai, and participate in setting topics of discussion for the event. †



MBRF Appoints First Bil Arabi Ambassadors

Several Emirati exchange students in the UK have been appointed Bil Arabi Ambassadors in a new move by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF).

The students will represent MBRF's Bil Arabi initiative in the UK, organise events to support the use of the Arabic language and promote it among Arab communities in Britain. They will also act as a link between Arab students in the UK and the activities of the Bil Arabi initiative all around the world.

Launched in 2013, Bil Arabi is a pioneering initiative that seeks to promote Arabic, position it among the world's major languages, and encourage its preservation and use in all channels of social communication.

"In 2013, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation launched Bil Arabi to celebrate UN Arabic Language Day on 18 December," explained MBRF CEO, His Excellency Jamal bin Huwaireb. "Six years following its initial launch,

Bil Arabi has been successful in promoting the use of the Arabic language among native speakers, and underlining its versatility and relevance in all eras.

"The initiative has expanded significantly through constructive cooperation between the Foundation and its strategic partners in both the public and private sectors. Additional activities have been introduced, targeting all segments of the community, most recent of which is the Bil Arabi Ambassadors."

The first Bil Arabi Ambassadors were appointed for their positive and effective contributions to MBRF's pavilion – which sought to reflect UAE culture – at the recent London Book Fair. †



Applications Pour In For 2019 Knowledge Award

Entries are flooding in for this year's Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award (MBRKA), the winners of which will be announced at the Knowledge Summit 2019 – the region's premier knowledge event, organised by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF).

Now in its sixth edition, the Knowledge Award honours knowledge pioneers from all around the world – organisations or individuals – for their ground-breaking achievements in various knowledge disciplines that have positively affected their communities and people's lives in general.

The Award's official website has received applications from all around the world, with submissions from individuals making up the largest share and the majority coming from outside the UAE, which reflects the Award's international appeal.

The submissions focus mostly on development and entrepreneurship; creativity and innovation; the development of educational institutions and scientific research; communication technology; printing, publishing and documentation

(paper and electronic); medicine; medical innovation; and human resources training.

"The submissions we receive for the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award have been increasing in number and improving in quality with every passing year, underscoring the tremendous momentum that this Award brings to innovators," said His Excellency Jamal bin Huwaireb, CEO of MBRF, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary General of MBRKA.

The closing date for submissions is 30 June, after which entries will be evaluated by the Advisory Committee of the Award and the Board of Trustees to shortlist the finalists, ahead of announcing the laureates at the Knowledge Summit later in the year.

Applications for the Award can be submitted via knowledgeaward.org, and eligible candidates include individuals from the UAE or abroad, plus government entities and institutions, in addition to regional and international companies and organisations. †