



MENA Innovation 2019

Official Ministerial Forum for ICT Innovation in Education

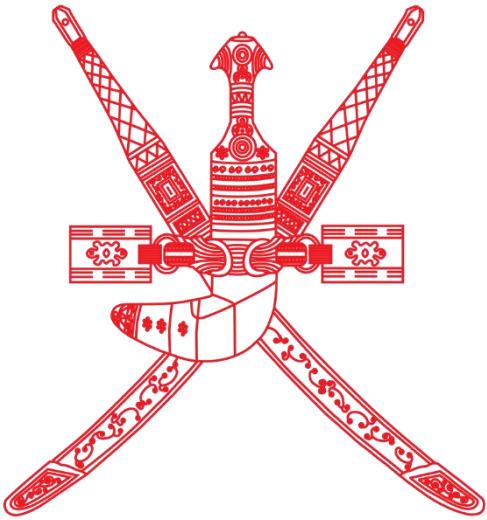
منتدى الابتكار التقني في التعليم بمنطقة الشرق الأوسط و شمال أفريقيا ٢٠١٩

15-17 September 2019, Muscat, Oman

مسقط - سلطنة عُمان ١٥-١٧ سبتمبر ٢٠١٩



Official Opening Ceremony



Under the Patronage of the Guest of Honour
His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tareq al Said
Minister of Heritage and Culture



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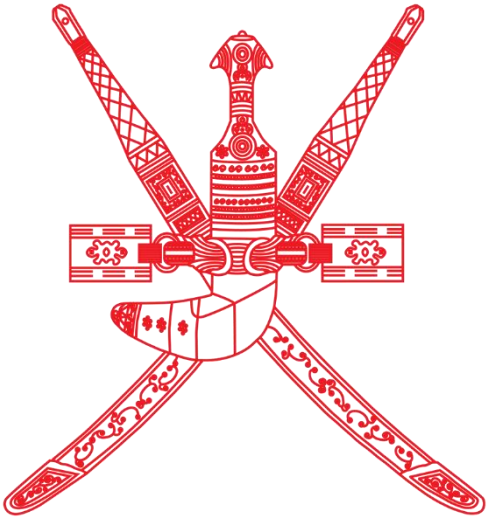
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وزارة التعليم العالي
سلطنة عمان

حفل الافتتاح



تحت رعاية

صاحب السمو السيد / هيثم بن طارق آل سعيد
وزير التراث والثقافة



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SPEECH BY

HE Dr Rawya bint Saud Al Busaidi

Minister of Higher Education

Oman



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In the name of Allah the Merciful, most gracious

His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said

Minister of Heritage and Culture

Patron of the event

Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies

Distinguished guests.

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be Upon You.



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Welcome all to the opening ceremony of the ICT Innovation in Education Forum in the Middle East and North Africa region which comes as one of the international endeavors and efforts to make sure that the education sector keeps up with the rapid development witnessed by the world in areas of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, aiming to enhance the exchange of experiences and knowledge in the field of educational systems, entrepreneurship, innovation and critical thinking.

Our gracious presence



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The Government of the Sultanate is aware of the importance of scientific research and its role in preparing and empowering youth and equipping them with the skills. The establishment of The Research Council issued by the Royal Decree No. (54/2005) is considered the incubator and supporter of scientific research, innovation and technical knowledge in the country. Moreover, the National Strategy for Innovation was prepared to serve as a road map for plans and programs to foster a culture of innovation for the next stage.



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The strategic trends Oman vision (2040) that was recently inaugurated by the Government of the Sultanate, were based on the establishment of a comprehensive education and a lifelong learning and a scientific research leading to a knowledgeable society and a national competitive capabilities, contributing seriously to building a diverse and sustainable economy.



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This strategy is aimed at developing the infrastructure of information technology and innovation in educational institutions and the establishment of scientific incubators in higher education institutions to work on developing and integrating the relationship with industry to invest the results of research in human and economic development. As a result, this would achieve financial sustainability by helping the economy and society transfer from depending on non renewable resources to innovation and knowledge.



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In this context, the establishment of the Muscat Innovation Complex comes as one of the initiatives for the development of research and encouragement to innovate with the aim of activating the connection between the academic sector and the private sector. Moreover, the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development was established to provide an environment for entrepreneurship and innovation for youth and the growing generations in particular, and to support them in transforming their ideas into businesses which contributes to job creation.



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For this purpose, many incubators like the National Business Centre and Industrial Innovation Center have been established to assist these young people by taking their hands to achieve this aim. In addition, the opening of the Knowledge Oasis Muscat in 2003 was the first incubator for technology in the Sultanate Perhaps this forum represents a valuable opportunity to encourage youth initiatives from the Sultanate and the Middle East and North Africa by inviting selected individuals to present their own success stories in transforming innovative ideas into commodities or services and in reality to draw inspiration from lessons and giving motivation and role model for youth whether they are job seekers or students.



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In conclusion, I extend my genuine thanks and appreciation to His Highness Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture, for his generous patronage of this scientific forum and to our dear guests Highnesses and Excellencies... all participants ... wishing them a pleasant stay among us here in the Sultanate



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I would also like to thank both the Arab Brains organization, the Organization Committee for their efforts in organizing the work of this forum, the speakers, the official and non-official institutions from inside and outside the Sultanate. I also extend my sincere thanks to the sponsoring companies; Omantel Company and Oman Oil Development Company.

Asking "Allah" the almighty for the work of this Forum to be crowned with success.

Peace, mercy and blessings of Allah be Upon You