Abu Dhabi Innovation Forum 2010 to build an innovative culture in the UAE

The Abu Dhabi Innovation Forum 2010 will discuss how innovative cultures drive economic successes.

The two-day event commences on 11th January at the Shangri La Qaryat Al Beri Hotel, and will be held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court.

The forum, presented by the Abu Dhabi University and Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development, brings together a distinguished line-up of keynote speakers and global innovators to provide strategic presentations and practical knowledge. The Abu Dhabi Innovation Forum includes informative panel discussions, practical workshops and case studies as well as invaluable networking opportunities to examine successful innovations from some of the most creative minds from across the world.

Reflecting the objectives of the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030, the roadmap for the UAE capital to become among the leading economies in the world, more than 200 government agencies and private institutions are expected to attend the event to get a glimpse of how innovation would change the current view of the UAE economy. The opening keynote address will be given by His Excellency Abdullah Al Ahbabi, Assistant Secretary General, General Secretariat of Abu Dhabi Executive Council.

"Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development was established to empower and diversify local organisations consisting of Emirati businessmen and businesswomen," said His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Khalil Al Mutawa, Chief Executive Officer, Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development. "Through our partnership with Abu Dhabi University, we are able to train and develop Emiratis to fully participate in the private sector and manage their own businesses.

"The Abu Dhabi Innovation Forum allows us to encourage the Emiratis to create innovative business ideas that will work in parallel with Abu Dhabi’s strategic economic development in various sectors. The forum provides local organisations with the capabilities to support and participate in the ongoing economic growth and development of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, building and sustaining an economic environment of international standards," he said.

The forum is an event made specifically for local businesses and associations, academic and government heads from all sectors responsible for building a culture of innovation.

His Excellency Ali Saeed Bin Harmal Al Dhaheri, Abu Dhabi University Chairman said, "As Innovation becomes an important factor in organisations and companies' successes, the Abu Dhabi Innovation Forum serves as a key platform to learn and hear from the leading experts about proven innovations that can radically change their business outlooks. This forum hopes to seek the best practices from worldwide leading innovators which will allow the country to be regarded as one of the five world's best governments." The forum will highlight world-renowned innovator Professor Arcot Desai Narasimhalu, Director of Innovation ‘&’ Entrepreneurship and Chairman of The Business Innovation Generator,
Singapore Management University; Dr. Thomas Andersson, President, International Organisation for Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development (IKED); Dr. John Bell, Head of Strategy and Partnerships, Royal Philips; and Dr. Hal Gregersen, Professor of Leadership, INSEAD and Author of ‘The Innovator's DNA’.

Other presenters will include Innovation 360 Chief Executive Officer Kamal Hassan; Microsoft Gulf General Manager Charbel Fakhoury; Procter & Gamble Global Head of Mobile Marketing Khurram Hamid; and Professor Peter Hiscocks from Judge Business School, University of Cambridge. Two local Emiratis will also speak about their innovation views and ideas namely Ali Al Saloom, Cofounder of OneTVO and a Cultural Expert Presenter, and Mohammed Zaqout, EVP and Head of Personal Banking at Al Hilal Bank.

Among the presentations which will be discussed at the event are successful innovations that can be used to benchmark and qualify new innovations; how to gauge Abu Dhabi in terms of innovation potential and knowledge-based economy; and systematic innovation as a predictable force for business and government transformation. Other topics will also include putting creativity and innovation at the heart of strategy; building of strategic innovation networks; and research programmes that add value to society.

Case studies and company profiles will be presented at the forum such as Microsoft as an innovation blueprint of success; an insight to Procter & Gamble's Connect and Develop Programme; Innovation in Action in UAE Banking according to Al Hilal Bank and Examples of Open Innovation from Royal Philips.

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