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VIRTUAL EVENT

No. TBD

Lifetime Achievement Keynote



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President, Dubai University, UAE
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Chair: TBD
Venue: Virtual

***“UAE MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF BUILDING
SUSTAINABLE SMART CITIES.”***

ABSTRACT: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is always on the move and working towards better global positions until it can lead the world in most of the indicators. UAE has been developing and achieving so rapidly since the inception in 1971 that it has made very difficult for others to catch up with these achievements and successes.

The economic eco-system requires many players to participate in the advancement of global smart cities and countries. The main variables of the equation of the advancement are related to Business Processes, Business Laws, Management Practices, Innovation, Big Data, Analytics, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Internet of things, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Blockchain and Crypto currencies. To see the light at the end of the tunnel, readiness to any disruptive changes is the key factor towards economic, political, and social sustainability. ICT is the main contributor to the advancement of smart cities.

The ICT trends are so agile that it is very difficult to keep pace with these vast changes unless there are serious strategic plans and initiatives to implement the elements of ICT value chain to create knowledge-based eco-system. This value chain has three main elements that will build the foundations of a knowledge-based society.

(1) Starting from creating the **skillful workforce** through educational activities, moving towards (2) the intermediate stage of **creating patents and intellectual properties** (IP's) by encouraging Research & Business Development (R&BD) activities and (3) ending with **knowledge creation** through incubators and start-ups. If we look at statistics of the present and future ICT sector, we can realize that this sector is and will be the main driving force towards economic development which will be the basis of establishing a knowledge-based economy. Smart cities to be sustainable require vision, plan, execution and development in these 6 focus areas: 1- smart, visionary, bold, risk-taking and benign leadership; 2- quality education; 3- research and business development; 4- innovation and entrepreneurship; 5- robust, ultra-speed, reliable and secure ICT infrastructure; 6- future foresight.

Bio: Eesa Bastaki is the recipient of the highest award in the UAE, the “Emirates Excellence Award in Sciences, Literature and Arts”, in the field of Sciences. Dr. Bastaki’s extensive experience in education, leadership, technology and communications will prove a major asset in leading the university into its next progressive phase, which besides the building of a new campus and the addition of several programs, such as a Master of Laws degree and Doctorate degrees in Business Administration. Previously, Dr. Bastaki worked as a professor at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) specializing in Communications Engineering. He also held positions as: CEO of ICT Fund; Director of Education, Training and

Research and Development for Dubai Silicon Oasis (DSO); Consultant and IT Project Manager for Al-Ain Municipality; Board member of KHDA's UQAIB and was member of many academic boards. He is one of the founders of DSO and RIT-Dubai. He is Honorary Chair of IEEE, Chairman of Emirates Science Club, Board member of the Cultural and Scientific Association and was a Board member of Ankabut (UAE's NREN) and many more. He is the Chair of "Drones for Good Award", "Robotics & AI for Good Award" and "Emirates Energy Award". He also judges the Dubai-initiated competition 10X. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan Bin Mohammed Innovation Award in Project Management. He has organized hundreds of events, conferences, forums and competitions.

During his time at UAE University, DSO and ICT Fund, Dr. Bastaki chaired several technology and research boards, initiated technology incubation concepts and coined on R&BD terminology, where he brought forward the rich experience of enhancing the University of Dubai's research drives and futuristic programs. His main goals are to enhance Research & Business Development to serve the industry and fulfill his drive towards his vision of "Made in UAE, Sold Globally".

Dr. Bastaki received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of California, San Diego and his PhD from University of California, Irvine, before returning to help improve the education and technology sectors in his homeland, the UAE. University of Dubai faculty, staff and students are gratified that a man of his accomplishments leads the University on its continuing path to provide the highest quality education in the region.