

FLASHES



A MONTHLY MAGAZINE ON KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOPMENT BY THE
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

JANUARY 2020 • ISSUE 59

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The Lesson of Optimism and Positivity

As the UAE prepares for the next 50 years, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has begun the new year with optimism, self-confidence and hard work all focused on development and leading our beloved country to even greater heights.

In the past half century, the UAE has accomplished many feats, translating many dreams into reality. Hardly a day passes without announcement of an achievement here or there. For instance, near the end of 2019, the Emirates sent the first astronaut to space.

Now hardly has the new year began and last piece of the Hope Probe has been signed by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Shortly after that, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid launched the AI Talent Hunt Program to further

“ WE WELCOME 2020 WITH OPTIMISM AND RENEWED GOALS OF ENSURING THE BEST QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS. THIS YEAR, WE DEVELOP OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE TO FORESEE FUTURE GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES ”

MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM IN A TWEET ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF JANUARY 4 ,2020 CHARTER.

strengthen UAE's position as one of the leading countries globally in promoting the role of AI technology in shaping the future. "AI is a pillar of our future strategies and development plans for the next 50 years," he said.

The last 50 years have been more than successful by any standard. Yet the most outstanding lesson out of it that needs to be persistently propagated for the benefit of our nation's inspiration, stature in the world and future generations is our unequivocal resolve and firm belief that there is no such thing as impossible in our mentality or dictionary.

This frame of mind has enabled us to be at the forefront in many fields. We have become a destination for the Arab world and the region around. We are the object of celebration everywhere. Our country has become distinguished in all development matters and its promising experiences. Yet the lesson beneath all our success, the one from where we must always draw renewal, which our wise leadership has maintained by inspiring us to innovate remains the same. The legacy of the Founding Fathers of our dear nation challenges us to be more ambitious, so that the progress does not stop.

We all have to continually think differently because that is how we have overcome many challenges beyond anyone's expectation. This is what the future is about, if we heed the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

We have to allow our imaginations to be as free as possible as though we were writing science fiction. We need to contemplate the shape of future cities, future jobs, future medicine in ways that have not been thought about yet. We must brainstorm every day in search of the new. We must close our eyes and imagine as broadly as we can what the future can entail. We should not be beholden to the past or be satisfied by the present. Tomorrow does not wait for those who hesitate.

Our country entered the future in the past five decades and today is walking on two firm pillars: the first pillar is scientific technological development, and the second is ethical values based on our religion, our history and our ability to interact with the times. On these two pillars, the UAE has now been mentioned only with positivity, happiness, possibilities and tolerance based on diversity. We are not going to stop there as our wise leadership has created ministries that work day and night in order for more than 200 nationalities residing in our country to enjoy the happiness, coexistence and decent living.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum welcomed the new year with optimism. Joining him, we also feel a boundless optimism and creative energy that lead us to work with strength, love and determination.

I wish you and our beloved country a happy New Year.

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HE Jamal bin Huwaireb

EDITORIAL BOARD

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ADVERTISING

T.: +971 4 433 85885

info@qindeel.ae

DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION

Mohammed Al Jayed
mohamad.eljayd@qindeel.ae





DESIGN DIRECTOR

Ayman Ramses

Qindeel Printing,
Publishing & Distribution

PO Box 214444, Dubai
United Arab Emirates
www.mbrf.ae
G. : +971 4 423 3444
D. : +971 4 423 3435

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MBRF to Hold First Literacy Challenge Forum



The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) has announced the details and agenda of the first edition of the Literacy Challenge Forum.

The announcement was made at a press conference held at the MBRF headquarters in Dubai on January 8. The forum, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the directives of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, MBRF's Chairman, will be held on February 24.

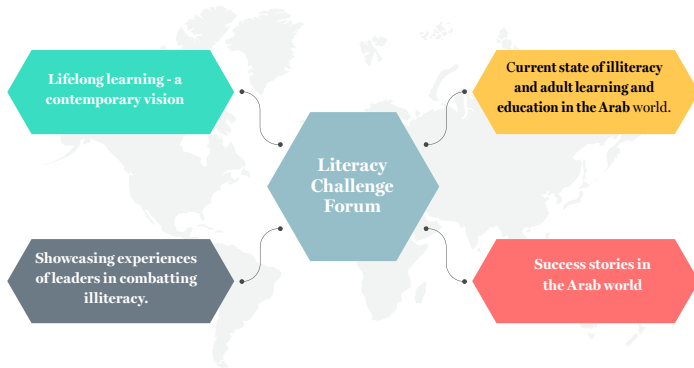
The press conference was addressed by His Excellency Jamal bin Huwairib, MBRF's CEO, who stated that the Literacy Challenge Forum is a leading initiative that complements MBRF's global initiatives aimed at promoting knowledge and literacy awareness across all nations.

Sponsored by the United Nations Development

Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Educational and Scientific Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the forum's first edition themed 'Challenges and Solutions' aims to provide an integrated platform that brings together literacy experts and leaders from around the world to exchange knowledge, enhance cooperation and work together to eliminate illiteracy in the Arab world. The forum also aims to explore modern approaches to adult education and highlight the inspirational stories of leading figures and entities in the field, underlining their contributions to combating illiteracy.

"The forum's first edition has the objective of realizing the UAE leadership's vision and the directives of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. It marks our commitment to broaden the scope of the MBRF Literacy Challenge by transforming it into a knowledge incubator where thought leaders and experts meet to exchange expertise, share success stories and put forward solutions," H.E. Bin Huwairib said.

"The forum's theme 'Challenges and Solutions' reflects the goal of eliminating all obstacles in the way of knowledge dissemination by promoting reading and writing in target communities. This can only be achieved if we combine our efforts and establish strategic partnerships with regional and international entities. Such unified efforts will ensure our success as they are driven by the noblest of purposes, knowledge dissemination," he added.



MBRF Honours Partners and Sponsors of 'Bil Arabi' Initiative



The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) honoured its partners as it concluded the 7th edition of its 'Bil Arabi' initiative, which seeks to promote the Arabic language among all sectors of the community and encourage the public to use it in all daily communications.

The partners and sponsors of the initiative were honoured at a ceremony held in Sheikh Rashid Tower at the Dubai World Trade Centre on Monday, January 6, 2020. Attended by MBRF's CEO His Excellency Jamal bin Huwairb and a number of partners and sponsors. The event included the announcement of results of the initiative's 7th instalment.

In his speech, H.E. bin Huwairb asserted that the 'Bil Arabi' initiative succeeded in promoting the Arabic language and establishing it as a symbol of

identity and a reflection of Arab civilisation which for centuries offered the world science and knowledge. H.E. revealed that the hashtag #Bil_Arabi recorded more than 1.4 billion views and interactions on social media, noting that the initiative's activities will continue to be held throughout the year.

"We launched 'Bil Arabi' in 2013 to support and promote the Arabic language among Arabs and ensure that it remains firmly engrained in the nation's consciousness through future generations," H.E. bin Huwairb added.

"The initiative is more than just an attempt to save the Arabic language, it is a quest to manoeuvre the sea of languages that entered our communities. It is our contribution towards preserving our heritage and language while still learning the languages that have become necessary for work and education in our society, which is home to more than 200 nationalities.

"In the upcoming editions of 'Bil Arabi', the Foundation strives to consolidate its presence with all members of Arab and non-Arab families, and to find innovative ways to help individuals learn the language, in partnership with various local, regional, and global bodies," bin Huwairb added.

He expressed gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, for his constant support to all efforts to disseminate knowledge and promote the Arabic language in the UAE, the Arab region, and the world.



Almost Half of NASA's Latest Graduates are Women

Source: A.F.P

NASA honored its latest class of graduating astronauts in a ceremony at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, a diverse and gender-balanced group now qualified for spaceflight missions including America's return to the moon and eventual journey to Mars.

After completing more than two years of basic training, the six women and seven men were chosen from a record-breaking 18,000 applicants representing a wide variety of backgrounds and specialties, from experienced pilots to scientists, engineers and doctors.

The group includes two candidates from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), which has participated in a joint training program with the USA since 1983.

"They are the best of the best; they are highly qualified and very diverse, and they represent all of America," said NASA



Administrator Jim Bridenstine.

The group, known as the "Turtles", has an unprecedented diversity of Indian, Iranian

and other Asian and Spanish names. It is worth noting that NASA has about 48 active astronauts, and the new batch of members is now added to them.

Visiting Art Galleries May Prolong Your Life – New Study

Source: Reuters

A trip to the theater, museum or art gallery could help you live longer. And the more often you get that culture fix, the better, a new study suggests.



Researchers from University College London (UCL) found that people who engaged in the arts more frequently - every few months or more - had a 31% lower risk of dying early when compared to those who didn't. Even going to the theater or museum once or twice a year was linked with a 14% lower risk.

"These leisure and pleasure activities that people don't think as a health-related activity do support good health and longevity," said Daisy Fancourt, an associate professor at UCL's Research Department of Behavioral Science and Health, and an author of the study, published in *The BMJ* journal.

The researchers said the arts may help in longevity by improving mental health, enhancing social relationships and physical activity, and reducing loneliness, CNN reported.

Deep-Sea Microbe Sheds Light on Primordial Evolutionary Milestone

Source: Reuters

Researchers have scooped up a microorganism from the deep-sea mud off Japan's coast, offering a major breakthrough for scientists to unlock the mystery of one of the watershed evolutionary events for life on Earth: the transition from the simple cells that first colonized the planet to complex cellular life — fungi, plants and animals.

Reuters reports that researchers studied the biology of the microorganism retrieved from depths of about 1.5 miles (2.5km), after coaxing it to grow in the laboratory. They named it *Promethoarchaeum syntrophicum*, referring to the Greek mythological figure Prometheus who created humankind from clay.

Promethoarchaeum's spherical cell — with a diameter of roughly 500 nanometers, or one-20,000th of a centimeter — boasts long, often branching tentacle-like appendages on its outer surface.

It is part of a group called Archaea, relatively simple single-cell organisms lacking internal structures such as a nucleus. Scientists have long been puzzled over the evolutionary shift from such simple bacteria-like cells to the first rudimentary fungi, plants and animals — a group called eukaryotes — perhaps two billion years ago.

Based on a painstaking laboratory study of *Promethoarchaeum* and observations of its symbiotic — mutually beneficial — relationship with a companion bacterium, the researchers offered an explanation.



WMO: 2019 Recorded Second-Hottest Temperatures

Source: Reuters

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has warned that the world should brace for extreme weather events like the bushfires ravaging Australia following a confirmation by independent analyses that 2019 was the earth's second-hottest year since modern recordkeeping began in 1880.

The Geneva-based WMO combined several datasets, including two from the U.S. space administration NASA and the UK Met Office.

These showed that the average global temperature in 2019 was 1.1 degrees Celsius (2.0 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, creeping towards a globally agreed limit after which major changes to life on earth are expected.

"Unfortunately, we expect to see much extreme weather throughout 2020 and the coming decades, fuelled by record levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

U.S. scientists said it was clear from the data that greenhouse gas emissions were warming the planet.

According to Reuters, 2016 was recorded as the hottest year ever because of the heat caused by the severe El Nino phenomenon.





الإمارات
THE EMIRATES

Building the Future: UAE's Next 50 Years

As the United Arab Emirates (UAE) eagerly waits to celebrate its golden jubilee in 2021, the country has already begun thinking about its next 50 years; dedicating 2020 to develop an elaborate strategy to guide the nation over the next half century.

“Preparation for the Next 50 Years”, as the strategy has been named, is meant to prepare minds across all sectors of the Emirati community, to equip institutions, and design robust plans for what the UAE will be, its image, and its economy in the next fifty years.

The dedication of 2020 to this cause was announced by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy

Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Two committees

The preparations are taking shape following a directive for the formation of two committees affiliated to the UAE Cabinet. The first committee is headed by His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Minister of Presidential Affairs. He is deputized by His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and the Future. It is charged with drawing a



comprehensive development plan, to upgrade the entire government work system to be the fastest, most flexible and efficient to adapt to future changes, and to involve all societal groups in shaping the life form in the Emirates over the next five decades.

The committee's tasks also include setting the new economic map of the country, developing exceptional economic projects and policies to achieve qualitative and significant leaps in the national economy to consolidate UAE's soft power.

Developing the state media is a priority for UAE to tell a new story of Emirates to the world in order to achieve economic and social returns in addition to protecting the gains and enhance its opportunities in the new economy. The committee is also expected to work on developing the basic social sectors and prepare them for the future as well as setting an integrated vision for the Emirati society over the next half century, putting into account the demographic, family and cultural aspects.

Furthermore, the committee has set a new system to consolidate the global footprint of the Emirates, especially in the humanitarian and environmental sectors besides designing a system that promotes civilization and productivity to prepare the new generation for the future.

The second committee to supervise the activities

of the golden jubilee of the UAE is headed by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. He is deputized by Her Highness Sheikh Maryam bint Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Its major task is managing the activities leading to UAE's golden jubilee celebrations next year.

This committee will form working teams to implement a comprehensive plan for the celebrations, and encourage the participation of various social groups to develop plans for the golden jubilee celebrations to create impact on the international scene.

It will also draw up a map of accomplishments in the UAE since its foundation and work to preserve it for future generations. It will involve the country's embassies worldwide in the preparation and implementation of the golden jubilee celebrations to promote UAE's global image.

Additionally, the committee is tasked to develop integrated mechanisms to coordinate the activities of the golden jubilee celebrations at the federal and local level plus drawing up of local and international media plans to narrate the journey of the Emirates in the last 50 years.

The aspirations of the UAE for the next 50 years are based on a clear history, creative legacy and unique administrative system that has been marked by remarkable achievements at all levels.

UAE focuses on moving forward in making the future and investing in it with a modern development project aimed at maximizing its gains during the next fifty years.

Unlimited ambitions

The aspirations of the UAE for the next 50 years are based on a clear history, creative legacy and unique administrative system that has been marked by remarkable achievements at all levels since the founding of the Union on December 2, 1971.

Today's sound planning, adaptation of the right strategies and excellent implementation are all built on the modern institutional construction of the federal state in the Emirates that is continually driven by an insightful, ambitious and strategic vision.

All of these integrated elements collectively drive the various sectors of the country to prepare a highly effective strategy for the next stage. They benefit from the UAE's growing trend towards investing in artificial intelligence and technology, relying on them in all fields of life. Encouraging innovation and attracting distinguished creative energies and providing an innovative environment for companies and institutions working in the field of future investments based on knowledge and information.

"Preparation for Fifty Years" deals with a long horizon, which requires a distinctive creative imagination to design life and the future in the Emirates in a manner that takes into account the future generations and achieves its aspirations in a compatible way.

For years, UAE's wise leadership has prioritized these aspirations and challenges through awareness campaigns about the near and far future, focusing on sustainable development, the post-oil economy, artificial intelligence, innovation and investment in knowledge and space exploration.

The indicators of growth and prosperity in the Emirates send promising messages of advancement and superiority. And when expressions of success and self-confidence prevail in the words of wise leadership, this reflects positively on the country, and motivates the people to be more productive. The declaration of 2020 as the year of "Preparation for the Next 50 Years" renews ambitions and stimulates energies to create a bright future, keeping pace with

plans that are based on vanquishing the impossible to meet the aspirations of future generations.

Based on the countless achievements of the past, the vision of UAE's creative leadership towards a new stage of comprehensive and inspiring development path promises a future that secures a better life for the current and future generations.

What distinguishes the UAE and stands behind its various successes is its strong belief in science, planning, excellence and ambition. This constitutes the foundations for a successful transition to the future, and for this, since its establishment in 1971, has always looked to the future and works for and invest in it.

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and rulers of the Emirates laid the foundations and rules that ensured the growth and prosperity of the union state, and made it a unitary experience to be emulated in building, development and making the future. The UAE continues under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan to follow the founding fathers' approach to development and foreseeing the future, and working to consolidate it until it formed an inspiring model for the leading countries in making and investing in the future, through clear and specific plans and strategies.

When announcing "2021 Vision" in 2010, UAE intended to be among the best countries in the world by the golden jubilee of the Union in 2021. Indeed, the UAE achieved all the goals of this vision, and even surpassed them by being ranked highly based on international development indicators. When the UAE Centennial 2071 Plan was launched in 2017, the leadership affirmed that its ambition is unlimited as it strives to be the best and most advanced country in the world by its centenary celebrations.

It is evident that the UAE is working day and night for its prestigious position as a unique economic, development and political model, and does not pay attention to those who are trying to undermine it and question its achievements. UAE focuses on moving forward in making the future and investing in it with a modern development project aimed at maximizing its gains during the next fifty years. Therefore, it always represents a bright ray in our Arab world, and it provides to others the guaranteed recipe for success in building, development, achievement and excellence. Its wise leadership harbors an ambitious strategic vision that understands the position of the Emirates and works to raise its profile among all the nations of the earth.



Distinguished Achievements of MBRF in 2019

The Mohammed bin Rashid Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) ended the year 2019 with a robust record of outstanding new initiatives and achievements, which strengthened its pioneering position as a body concerned with the transfer, dissemination and promotion of knowledge in the Arab region and the world.



For the Foundation, 2019 was another year full of achievements that contributed to activating knowledge mobility, creating new methods and tools for measuring and improving knowledge, setting mechanisms and formulating proposals that contribute to advancing these achievements all over the world.

First, the MBRF signed a new 10-year agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which runs until 2030. It was signed at a special ceremony held at the UN Headquarters in New York City, renewing the partnership between the two organisations on the Knowledge Project. The agreement enhances both parties' thought leadership, and boosts their ability to conduct evidence-based policymaking for sustainable development in the Arab region and the world.

Knowledge management

The Foundation (MBRF) has received ISO 30401:2018 Certification for Knowledge Management Systems Requirements, which serves to upgrade systems management processes at the Foundation, and helps it achieve its objectives and strategic goals. The ISO Certification came following concerted internal efforts by the Foundation's team to meet every requirement of the certification. MBRF launched the Knowledge Management Strategy 2019-2021, which included several initiatives based on thorough stakeholder analysis, which

helped identify their needs and expectations and develop a knowledge management policy.

The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning selected His Excellency Jamal bin Huwairib, MBRF's CEO, to be a member of its Board of Directors. The Institute's Board of Directors serves a four-year term, implying that H.E. bin Huwairib's tenure will run till 2023; a milestone added to the UAE's track record.

The Knowledge Summit 2019 reviewed the role of knowledge in achieving sustainable development, best practices and related experiences, which enables countries within their development process in various sectors.





The Summit was held at the Dubai World Trade Center, on November 19-20, 2019 under the theme: Knowledge: The Path to Sustainable Development. The Summit focused on health, education, food security, and ways to develop renewable energy sources. It also highlighted the UAE's vision of 2021 towards achieving the goals of sustainable development, and the role of skills development and innovation in building sustainable cities. During the Summit, winners of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award were recognised.

Dubai is the City of Knowledge in 2020

Under the aegis of MBRF, a group of high-profile experts in research and development (R&D) in collaboration with global assurance, tax, and consulting services provider PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) announced the “Cities for Knowledge Creation” initiative, naming Dubai as the City of Knowledge for the year 2020.

This was on the second day of the 2019 edition of the annual Knowledge Summit which was held last November. One city will be named every year at the Knowledge Summit in Dubai in line with the Foundation’s commitment to promote knowledge worldwide, launching a series of initiatives and knowledge reports.



For the Foundation, 2019 was another year full of achievements that contributed to activating knowledge mobility, creating new methods and tools for measuring and improving knowledge, setting mechanisms and formulating proposals that contribute to advancing them all over the world.



MBRF also organized the 5th annual Nobel Exhibition in partnership with the Nobel Prize Museum. It was held in Dubai's La Mer district from February 3 to March 2, 2019 under the theme: Nobel Prize for Literature: Sharing Worlds – In Memory of Naguib Mahfouz.

The exhibition welcomed 40,000 visitors from all age groups, including on site visitors and virtual visitors from around the world who toured the exhibition online through MBRF's website. Some activities attracted significant numbers of school and university students such as the interactive workshops about the Nobel Prize presented by experts from the Nobel Museum in Sweden.

External activities

The MBRF had many external activities, including its participation in the London Book Fair 2019. While there, it honoured Emirati exchange students in the UK, appointing them as "Bil Arabi Ambassadors" to represent MBRF's "Bil Arabi" initiative in the UK. Their assigned tasks include organising events to support the use of the Arabic language and promote it among Arab communities in Britain, and to act as a link between Arab students in the UK and the activities of the "Bil Arabi" initiative all around the world.

MBRF took part in PwC Luxembourg's

'Upskilling for the Future' workshop to shed light on the mechanisms for developing future skills related to the labor market. The workshop attracted more than 300 experts from around the world.

During 2019, the Foundation launched a number of workshops and courses as well, within the Dubai International Program for Writing, in the UAE and abroad. It also established partnerships with international knowledge parties.





The Foundation also strengthened its joint cooperation with Al-Azhar University through audiences with Dr. Ahmed El Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar, as well as several joint cooperation agreements with the Al-Ahram Foundation.

The Foundation participated in the 71st annual Frankfurt International Book Fair held on October 16-20, 2019, in Frankfurt, Germany. The Foundation was represented by its publishing arm Qindeel Printing, Publishing, and Distribution. Qindeel hosted a number of events, seminars, and book signing ceremonies, which sought to shed light on its new literary projects, in addition to showcasing some of the Foundation's projects and initiatives globally.

Best practices

MBRF held its "Knowledge Week" event in Amman, Jordan, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on March 24-28, 2019. The event included a workshop for the youth and sought to showcase and explore the findings of the Global Knowledge Index 2018, which were announced at the Knowledge Summit 2018. Knowledge Week Jordan included an extensive series of events and interactive workshops.

During 2019, the Foundation launched a

number of workshops and courses as well, within the Dubai International Program for Writing, in the UAE and abroad. Within the framework of the strategic partnership agreement between MBRF and the Al-Ahram Foundation in Egypt, the "Writing the Essay" course was held for two continuous months. Participation drew 23 journalists from Egypt under the supervision of the Al-Ahram Regional Institute for the Press.

The MBRF also worked on the second edition of the "Literacy Challenge" award, selecting the winners from the institutions and individuals participating in the challenge. The number of nominated individual and institutional applications reached 55. Of these, 37 requests came from individuals and 18 from institutions.

The Foundation has received ISO 30401:2018 Certification for Knowledge Management Systems Requirements, which serves to upgrade systems management processes at the Foundation, and helps it achieve its objectives and strategic goals.



Huge interaction

During its participation in the GITEX Technology Week in Dubai 2019, MBRF reviewed its projects and digital knowledge initiatives. Through them, it pursues the goals of Dubai Paperless Strategy launched by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council, in February 2019. The Foundation announced at the exhibition, the digital conversion of all its publications making them available to readers on the Foundation's website and the Dubai Digital Library.

The 7th edition of Bil Arabi initiative and its related activities organized by MBRF to celebrate the International Day of the Arabic Language attracted a big following and interaction on leading social networking sites all over the world. The day was set by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on December 18 with the aim of promoting the status of the Arabic language among the world's languages.

Under the guidance of its Chairman His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Foundation in conjunction with Dubai Tourism and the House of Poetry organized two poetic nights at the La Mer of Jumeirah Beach which attracted large

The experts selected Dubai as the City of Knowledge for the 2020 edition of the initiative, where one city will be named every year at the Knowledge Summit in Dubai.

audiences of both Emirati citizens and residents of various nationalities.

As the new year gets underway, the Foundation aims to consolidate this wide range of achievements and build on them at the local, Arab and international levels throughout 2020.



Why Time, like Money, Needs to Be Managed Efficiently



By Sadab Kitatta Kaaya

“Time is money,” is an old English adage, which tells how valuable time is as a resource for the success of any venture. How you manage your time can determine how you will achieve your goals as an individual or organization because good time management makes you more productive.





Success in any venture requires that you understand that time and money are important factors. Like money, time is both valuable and limited. So, how you use it depends on your individual skills learned through self-analysis, planning, evaluation, and self-control.

In his 1748 essay titled “Advice to a Young Tradesman”, American author and politician Benjamin Franklin cautioned, “Remember that credit is money. If a man lets his money lie in my hands after it is due, he gives me the interest, or so much as I can make of it during that time. This amounts to a considerable sum where a man has good and large credit, and makes good use of it...”



Right:
Dr. Enock
Twinoburyo
Nyorekwa

In this, Franklin tells his readers about the cost of laziness. Losing time means throwing away the chance of earning. “Remember that money is of a prolific generating nature. Money can beget money, and its offspring can beget more, and so on.”

Management skills

American author and blogger Emilie Burke have argued that managing money and managing time are similar. Once you learn the skill of managing one, you will transfer those skills to managing the other.

“Successfully managing your money requires a budget, one that you can work with weekly and monthly to stay on top of your spending and saving and track your income. Managing your time is similar. Using a calendar or task list to stay on top of what needs to be done and what you’ve accomplished will help you stay productive. Using a budget for your money and calendar for your time will help you successfully manage both,” Burke wrote on money management international’s blogging platform.

“There are only so many hours in the day so you have to use them to the best benefit. Wasting them means you’re not as productive. The same goes for money.

While you do continually replenish your money with new earnings, there is a limit to how much you currently have. Wasting it on things you don't really need leaves less of it for the things you do," she further wrote.

Burke's point is further explained by Dr. Enock Twinoburyo Nyorekwa, a senior economist at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Center for Africa based in Kigali, Rwanda.

One's expenditure should be within his or her means because excessive consumption can lead to increased debt burden on individuals and governments although this might be of benefit to the private sector.

"Considering the global outlook, there is a substantial reduction in real wages which are wages adjusted for inflation, and this has affected economies," Twinoburyo told Flashes.

"If nominal wages remain static but inflation rises that means that the real wage has reduced. When that happens, it means that you have to adjust your consumption or you have to draw down on your savings. If not, you will have to increase your debt burden to be able to meet your consumption demands," he said.

While the debt burden at the household level might be distressing, Twinoburyo argues that sometimes an increased debt burden can be good because it is part of what keeps economies thriving.

His views are also held by Michael Pettis. In a blog post titled "Why U.S Debt Must Continue to Rise", Pettis said that debt that funds household consumption, nonproductive government activities such as military spending and welfare programs can in some cases have a positive impact on economic welfare.

While this might work for developed economies like the U.S, the case may be different for developing countries like in Africa where household wage data is not available.

Burke in another blog titled "How to Manage Money When Your Income is Lower than Expected" argues that one needs to know the minimum amount of

"There are only so many hours in the day so you have to use them to the best benefit. Wasting them means you're not as productive. The same goes for money."



Above:
Agustín Carstens
Emilie Burke

money they need to get through uncertain economic situations.

"Know the minimum amount you need to get by. You may be able to cut back on your grocery spending for a short time, cancel some services and subscriptions you don't really need, and delay a few payments. But what about those things that need to get paid on time like your mortgage, car payment, insurance, and electric bill. Knowing how much you absolutely need through the month is important," she wrote.

The use of technology in management

The evolution of technology introduced time saving innovations that make execution of tasks easier, faster, and more efficient. With technology, dealing with cash has become less common. You don't need to handle cash to make a purchase. But to some economists, the convenience that came with the digital evolution among other benefits need to be tested against the laws of economics.

"Good technology alone does not ensure good economics just as good economics does not ensure good technology. Technology is only effective once it has found its economic purpose. We must consider the intended goals and harness the best and most appropriate technology to help us get there," argued Agustín Carstens, General Manager of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in a speech he delivered in November 2018 at Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

What policy makers have to do, Carstens argued, is to ensure that technology is applied in a way that is fit for the purpose and, ultimately, helps our societies to develop, to improve and to transform.



Habiba Al Mar'ashi: Protecting the Environment is a Shared Social Responsibility

Flashes: Randa Gerges - Photo: Alaa Al-Habashi

Achieving sustainable development goals doesn't depend only on the work of institutions or individuals. It also needs many pillars to build on such as developing community awareness campaigns, implementing training activities, and spreading the culture of teamwork by local and federal government bodies concerned with environmental affairs, in addition to sharing educational means in all its stages.



Habiba Al Mar'ashi is an Emirati environmental activist whom in 1991, founded the Emirates Environmental Group an environmental non-governmental organization (EEG) working in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In an interview with Flashes, she talks about the outstanding challenges in her activism and highlights her plans to raise awareness of sustainable environmental concerns. Randa Gerges met her during the Knowledge Summit 2019.

What is the role of NGOs in supporting sustainable development?

There are many responsibilities that fall on non-governmental organizations, ranging from humanitarian aspects to social and environmental elements. For example, "Clean Up UAE" campaign, which was launched in 2002 as a popular initiative to activate the role of all social groups in protecting the environment, has become a real initiative to spread awareness among individuals on how to dispose waste in the right way.

The quantities that we collected from the desert and cities were initially enormous, but there is drastic reduction in the quantities compared to the past. I hope to see the day when our streets are completely clear of waste, when throwing garbage and waste in the designated boxes

become the norm and the way of life in the society, in line with the sustainable development goals.

How do you contribute to spreading environmental awareness within the society?

We consider that our mission as a team of the Emirates Environment Group starts from strengthening the role of future generations in consolidating the factors of sustainable development and environmental awareness. Since its inception, EEG has been promoting the protection and respect of natural resources through attracting young men and women to initiatives, workshops, training courses and awareness programs, as well as various environmental competitions for students from primary to university level. Students are involved so that they can develop future plans and solutions to environmental challenges in the society, in addition to emphasizing the role individuals can play in protecting the environment.

How do you mobilise young people to embrace sustainable development?

Awareness of the importance of sustainable development and its benefits is one of the most important ways to encourage young people to embrace it and achieve its goals, as they must realize that they are its primary beneficiaries. We need to promote in their circles the idea that we, as human beings, are all charged with preserving the planet we live in and that if we negate that role it can endanger us and all the organisms that live with us.

There is a need to understand the impact of our irresponsible behavior on this environment. In the school community, there are amazing results that students achieve until the end of high school. As for students in universities, they spend about four years of study without paying attention to environmental issues. When we engage them, we seek to achieve high success rates in this context with these young people.

What methods can be employed to create environmental awareness among college students?



University managers should start with believing in the importance of awareness of sustainable environmental development. They need to make the environment an essential part of the curriculum, focusing on theoretical subjects and practical applications, classifying them according to the vision of the teaching staff by including them in the departments of the environment, society or economics.

We note that students are eager to participate, contribute and volunteer but they do not know how to start. Therefore, the role of universities is to direct them on the right path and to involve them in strong environmental platforms.

What is the role of sustainable environmental development in production?

There is a strong correlation between sustainable environmental development and its role in activating the production plan. For example, modern mobile phone companies usually make improvements by prompting customers to buy latest phones and get rid of old ones, leading to an influx in the rate of e-waste in the world.

When they manufacturers devised a plan to dispose of this waste, they noticed that these old phones contained many raw materials and expensive items such as gold, silver and copper.

They allocated a budget for recycling, they found that this method would reduce their costs, and provide them with approximately 80% of the raw materials used in manufacturing new phones. The percentage of hazardous waste to be

disposed of according to international standards was reduced to only 20%. All global institutions today are required to reduce their carbon footprint, to limit the use of harmful substances that enter production lines and leave a negative impact on the environment because of the waste generated by them.

It must also be noted that there is an inverse relationship that depends on reducing consumption with increasing efficiency, and the result is obtaining more economic benefit. The more we devise ways to take advantage of used materials and waste, the more successful the production plans will be.

What are your future plans for achieving sustainable environmental development?

In 2020 we will start with the competition for environmental painting for schools. We will present within the choices for the student, a model for the environment under the title “My Sustainable School” that includes solar panels, agriculture, drip irrigation system, and learn how to recycle everything that surrounds the school and is used by natural daily activity.

We also aim to include a book about the environment within the framework of art in educational curricula. in addition to the continuation of initiatives, campaigns and activities that we carry out throughout the year, Our happiness will also be completed with the participation of many volunteers who are keen to maintain a clean and healthy environment.



Scenario Planning: A Field Guide to the Future

This book by Woody Wade provides an easy recipe for administrators whose tasks include strategic planning and causing practical change in their respective organizations.

The author gives 10 tips that enable the reader to learn the art and secret of being forward-looking when drawing the roadmap for the years ahead.

The book also includes many planning tools and business models that provide the reader with a rich reference to modern scientific methods for designing future scenarios before proceeding to prepare strategic plans.

Wade sees that the sooner you start early to form a clear future vision for your organization, the better; you manage to define and describe the expected changes. Then, he observes, you will succeed in building your organization in a successful manner, especially the way of dealing with the challenges and opportunities.



Knowledge Brokerage for Sustainable Development: Innovative Tools for Increasing Research Impact and Evidence-Based Policymaking

In this book, the authors Michal Sedlacko and André Martinuzzi examine the eminent global challenges facing the knowledge brokerage industry.

The book offers an in-depth exploration of how knowledge brokerage has the potential to help manage the challenges of sustainable development, and presents a selection of innovative and practical tools to enhance the connectivity of research and policymaking on sustainable development issues. The book also reviews the keys to the success of the joint work between various institutions and marketing of knowledge products that contribute to shaping the future by enabling researchers to play a more effective role in the formulation of analytical studies and

the progress of scientific evidence.

One of the most remarkable features of the book is that it gives an enjoyable reading experience that enables one to extract lessons learned through a set of interviews conducted by the authors with a group of international experts. The answers to the vital questions greatly help the reader in understanding the dimensions of the knowledge economy and how investment in scientific research has a noticeable role in changing the system of development and development policies.

The authors highlight successful European experiences in knowledge investment in the scientific research sector to take an influential role in the

Clever Lands: The Secrets Behind the Success of the World's Education Superpowers



In this book, Lucy Crehan takes us on a trip around the world to explore the secrets behind the success of top-performing education systems in the world. She writes about the ingredients of an efficient educational system, and how their distinguished experiences have had a tangible role in focusing on the quality of education. This involves preparing teachers and adopting school curricula on developing critical thinking skills and analysis, away from the usual teaching and indoctrination, to create a generation capable of creativity and innovation.

In detail, the author discusses the educational experiences of the Japanese, Finnish, Singaporean, Chinese, and Canadian schools. She focuses on the success story of the education in those countries, and suggests ways of building a strong educational system that contributes to achieving comprehensive human development.

policies of sustainable development by focusing on knowledge production processes and tools that have contributed to the use of these knowledge products to improve policy-making outputs, through proving the real role of knowledge to find out practical solutions to the challenges that societies face.

The authors say: “The production of scientific knowledge and investment in scientific research has always been one of the most important pillars by which countries’ progress is measured and used to chart the scale of their scientific progress. But the important question here is: are the products of knowledge used to serve societies and determine their destinies? Or remained on the shelves of research centers and across their electronic sources for academic researchers to rely on in their research and studies, without finding a way to be truly invested in policy-making and outlining future directions based on research conclusions to achieve sustainable development goals?”





COUNTRY PROFILE: THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GDP US\$ 1,619.424 BN POPULATION 51,225,046 HDI 0.903

SECTORIAL INDICES



PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION (PUE)

RANK **33**
VALUE **66.7**



TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (TVET)

RANK **31**
VALUE **57.4**



HIGHER EDUCATION (HE)

RANK **44**
VALUE **45.5**



RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION (RDI)

RANK **3**
VALUE **62.5**



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

RANK **14**
VALUE **77.1**



ECONOMY

RANK **14**
VALUE **60.7**

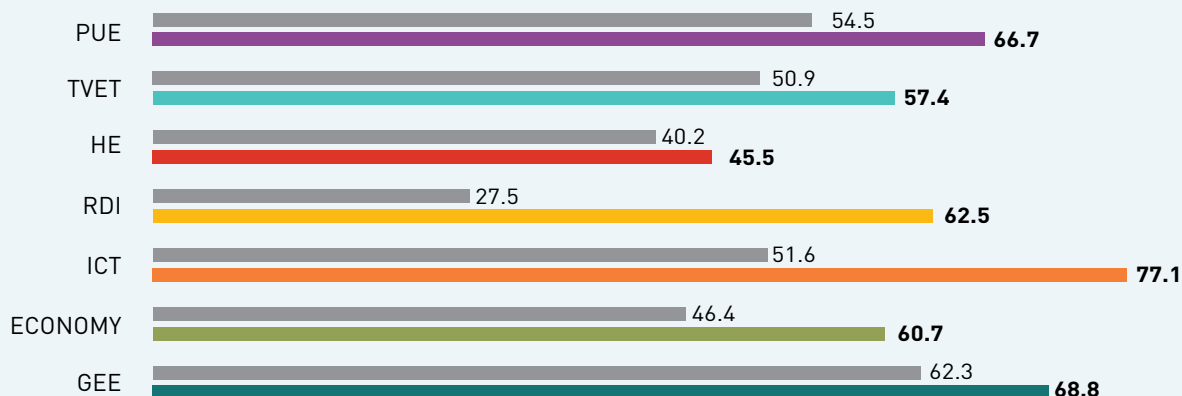


GENERAL ENABLING ENVIRONMENT (GEE)

RANK **39**
VALUE **68.8**

SECTORIAL INDICES IN COMPARISON WITH WORLD AVERAGE

● World Average ●●●●● Sectorial Indices

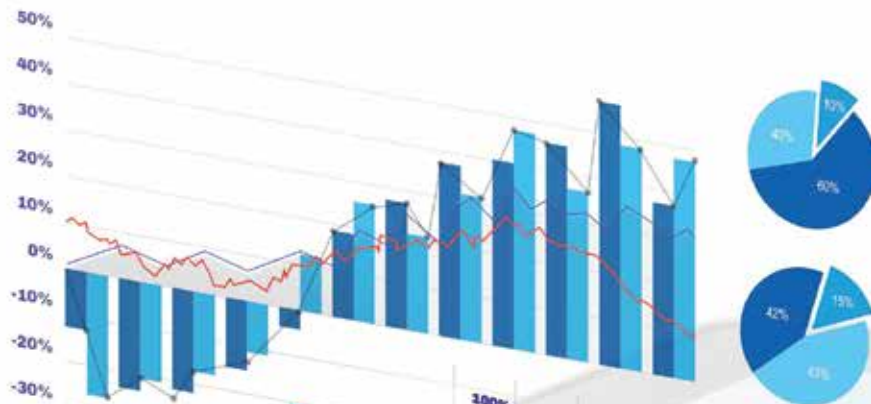


WORLD RANK 20/136

France	New Zealand	The Republic of Korea	United Arab Emirates
22	21	20	18

GENERAL ENABLING ENVIRONMENT		39	RANK	68.8	VALUE
POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL		33	RANK	72.3	VALUE
SOCIO-ECONOMIC		67	RANK	58.2	VALUE
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT		36	RANK	79.3	VALUE
PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION		33	RANK	66.7	VALUE
KNOWLEDGE CAPITAL		12	RANK	72.4	VALUE
EDUCATIONAL ENABLING ENVIRONMENT		70	RANK	58.2	VALUE
TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING		31	RANK	57.4	VALUE
FORMATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING		52	RANK	53.5	VALUE
FEATURES OF THE LABOUR MARKET		31	RANK	63.4	VALUE
HIGHER EDUCATION		44	RANK	45.5	VALUE
HIGHER EDUCATION INPUTS		105	RANK	38.2	VALUE
HIGHER EDUCATION OUTPUTS AND QUALITY		27	RANK	50.8	VALUE
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION		3	RANK	62.5	VALUE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT		4	RANK	66.4	VALUE
INNOVATION IN PRODUCTION		5	RANK	72.6	VALUE
SOCIAL INNOVATION		15	RANK	40.7	VALUE
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY		14	RANK	77.1	VALUE
ICT INPUTS		44	RANK	66.3	VALUE
ICT OUTPUTS		4	RANK	81.5	VALUE
ECONOMY		14	RANK	60.7	VALUE
KNOWLEDGE COMPETITIVENESS		22	RANK	61.2	VALUE
ECONOMIC OPENNESS		33	RANK	51.7	VALUE
FINANCING AND VALUE ADDED		3	RANK	68.9	VALUE

Tech Trends to Watch Out for in 2020



The past year ushered in a tidal wave of innovations in technology from the rise of social robots and personal assistants to Amazon Prime's one-day delivery gamble to the proliferation of voice search. The latter alone became a \$1.8 billion retail segment in the US in 2017 and is predicted to rise to around \$40B by 2022. Chatbots were heavily deployed in 2019 and were generally well received by customers who would otherwise have to call or submit forms. The question to ask now is what big changes in technology are going to affect the way we live and work in 2020?



In this article adapted from www.entrepreneur.com, Thomas Smale gives an insight into the trends that are likely to influence the digital landscape in 2020. Smale is the founder of FE International; an internet-based consulting company specializing in digital business services. In the early 2000s, he started building and selling small businesses online which he later turned into a full-time career when he co-founded FE International in 2010.



He reportedly grew the business with zero funds from scratch to “a seven-figure-a-year business” with its annual revenue constantly doubling as well as the average size of deals.

Smale specializes in providing advice on mergers and acquisitions in software services, e-commerce, and business digital contents. He has provided advice to hundreds of online entrepreneurs on the exit and growth strategy and business development.

He has been interviewed on podcasts, blogs and also spoken at a number of industry events on online businesses, exit strategy and selling businesses. According to Smale, below are some trends to watch out for:

Mobile Commerce

Mobile commerce has been edging into our lives for some time. People have become used to shopping on their phones via intuitive apps and

mobile-friendly websites. But the ability to pay for products in bricks and mortar stores with Apple Pay and Google Wallet is set to change our world. If you want a preview of what life will be like in a fully cash-and-cardless world, hop on a plane to any major Chinese city. The use of Alipay and WeChat to pay for almost everything has made life simpler for many and the humble QR code is back in vogue used even by panhandlers. However, you can expect phones’ battery life issues to create a whole new raft of problems.

5G Network

Perhaps you have started to use 5G WiFi, plucking lightning-fast internet straight from our cellular networks. You can expect more of this in the future. While there have been some, seemingly unfounded, concerns over what 5G could be doing to our bodies, the tidal wave is continuing to roll. The increased bandwidth will



provide faster internet speeds with a simpler setup process. If that's not enough, the 5G networks will also facilitate the use of drones and driverless cars, allowing them to rapidly communicate with any other smart vehicles in their vicinity; an essential component for futuristic, smart cities.

Prescriptive Analytics

Prescriptive analytics has been a holy grail since data analytics products began to boom. Until now, analytics tools have been mostly focused on both descriptive and predictive applications. This means they would allow for historical data to be better arranged and represented to allow for a "better understanding of changes that have occurred," and for data to be used to make predictions about future events and behavior.

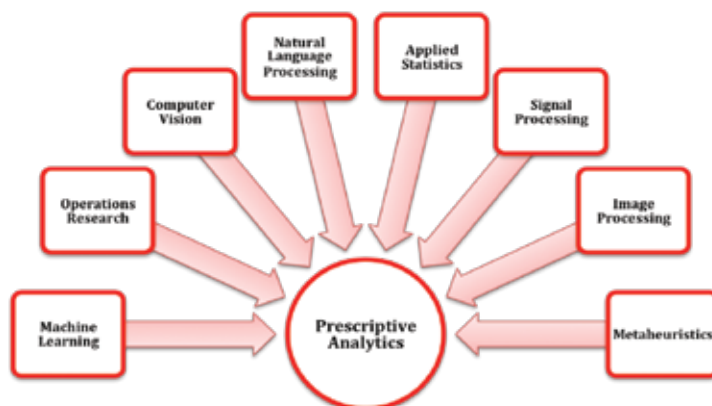
Prescriptive usage is where the tool in question would deliver options for how to take advantage of the results of descriptive and predictive analytics. If this sounds similar to predictive analytics, you wouldn't be wrong, and there's some debate about the precise definition. However, prescriptive analytics has already seen application in the oil and gas industry as well as healthcare. Limited proscriptive functions could begin creeping into more widely adopted analytics tools in 2020.

AI as a Service

The combining of the SaaS business model with AI services could help bring AI to the masses without a heavy price tag. While advances in AI are racing ahead in some areas and lagging in others (e.g. speech recognition), there are already some AI provider platforms offering services such as processing intensive GPU workloads, and Google, Amazon, Microsoft and other large companies already offer machine-learning solutions and training materials. Proliferation in this area, and a move to more specific AI tasks being offered on subscription, is a likely development in 2020.

Mid-Market Tech Growth

When we talk about growth or decline in the technology sector, we are often prone to discussing the largest of the tech companies. What is changing is the level of interest being placed on mid-market businesses and their growth potential. As investors come to grips with how to own, operate and invest in emerging tech companies and online businesses, we are beginning to see more reports on this mid-market sector and its potential. A review of mergers and acquisitions shows the promising signs for mid-sized content, e-commerce and SaaS businesses. Independent Amazon business owners



are also beginning to realize their collective power.

The Decline of Apps

Having to find and download apps could be the next problem to solve for companies bemused by the investment they have put into apps and the competitive nature of the various app stores. Many people believe that making apps accessible from a cloud or scrapping them all together in favor of Progressive Web Apps might be more useful and cost-effective for everyone involved.

Alternative-Cryptocurrency Collapse

No list of changes in technology would be complete without some mention of cryptocurrency and blockchain. Whatever side of the fence you sit on -- whether you think bitcoin is a giant Ponzi scheme, or you believe that it's the future of money -- one thing can't be denied: Bitcoin is dominating the crypto market. While many cryptocurrencies have risen and fallen, Bitcoin now has a market dominance of around 69 percent after being as low as 35 percent in January 2018. A surge in price over the last few months has raised questions whether Bitcoin could really be a new kind of digital gold. Blockchain technology is likely to see more practical applications in healthcare, asset management and intellectual property in 2020 but whether Bitcoin and the blockchain will radically change the way we live remains to be seen.

With so many changes to our technology coming so fast, it can be hard to grasp the sheer scale of innovation underway. The list above highlights some of the more interesting developments but is far from exhaustive. Whatever happens, 2020 will be an interesting year for major tech companies and budding entrepreneurs alike.



Facial Recognition in 2020:

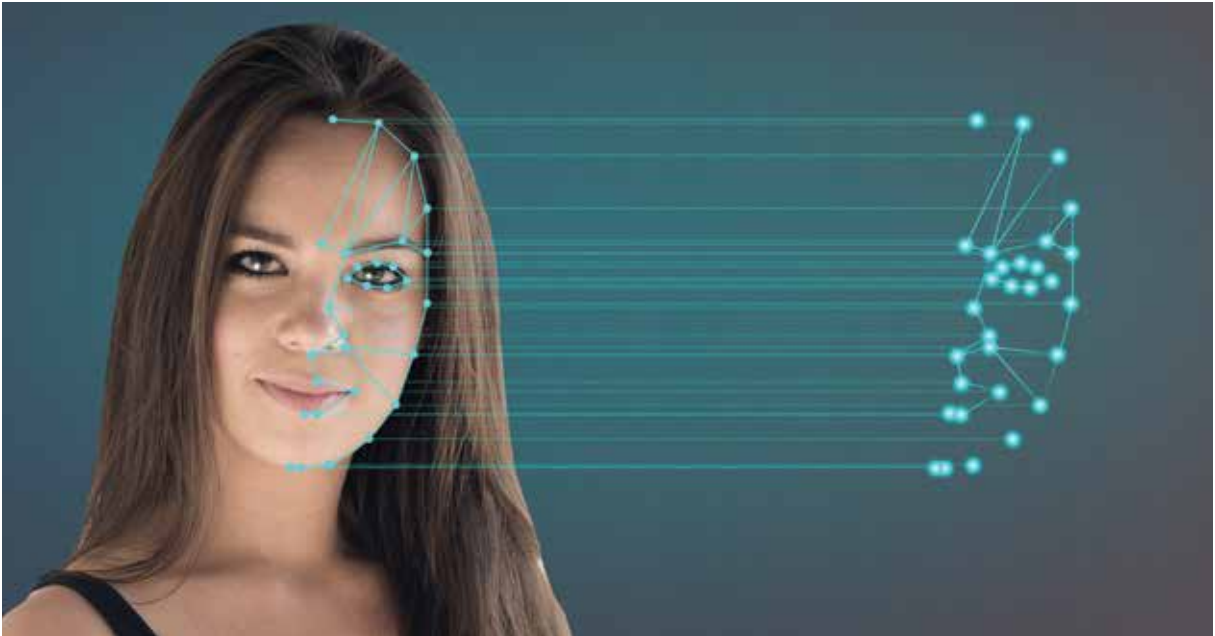
Can Tech Giants Stop its Regulation?

Civil liberties activists warn that the powerful technology, which identifies people by matching a picture or video of a person's face to databases of photos, can be used to passively spy on people without any reasonable suspicion or their consent. Many of these leaders don't just want to regulate facial recognition tech — they want to ban or pause its use completely.

Republican and Democratic lawmakers, who rarely agree on anything, are in agreement on limiting law enforcement agencies' ability to surveil Americans with this technology, citing concerns that the unchecked use of facial recognition could lead to the creation of an Orwellian surveillance state.

Several cities, such as San Francisco, Oakland, and Somerville, Massachusetts banned police use of the technology last year. A new federal bill was introduced in 2019 that would severely restrict its use by federal law enforcement, requiring a court order to track people for longer than three days. And some senators have discussed a far-reaching bill that would completely halt





government use of the technology.

But the reality is that this technology already exists — it's used to unlock people's iPhones, scan flight passengers faces instead of their tickets, screen people attending musical concerts, and to monitor large crowds.

Its prevalence has created a delicate situation: proponents of the tech, such as law enforcement and technology manufacturers, downplay facial recognition's power. They play up its potential to crack open cold criminal cases or reunite missing children with their families.

Meanwhile, opponents warn of how quickly the powerful tech's use could spiral out of control. For instance, they point to China, where the technology is regularly used to surveil and oppress an ethnic minority. The solution may be somewhere in between — there are cases when use of this tech can do good, especially if it's carefully regulated and the communities impacted by it are in control of how it's used. But right now, that looks like an ideal scenario that we're still far from achieving.

"What we really need to do as a society is sort through what are the beneficial uses of this technology and what are the accompanying harms — and see if there are any roles for its use right now," Barry Friedman, faculty director of NYU Law's Policing Project, a research institute that studies policing practices, told Recode.

Rolling out government use of facial recognition the right way, tech policy leaders and civil liberties advocates say, will involve a sweeping set of regulations that democratize input on how these technologies are used.

The daily use

The most famous examples of law enforcement's use of facial recognition in the US are the extreme ones — such as when police in Maryland used it to identify the suspected shooter at the Capital Gazette newspaper offices.

But the reality is, as many as one in four police departments across the US can access facial recognition according to the Center of Privacy and Technology at Georgetown Law. And at least for now, it's often in more routine criminal investigations.

A report from Gizmodo last January suggested that Washington County police were using the tool differently than how Amazon recommended and had lowered the confidence threshold for a match to below 99 percent.

In the absence of facial recognition regulation, it's easy to see the potential for overreach. In a 2017 interview with tech media company SiliconANGLE, Chris Adzima, a senior information systems analyst for the department, spoke about how video footage can enhance the tool's capabilities — even though the department currently says it has no plans to use video in its surveillance.

Washington County is just one of hundreds of law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal level that use facial recognition. And because it uses Rekognition — a product made by Amazon, perhaps the biggest and most scrutinized tech giant — police there have been more public about its use than other law enforcement agencies that use similar, but less known, tools.

Some law enforcement agencies are simply worried that sharing more information about the use of facial

recognition will spark backlash, Daniel Castro, vice president of the DC-based tech policy think tank, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), told Recode.

Much of the fear about facial recognition technology is because the public knows little about how it's used, or whether it's been effective in reducing crime. In absence of any kind of systemic federal regulation or permitting process — the little we know is from stories, interviews, public reports, and investigative reports about its prevalence.

And even for police departments that are forthright about how they use the technology, like Washington County, they often don't collect or share any tangible metrics about its effectiveness.

Friedman said that with better data, the public might have a better understanding of the true value of facial recognition technology, and if it's worth the risks.

The bias problem

For racial minorities and women, facial recognition systems have proven disproportionately less accurate. In a 2018 study, MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini found that three leading facial recognition tools — from Microsoft, IBM, and Chinese firm Megvii, were incorrect as much as a third of the time in identifying the gender of darker skinned women, as compared to having only a 1 percent error rate for white males.

Amazon's Rekognition tool in particular has been criticized for displaying bias after the ACLU ran a test on the software that misidentified 28 members of Congress as criminals, disproportionately providing false matches for black and Latino lawmakers. Amazon has said that the correct settings weren't used in the ACLU's test because the organization set the acceptable confidence threshold to 80 percent — although it was later reported that this is the default setting in the software, and one that some police departments seem to be using in training materials.

Presumably, bias issues in facial recognition will improve over time, as the technology learns and data sets improve. Meanwhile, proponents argue that while facial recognition technology in its current state isn't completely bias-free, neither are human beings.

And facial recognition can be harder to hold accountable than a human being when it makes a mistake. "If an individual officer is discriminating against a person, there's a through line or a causal effect you can

Much of the fear about facial recognition technology is because the public knows little about how it's used, or whether it's been effective in reducing crime.



see there, and try to mitigate or address that harm," said Rashida Richardson, director of policy research at AI Now Institute, "But if it's a machine learning system, then who's responsible?"

The technology that determines a match in facial recognition is essentially a black box — the average person doesn't know how it works, and often the untrained law enforcers using it don't either. So unwinding the biases built into this tech is not a simple task.

Some tech companies, such as Microsoft and IBM, have called for government regulation on the technology. Amazon said earlier this year that it's writing its own set of rules for facial recognition that it hopes federal lawmakers will adopt. But that raises the question: Should people trust companies any more than police to self-regulate this tech?

Other groups such as the ACLU have created a model for local communities to exert oversight and control over police use of surveillance technology, including facial recognition. The Community Control over Police Surveillance laws, which the ACLU developed as a template for local regulation, empowers city councils to decide what surveillance technologies are used in their area, and mandate community input. More than a dozen cities and local jurisdictions have passed such laws, and the ACLU says efforts are underway in several others.

Overall, there may be benefits of law enforcement's use of facial recognition technology — but so far, Americans are relying on police department anecdotes with little data points or accountability. As long as police departments continue to use facial recognition in this information vacuum, the backlash against the technology will likely grow stronger, no matter the potential upside.

Passing robust federal level legislation regulating the tech, working to eradicate the biases around it, and giving the public more insight into how it functions, would be a good first step toward a future in which this tech inspires less fear and controversy.

(Source: This an abridged version of the original article written by Shirin Ghaffary for Recode website.)

2020: A Year of Great Achievements, Huge Challenges

As the new year 2020 begins, it is important to assess what we achieved in the past year and assess the challenges ahead of us so that we can develop a systematic plan to implement and achieve many more noble goals to the fullest extent possible.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) registered milestones in 2019, which played a great role in activating knowledge mobility. Our work got international recognition. The Foundation received ISO 30401:2018 Certification for Knowledge Management Systems Requirements. These serve to upgrade systems management processes at the Foundation for the achievement of its objectives and strategic goals.

The Foundation also signed a new 10-year agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which runs until 2030. It was signed at a special ceremony held at the UN Headquarters in New York City, renewing the partnership between the two organizations on the Knowledge Project. MBRF also began other partnerships with multiple knowledge authorities in the world, programs, workshops and initiatives in the service of Arabic language and culture.

The New Year 2020 comes with new challenges in the form of technological innovations and technological concerns, which we have highlighted in this issue alongside how the data is the oxygen that fuels the fire of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

This edition also discusses the issue of time and how to manage it in the digital age. According to a popular phrase, “time is gold,” this is remarkably right in our current time, where speed has become the first rule. The time investment has effectively become a necessity for improved productivity. If a person fails to control their time, it is possible they can be subjected to psychological problems, which cannot be neglected due to their impact such as failure to work. Also, if an organization fails to manage time, it suffers setbacks and disappointments because it will waste its resources in a way that does not allow them to achieve the desired target of productivity.

Financial experts, economists and psychologists constantly observe that a person’s success is always linked to his ability to manage his time and benefit from it so that days and years will not escape from him without success, nor to find himself biting the fingers of remorse after it has become too late for him to do anything meaningful for and with his life.

The digital age in which we live needs special time management because different technological advancements have saved up a lot of time, which should be invested well whether at individual or institutional level in order to improve performance. It will help to compete in a time that recognizes only the distinguished and hard working.

While we relish the important achievements at MBRF last year, we promise that we will continue our efforts this year in order to foster a culture of knowledge, innovation and technology investment so that the UAE continues to occupy the prominent place that befits it within the developed countries in the world.

Jamal bin Huwaireb
CEO of Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation



