“The World Government Summit has successfully been transformed into a global platform for innovation that embraces talents and inspires governments to harness science and technology to serve humanity”

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai
His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
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World Government Summit 2017

The World Government Summit 2017, held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai, witnessed more than 4,000 global public and private sector officials and leaders from over 150 countries and seven renowned international organisations gather in Dubai to discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by the world today.

Now in its fifth edition, the World Government Summit is an international knowledge exchange platform at the intersection of government, futurism, technology and innovation. Each year, government officials, policy-makers, thought leaders, and private sector trailblazers come together to explore the future of government in the coming decades led by the advancements of mankind.

The Summit is an opportunity for governments and organisations to showcase cutting-edge innovations, the latest trends in best practice and groundbreaking smart solutions to provoke discussion and inspire creativity. The 2017 edition hosted plenary sessions, workshops, discussion panels and more, centred around themes such as happiness, climate change, youth and today’s unique challenges and opportunities.
The Summit In Numbers

- 190+ Speakers
- 150+ Interactive sessions & activities
- 4,000+ Attendees
- 150+ Participating countries
- 17,000+ Articles, reports & media exposures
- 200+ Media organisations
- 19m+ YouTube views
- 8bn+ Twitter impressions
- 350,000+ Social media followers
Sessions
How To Reignite
The Region’s Development

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai

“I am optimistic because I believe people create civilisations, develop economies and drive prosperity”

Arab nations should empower their youth, asserted His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of Dubai, in a question and answer session on opportunities and challenges facing the Arab region. “Young people have positivity and new ideas,” he said. “We need to make them leaders.”

Sheikh Mohammed used inspiring illustrations and thoughtful advice to demonstrate how he and fellow leaders in the UAE are moving beyond rhetoric to lead their citizens by example.

He related how he convinced colleagues that installing a young minister on the cabinet, who would bring innovative thinking rather than just experienced advice, was vital. As a result, Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui, then aged 22, was appointed the UAE’s Minister of State for Youth Affairs. Citizens are capable of anything, he said, including running the economy and resources. “Building citizens in this way is the UAE’s greatest achievement.”

Change and reinvention are essential, he added, referring to a message he relayed to Arab governments 12 years ago: “You must change, or you will be changed.”

In answering questions submitted to the Summit through social media and other channels, Sheikh Mohammed addressed several contentious Arab issues. These included poverty, corruption, terrorism, the role of the media and women in society. In addition to empowering young people, His Highness also emphasised how tomorrow’s world requires Arab nations to be open to all, to accompany plans with actions, and to not delay in moving forward.
Main Address Of The
State Of Japan

HE Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of the State of Japan

"It is a critical role for governments to use
diversity to empower society"

Finding ways for people of different
identities, cultures and traditions to co-exist
is a vital world issue, His Excellency Shinzo
Abe, Prime Minister of the State of Japan, emphasised
while giving the Main Address of the Guest Country at
the World Government Summit’s Annual Gathering.
The huge potential such diversity brings, however, is
also one of society’s greatest opportunities, he said.

In his address, Abe made several observations on
diversity, noting in particular the strides taken by the
Summit’s host country, the United Arab Emirates, and
outlining an initiative in his own country, which aims to
create a society where everyone can play an active
role, no matter their age, gender or ability.

He concluded by drawing attention to 2020 – a year
when Japan will host the Olympic and Paralympic
Games, and Dubai the World Expo. "Let us together
show the world that societies are made vital through
diversity and a spirit of tolerance," he urged.
The World Government Summit is an important platform where intellectuals from the world come and
Main Address Of The Guest Country

HE Kentaro Sonoura
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Japan

“There should be no legal or social barriers that hinder the intellectual curiosity of inventors”

The most important role of a government is to invest in the future, particularly in the fields of education and innovation, said His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the State of Japan.

Ensuring equal educational opportunities for all citizens should be every government’s highest priority, advised Sonoura. Illustrating the effectiveness of this approach, he described how Japan rose up from the ravages of World War II to become an economic superpower by investing in inclusive education and promoting technological advancement.

Sonoura underscored the necessity of blending traditional values into a country’s education system, highlighting Japan’s curricula which incorporate elements of Confucianism and the Samurai ethos.

He also stressed the importance of creating an environment that stimulates innovation, especially in the wake of advances in fields like artificial intelligence. Japan is working to create such an environment, Sonoura pointed out, by promoting automated driving, harnessing hydrogen energy and developing new drugs and treatments.
“The key objective is to achieve a sustainable country, not just sustainability of one sector”

Instilling ethical values is essential to combating hatred and retaining a nation’s sustainability, said His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The UAE’s sustainability comes from its religion, culture and history – values reinforced by the late Father of the Nation, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who created a balance between tradition, openness and the spirit of teamwork. Sheikh Saif urged people to rediscover their cultural roots and traditions, and to combine them with modern ideas in order to create a better tomorrow.

Sheikh Saif stressed that sustainability is ubiquitous and transcends national boundaries. He revealed that he had found its meaning in places as varied as the verses of the Holy Quran, Japan’s 150 year-old moral education system and the close ties between the UAE and India which span generations.
National **Arab Youth Strategy**

**HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Presidential Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

**HE Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui**  
Minister of State for Youth Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

“**Youth are our advisers and they are most qualified to work on a strategy designed for them**”

Passionate about encouraging the young people of the region, Sheikh Mansour emphasised that no one is more qualified to conceptualise Arab youth strategies than the young people themselves.

During the Summit’s Arab Youth Forum, 150 young men and women from 22 Arab countries gathered to share, discuss and present ideas, which ultimately culminated in the Arab Youth Strategy’s innovative initiatives.
Main Address: The Importance Of Global Responses To Global Issues

HE António Guterres
Secretary General of the United Nations

Becky Anderson
Anchor & Managing Editor for CNN Abu Dhabi, Moderator

“In a world in which everything is global, in which the problems are global, from climate change to the movement of people, there is no way countries can do it by themselves.”

Countries and international organisations need to embrace globalism and work together on an international scale, and restore the current deficit of trust between people and their governments, the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) told world leaders.

His Excellency António Guterres said unease had spread throughout the world in recent years, and governments needed to better interact with society, encourage young people to have their voices heard and empower those who felt marginalised or left behind.

Inequality could be tackled by closer collaboration, and the rise of xenophobia and populism should not just be condemned, but the root causes explored, including the feelings in some sectors of society that they must be afraid for themselves or their future.

Guterres, the former Prime Minister of Portugal who succeeded Ban Ki-moon in January 2017, said the UN needed to change across the board, improving its peace and security strategies, to recover the people’s belief and trust in its efforts.
Keynote Conversation: 
Navigating A Shifting Global Economic Landscape

HE Christine Lagarde  
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

Richard Quest  
Anchor & Correspondent for CNN, Moderator

“Regulation is watching the present based on the learnings of the past. But it is the future that’s going to be interesting”

The global economy is always changing, and countries must prepare for shocks, cyber attacks and tax, and invest wisely, advised the head of the global financial organisation, the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

While the financial outlook was promising for the United States (US). Her Excellency Christine Lagarde warned their gains could lead to economic problems elsewhere in the world.

Lagarde said the IMF had revised the US’s growth forecast, based on announcements from the Trump administration and from the president on social media. Tax reform and investment in infrastructure are expected, which could result in increases in inflation and interest rates.

Her advice to governments was to monitor their fiscal situation, reduce deficits and diversify their economies and sources of income. She said globalisation had greatly improved life for many around the world, but governments must consider how to help those disadvantaged by inequality and job losses.
Main Address: Education For Growth & Prosperity

HE Dr Jim Yong Kim
President of the World Bank Group

“The private sector is the engine of growth – government the driver, education the fuel”

Identifying markets, politics and learning as forces for change, His Excellency Dr Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group, asked the audience what they should do to make tomorrow more peaceful and prosperous.

He advised the private sector to channel new investment into developing countries in order to improve their ability to innovate, create new jobs and raise incomes.

For governments, Dr Kim presented a four-point plan for fostering innovation: level playing fields, transparent legislation, open competition for contracts, and technology to listen and respond to the needs of citizens.

Education, however, was Dr Kim’s main focus, as it powers economic growth and prosperity, and promotes peace and societal cohesion. Announcing the launch of The Platform for Education, which will convene annually alongside the World Government Summit, he exhorted governments and educators alike to invest in early years learning, rethink how children are taught and how they learn, and provide relevant skills for the jobs of tomorrow.
Main Address: The Challenges Of **Globalism**

**Prof Klaus Schwab**
Founder & Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum

**HE Mohammad Abdulla Al Gergawi**
Minister of Cabinet Affairs & The Future of the United Arab Emirates, Chairman of the World Government Summit, Moderator

“Fixing the present system is not enough”

There is a reason to be optimistic for the future was the message of Professor Klaus Schwab, who described his vision of a world which is turning away from a fragile and hostile outlook and towards a more positive, global optimism.

By embracing advances in technology and encouraging collaboration within and between organisations, Prof Schwab said a bright future is one option. The world, however, is at a crossroads between the rise of neoliberalism and globalisation, and a resulting backlash by millions of people who feel more disadvantaged than ever. The alternative approach, putting up walls and focusing on a world more ‘anchored in yesterday’ is characterised by fragility and hostility, so a third way – a new way of working together – must be developed.

The world is a global community with a joint destiny, which is facing nuclear, environmental and health issues which could bring humanity to its knees. By working together and integrating national and regional identities these issues can be resolved, he assured.
Main Address: The Private Sector’s Role In Developing Successful Economies

Sir Suma Chakrabarti
President of the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development

“For MENA, the private sector can best deliver the sustainable growth the region needs”

For the private sector to fully contribute to sustainable growth in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), several barriers need to be dismantled, said Sir Suma Chakrabarti.

Based on the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development’s (EBRD) experience elsewhere, and projects already underway, Chakrabarti believes this is possible, but there is still more work to be done.

The private sector is particularly vital in MENA due to the region’s burgeoning youth population and struggle to create meaningful employment. The state and informal private sector both play a role, but the dynamism and scale required can only come from the formal private sector.

To maximise its involvement, issues such as corruption, political instability, trade restrictions and skills gaps need addressing, explained Chakrabarti. Outlining emerging EBRD work in these areas, he was optimistic that the barriers can be overcome, ultimately creating growth, raising living standards and tackling economic migration.
Towards A Multilateralism Of Knowledge: Building Resilient Societies Through Education & Innovation

HE Irina Bokova
Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization

“The ultimate renewable energy is human ingenuity; we should unleash this through education”

In a summit that she felt had been driven by ideas, Her Excellency Irina Bokova, the first woman to head the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO), pinpointed the three concepts she felt were most critical: education, innovation and social inclusion.

Addressing the global imbalance in these is the most compelling task facing governments, she urged.

On the one hand, many parts of the world are better connected than ever before, and vast opportunities exist. On the other, several groups are suffering through exclusion – particularly women and young people.

She encouraged leaders to improve inclusion, to target education with investment and renewed political vigour, and to promote innovation as the way forward.

A new leadership is required for all governments, she concluded. One that forges new partnerships at every level and mobilises a new form of collective action, from laboratories to boardrooms, front rooms to meeting rooms.
The Future Of
Humanitarian Aid

HRH Princess Haya bint Al Hussein
Chairperson of International Humanitarian City

"Humanity is our responsibility. This is what future generations will judge us by."

Global responses to crises are stuck using outdated models, and as a result, the humanitarian sector lacks creativity, innovation and technology, said Her Royal Highness Princess Haya bint Al Hussein, who is recognised around the world for her prolific humanitarian work.

Governments have the power to make decisions and solve current crises, HRH Princess Haya reminded the audience, which puts them in a prime position to empower the humanitarian sector to continue fulfilling its mission.

She stressed the need for a more dynamic approach to providing humanitarian aid, one which is better equipped to respond to the world’s growing need. As an example, she described measures taken by the United Arab Emirates – the world's most generous donor according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development – including International Humanitarian City (IHC), which unites major players under one roof. She called on governments to join IHC in creating a global hub for data on aid logistics and advanced technological services for relief workers.
Main Address: Improved Global Governance To Meet Our Shared Challenges

HE Helen Clark
Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

“There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”

Her Excellency Helen Clark, the first woman to head the United Nations Development Programme, admitted that effective global governance was struggling in the peace and security realm but urged countries to address the root causes of conflict to build and sustain peace.

Institutions of global governance, which Clark described as the governance needed to tackle challenges that are beyond the capacity of individual nations to resolve on their own, have to continually refresh themselves to remain relevant.

Expressing concern over a sharp rise in conflicts and terrorism, Clark underlined that development deficits must be tackled to build a more peaceful world.

Clark, who served for nine years as the Prime Minister of New Zealand, highlighted calls for greater representation and voice for emerging economies, but also stressed that regional and sub-regional trade agreements left smaller economies disadvantaged when negotiating with more powerful economies outside the multilateral framework.
The Value Of Trade: Growing Economies, Improving Lives

HE Macky Sall
President of Senegal

HE Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem
Chairman & CEO of DP World

Richard Quest
Anchor & Correspondent for CNN, Moderator

His Excellency Macky Sall, President of Senegal, and His Excellency Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman and CEO of leading ports operator DP World, stressed the importance of defending free trade amid growing fears of protectionism, especially on the United States’ part.

Sall highlighted that all economies are interdependent. He said no country, regardless of its size or power, can survive alone in a globalised world.

Allaying fears surrounding the current economic climate, bin Sulayem described the anti-globalisation sentiments as a phase that would pass without impacting trade too extensively.

With DP World managing the Dakar container terminal and developing a logistics free zone in Senegal, both of them underlined the importance of public-private partnership in developing infrastructure in emerging markets.

According to bin Sulayem, the biggest opportunities for growth now lie in the world’s emerging markets, including Africa, Latin America, and Central and South-East Asia.
Main Address: 

**Smart & Sustainable Slovenia**

**HE Miro Cerar**  
Prime Minister of Slovenia

“For a prosperous future, it is necessary to integrate sustainability in our way of life, state policies and business models”

His Excellency Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of Slovenia, detailed his country’s strategy to foster a society based on solidarity and tolerance, while also creating a truly sustainable economy and environment.

Slovenia’s plan to secure a viable future revolves around three principles: ethics and moral values, cooperation and a strong awareness of sustainability’s importance. Declaring youth the driving force of progress, Cerar also pointed out that education would be a crucial stepping stone in implementing the country’s strategy.

Cerar discussed his country’s push to enter the digital age, recognising that technological breakthroughs, scientific discoveries and the sharing of knowledge are all essential to their goal. He emphasised, however, that progress in any form should not come at the expense of society’s well-being. Moral values, ethics and caring for the environment are just as vital as advances in science and technology, Cerar concluded.
The Role Of Government In Achieving Happiness

HE Tshering Tobgay
Prime Minister of Bhutan

“Happiness is important so, why don't governments take it seriously? It should be a public good rather than an individual pursuit”

Bhutan has replaced gross domestic product (GDP) with ‘gross national happiness' (GNH), and made the well-being of its citizens the overarching priority of the government, said the Prime Minister of Bhutan.

For more than three decades, Bhutan has let GNH steer the development of government policies, explained His Excellency Tshering Tobgay. Based on equitable social development, cultural preservation, conservation of the environment and promotion of good governance, GNH principles are integrated into all aspects of life.

Tobgay highlighted the importance of GNH and how it is changing lives for the better. A GNH screening tool assesses new government policies against 22 indicators that influence happiness such as equity, transparency, anti-corruption, gender, pollution, public health and stress. He also explained how GNH surveys gather a wealth of information, which is used to revise government policy to enhance happiness.

Happiness should be a public good rather than an individual pursuit, stressed Tobgay, and governments must take it seriously.
“... a minimum of sixty percent of Bhutan’s total land shall be maintained under forest cover for all time”

Constitution of Bhutan
Our Climate Is Changing, Our Food Must Too

HE Tshering Tobgay
Prime Minister of Bhutan

HE José Graziano Da Silva
Director General of the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

HE Patricia Espinosa
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

HE Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
Minister of Climate Change & Environment of the United Arab Emirates, Moderator

Life will get worse for the world’s poorest people if governments, international organisations and industry do not work together to reduce food waste and act against global warming, His Excellency Tshering Tobgay warned during a panel discussion moderated by His Excellency Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.

He said the world has never been as well off as it is now, and with effort, poverty could be eradicated. Without the willingness of individuals to change the way they consume, however, food security will falter, most affecting poor communities whose livelihoods rely on agriculture.

His Excellency José Graziano Da Silva urged that political commitment was needed to share knowledge and existing technology with the world’s poorest farmers.

Her Excellency Patricia Espinosa pointed out that if food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitter of carbon dioxide.

The three panellists called for a united effort to take climate change seriously and to work together to overcome the challenges it creates, acknowledging that this will require every individual to do their part.
The Future Of Nuclear Energy

HE Yukiya Amano
Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Philippe Jamet
Former Commissioner of the French Nuclear Safety Authority

HE Amb Hamad Al Kaabi
Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Moderator

In a panel discussion moderated by His Excellency Ambassador Hamad Al Kaabi, His Excellency Yukiya Amano of the International Atomic Energy Agency and Philippe Jamet, former Commissioner of the French Nuclear Safety Authority, both agreed that there is immense potential for nuclear energy, but at the same time a note of caution is needed regarding how it can be deployed safely.

Highlighting the 60 new reactors currently being built, Amano relayed that the International Atomic Energy Agency anticipates sector growth of up to 56% by 2030. Training, standards and other steps are also on positive trajectories.

Safety remains vital as this happens, added Jamet. He advocated major investment in the overall framework around safety – regulatory, legal and technical. In addition, nations need to prepare for emergencies.

Concluding with the topic of waste disposal, the speakers agreed that social acceptance remains an additional key challenge if the nuclear industry is to fulfil its undoubted potential.
A Conversation With
Elon Musk

Elon Musk
Co-founder, CEO & Product Architect of Tesla Inc, Founder, CEO & Chief Technology Officer of SpaceX, Co-founder & Chairman of SolarCity

HE Mohammad Abdulla Al Gergawi
Minister of Cabinet Affairs & The Future of the United Arab Emirates, Chairman of the World Government Summit, Moderator

"Being out there among the stars is important for the long-term survival of humanity"

While Musk was emphatic that it was impossible to predict the future, he shared some of his aspirations. Never one to dream small, he said that he hopes people will become a multi-planetary species with the ability to live on other planets and travel to nearby galaxies.

Musk warned that AI poses a great threat to our current way of life. He believes that it will be unusual for a person to drive their own car within the next 10 years, and foresees automation causing mass unemployment, first in the transport sector and then across the board.
One On One With Reid Hoffman

Reid Hoffman
Co-founder & Executive Chairman of LinkedIn, Partner at Greylock Partners

Fred Kofman
Vice President of Leadership & Organizational Development at LinkedIn, Moderator

“As a leader, you should feel comfortable saying: “We called this bit wrong; here is how we are readjusting”

Successful governments can learn from the kinds of agile, entrepreneurial companies that have transformed both the business landscape and people’s everyday lives.

According to Reid Hoffman, Co-founder and Executive Chairman of LinkedIn, there are five transferable aspects:
1. Willingness to take risks
2. Ability to accept failure as part of the process
3. Knowing how to communicate ideas, not just create them
4. Learning from others
5. Continuously developing an idea well past its initial stage

Hoffman asserted that the concept of taking risks holds the most value. It is an intrinsic part of Silicon Valley success stories, yet runs counter to normal government practices in many ways. All truly big ideas and good strategies, however, incorporate some element of uncertainty – therefore adopting an attitude that embraces risk, along with policies that manage it, can be seen as a vital course for governments to pursue.
A Digital World & The Benefit For All People

John Chambers
Executive Chairman of Cisco Systems

John Defteros
Emerging Markets Editor for CNNMoney, Moderator

“The challenges to going digital are cultural, and overcoming them starts with leaders who are willing to reinvent themselves”

John Chambers, Executive Chairman of Cisco Systems, urged world leaders to unite as he explained that digitalisation could transform the life of every citizen of the world. The evolution, which will have a greater effect on society than the internet, will only be possible with the right leadership and training, he said.

Countries and companies must be willing to change, embrace a start-up culture and have the courage to reinvent themselves as the market transitions. The reward could be a worldwide economic impact of $19 trillion, or 1 to 3% GDP growth in every country, over the next 10 years. The benefits to society could include jobs, growth, education, healthcare and security, with the potential even to stabilise the Middle East region and lead to long-lasting peace.
The Future Of Urban Mobility

**Travis Kalanick**
Co-founder & CEO of Uber Technologies Inc

**Becky Anderson**
Anchor & Managing Editor for CNN Abu Dhabi, Moderator

“We look at our work as serving cities, celebrating cities and making them better”

Driverless cars could eliminate reckless speeding, drunk-driving and general bad driving habits, the founder of Uber Technologies told government leaders. Despite having difficulties around the world relating to the regulation of his services, Travis Kalanick shared his vision for transport’s future. He said the role of the regulator should be about “embracing the future, embracing progress and bringing progress to the people”.

Describing one crucial benefit of autonomous transportation, Kalanick stated that whereas 1.3 million people die from car-related incidents every year, and tens of millions are seriously injured, “when self-driving technology is out there in force, no more people will die in cars”.

Progress potentially opens up new technical issues, however, Kalanick acknowledged. “Once movement in cities becomes autonomous, there is going to be a whole set of interesting robotic and artificial intelligence challenges.” This explains the rationale that investment and research into robotics will become a crucial part of Uber’s future.
In a panel discussion moderated by Ashish Thakkar, His Excellency Alpha Condé and His Excellency Dr Mahamudu Bawumia asserted that although the rest of the world has many misconceptions about Africa, the continent has great potential to 'leapfrog' development – or skip less efficient, more expensive, polluting technologies and move directly to more advanced ones.

Condé explained that Africa faces challenges in the areas of energy, new technology and infrastructure. He believes, however, the very young, educated population is the continent’s greatest asset in overcoming these obstacles.

Leveraging technology, said Dr Bawumia, is also key to Africa’s development efforts. He explained that many countries have already begun leapfrogging. For example, one country, which had no existing addressing system, had foregone conventional mapping and addressing methods and instead implemented digital addresses with unique GPS codes for each property.

Africa is largely underestimated by the rest of the world because it ‘missed the first three industrial revolutions’, but both leaders were adamant that it most certainly would not miss the fourth.
Innovation Belongs To Our Youth

Fatima Al Kaabi
Inventor

Thomas Suarez
Founder & Chief Engineer of CarrotCorp Inc

Omar Obaid Bin Butti
Presenter & Producer for Dubai One, Moderator

How can young people turn their ideas and dreams into reality? How can the innovators of tomorrow start today?

Two young pioneers who have taken that journey, Thomas Suarez and Fatima Al Kaabi, shared their advice and insight in a revealing discussion session moderated by Omar Obaid Bin Butti. In the words of Al Kaabi, their generation has a strong desire not just to be the generation of today, but also the generation of tomorrow.

In relating their own stories of innovation – which included Suarez giving a TedEx talk at the age of 12 and Al Kaabi masterminding multiple inventions by age 15 – the pair presented a blueprint for innovators of any age and nationality.

They emphasised the need for entrepreneurs to stay true to their convictions, the value of open source resources in innovation, the role of governments in motivating young innovators and the importance of believing in a cause for fuelling creativity.
لقاء WORLD
المملكة GOVERNMENT
للحكومات SUMMIT
Innovative Electricity & Water Generation Projects To Improve Efficiency

HE Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer
CEO & Managing Director of Dubai Electricity & Water Authority

"We have adopted a holistic vision for the energy sector, covering issues such as energy security, energy efficiency, sustainability and its rational use"

By 2030, 100% of Dubai’s desalinated water will be produced using clean energy, while 25% of its power will be generated via solar energy, said His Excellency Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, head of Dubai Electricity & Water Authority, revealing Dubai’s future energy plans.

Reverse osmosis – the process used to desalinate water – driven by solar energy is also set to reduce the cost of converting seawater into clean drinking water, he said.

Al Tayer emphasised that Dubai realises the importance of balancing the shift to alternative energy and meeting the emirate’s current and future energy needs. He highlighted the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, which aims to provide 75% of Dubai’s energy from clean energy sources by 2050, transforming Dubai into the city with the lowest carbon footprint in the world.

Al Tayer also revealed that the upcoming Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park would be capable of providing 25% of Dubai’s total power output by 2030.
Self-Driving Transport: Global Challenges & Opportunities

HE Mattar Al Tayer
Director General & Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of the Dubai Roads & Transport Authority

"Technology isn’t for the advancement of machines. It’s for the progression of people"

Summing up both global progress and specific projects in Dubai, His Excellency Mattar Al Tayer, who heads Dubai’s Roads & Transport Authority, set out the steps already taken and those still needed to make autonomous transport practical, not just possible.

After outlining the billions of dollars invested by firms such as Apple, Daimler, Volvo and Tesla, as well the $600 million that governments have put into research, Al Tayer identified the four challenges still facing the development of self-driving transport:

1. Infrastructure requirements, including mapping and road markings
2. Laws and legislation
3. Safety and public acceptance
4. Technological issues, such as controlling multiple sensors on multiple vehicles

He also described Dubai’s progress, where the government is spearheading a strategy to make 25% of all journeys smart and driverless by 2030. Other aims include cutting environmental pollution by 12%, accidents by 12% and parking infrastructure by 50%.
Happiness: A Serious Business For Government

HE Freddy Ehlers Zurita
State Secretary for the Presidential Initiative for the Construction of a Society of Good Life of Ecuador

HE Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi
Minister of State for Happiness of the United Arab Emirates, Vice Chairman of the World Government Summit

HE Alenka Smerkolj
Minister for Development, Strategic Projects & Cohesion of Slovenia

Becky Anderson
Anchor & Managing Editor for CNN Abu Dhabi, Moderator

In a panel discussion moderated by CNN’s Becky Anderson, three government officials from around the globe explained how their countries are working to instil happiness in citizens.

Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, the first Minister of State for Happiness of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), described the three pillars her office focuses on to create a happier UAE: to align government policies to serve the overall happiness of society, to measure happiness to better understand it and to promote happiness as a lifestyle.

In Slovenia, Her Excellency Alenka Smerkolj is taking charge of promoting happiness. Smerkolj described Slovenia’s strategy to build a happier nation by 2050, which involves focusing on improving the environment and the economy.

His Excellency Freddy Ehlers Zurita elaborated on how citizens in Ecuador are provided tools to build a happy life from an early age. Children are given a copy of A Book of All the Children – a colourful book that teaches important lessons about values, which are then reinforced in classrooms.
Co-Existing: Transcending Borders Of Culture, Race & Religion

HE Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi
Minister of State for Tolerance of the United Arab Emirates

HE Amb Omar Saif Ghobash
United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Russia

John Defterios
Emerging Markets Editor for CNNMoney, Moderator

At a time when extremism and populism are major international concerns, instilling tolerance in the youth is key to keeping radicalism and fundamentalism at bay regardless of region or religion, Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi and His Excellency Ambassador Omar Saif Ghobash emphasised during their discussion with John Defterios.

Sheikha Lubna, Minister of State for Tolerance of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), highlighted how all world religions emphasise the love of people and humanity. She stressed that religions should focus on instilling tolerance in young people by passing on positive, uplifting values to future generations in order to combat extremism.

Ghobash, the UAE’s Ambassador to Russia and author of Letters to a Young Muslim, also underlined the role religious sermons play in radicalisation. Religious institutions should focus on delivering only positive messages, particularly to young people, he said.
Shaping The Future Of International Development Cooperation: The UAE’s Foreign Aid

HE Reem Al Hashimy
Minister of State for International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates

"Only through working together will we be able to achieve the shared vision of a better world"

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government is dedicated to building a better world and helping other countries in desperate need of support.

Announcing the launch of the UAE’s Foreign Assistance Policy, Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy, the UAE’s Minister of State for International Cooperation and the Chairperson of Dubai Cares, demonstrated how the new initiative will achieve this goal.

The ambitious project is ‘powered by the principle of partnership and collaboration’ and aims to promote global peace and prosperity by working alongside other countries. Al Hashimy vowed to continue the UAE’s role as a ‘thought partner’, a position she feels will help provide an innovative and resilient approach to foreign aid.

The policy consists of six programmes which aim to help the most desperate countries, refugees and those living in poverty. The government will work to develop country partnerships, rebuild infrastructure, develop education programmes for women and girls, increase aid to crises and develop knowledge sharing with international partners.
Main Address: **Where Is Happiness On The Global Agenda?**

**HE Helen Clark**
Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

"Money is an important contributor to our well-being, but it is, of course, far from being everything"

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator, Her Excellency Helen Clark, applauded organisations across the world that are talking openly about happiness and human welfare as they look for alternative ways of measuring development and well-being.

The UNDP has been using a composite index to report on human development since 1990, but now countries from the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates have begun looking to happiness as a driver for policy.

Money is far from everything in life, she said, and the UNDP’s development goals, Agenda 2030, acknowledge that. They set out sustainable development goals – including key goals for health and governance – that go beyond the ‘tyranny’ of traditional economic measures.

If the world is serious about improving human well-being, it must also be serious about achieving those goals, she said.
Main Address: Enabling The Future Of Successful Governments

HE Mari Kiviniemi
Deputy Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

“The scale and diversity of today’s challenges mean we need to reflect on the future implications of policy decisions”

In her opening address to the World Government Summit, former Finnish Prime Minister Her Excellency Mari Kiviniemi identified six characteristics the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) believes are critical to governing effectively. These have been developed through its enduring role as a global hub for governance and, more recently, through its close partnership with the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

1. Act with transparency to rebuild public trust and ensure good governance
2. React to challenges and complexity with continuous innovation
3. Increase the inclusiveness of women and youth, especially in regions where this may lag behind global standards
4. Participate and engage thoroughly in public life to encourage people to create their own futures
5. Enhance the well-being of citizens. This is the ultimate role of any government, including those at municipal and regional levels
6. Rebuild trust in institutions in order to serve citizens better
Leading The Way In **Education:**
What Can Governments Do?

**HE Krista Kiuru**
Member of the Parliament of Finland

**HE Prof Mohammad Thneibat**
Former Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Education of Jordan

**Dr Zhang Minxuan**
Former President of Shanghai Normal University

**Gwang-Jo Kim**
Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization in Bangkok

**Safaa El Tayeb El-Kogali**
Education Practice Manager for the Middle East & North Africa of the World Bank Group

**Kim Ghattas**
International Affairs Correspondent for BBC, Moderator

Her Excellency Krista Kiuru, His Excellency Professor Mohammad Thneibat, Dr Zhang Minxuan, Safaa El Tayeb El-Kogali and Gwang-Jo Kim tackled questions surrounding the private sector’s role in education, where governments should focus their efforts, and the notion of a universal curriculum.

The five panellists agreed that governments should concentrate on early childhood education first as many regions, including the Middle East and North Africa, fall short in this area. The prime solution, they suggested, is providing enough quality teachers.

Preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow was also identified as a vital new goal. This should, however, be balanced with ensuring students are happy and that they learn to live together, the speakers advised.

The panel also debated that, while nations should not necessarily copy each other’s approaches, they should exchange ideas and teachers, enlighten one another, and share values. Finally, they proposed that while the private sector is essential, it must partner with governments to avoid exacerbating inequalities in education.
The Anatomy Of A Future Leader

Robin Sharma
Author & Leadership Expert

“Your job as a leader is to inspire people to do work they have never done, to own talents they have never discovered and to allow the bigness within them to see the light of day.”

Everyone is capable of genius, according to the motivational speaker Robin Sharma. Rather than any innate talent, what great leaders, athletes and business people have in common is devotion and a commitment to perfection.

Sharma, an author of numerous books on leadership, told leaders in government and business who had travelled from across the world to convene at the World Government Summit, that they should pursue a ‘mighty mission’ that is greater than themselves to feed their motivation.

To become world class, one should stay away from distractions like social media and technology, and instead create an environment in which they can dedicate themselves to being exceptional. He also advised to avoid the arrogance of success.

“We all want to be world class, be great leaders and live meaningful lives. Yet we are not thinking the thoughts, performing the rituals, or creating the environments that would result in a world-class life,” he said.
The Rise & Fall Of Global Economic Governance

Prof Joseph Stiglitz
Nobel Laureate in Economic Sciences, University Professor at Columbia University

Naser El Tibi
Senior Producer & Presenter for Al Arabiya News Channel, Moderator

“Societies with more inequality are more unstable and have, on average, less growth”

Nobel Prize-winning economist Professor Joseph Stiglitz contradicted the old idea of ‘trickle-down’ economics, where booming wealth at the top naturally benefits those further down the economic scales.

To support his assertion, he cited statistics from Oxfam, an international coalition of charitable organisations working to end poverty. Every year, Oxfam calculates how big a vehicle they would need to transport the world’s richest people – those whose collective wealth equals that held by the poorest half of the world.

In 2014, that bus would have carried 88 people. By 2017, a minivan carrying just eight men would do the job.

Inequality costs economies dearly, Prof Stiglitz warned, but with a focus on high-quality education and access to healthcare and housing, governments can find the right ‘third way’ – something between the restrictive Iron Curtain approach and unfettered markets – to bring living conditions and life expectancies out of 50 years of stagnation.
The Power Of \textbf{Being Positive}

\textbf{Dr Martin Seligman}
Director of the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania

"Happiness is a plausible, achievable political goal"

The idea that our primary goal should be to reduce human misery and suffering as much as possible is a political dead end, said Dr Martin Seligman, who is considered the founder of positive psychology. Instead, happiness should be targeted as one’s ambition, he advised.

A leading psychologist for 40 years, Dr Seligman pinpointed three factors influencing this shift in perspective.

1. The idea of affecting happiness at group levels has only emerged recently
2. Through social media monitoring, happiness and well-being can now be measured better than ever before
3. The work of Dubai in promoting happiness is setting the standard for governments around the world

The main benefit of putting happiness on the political agenda, he asserted, is that happy people are people who try, never give up and have hope for the future. All these are vital qualities for a more innovative, prosperous and harmonious world.
“In promoting happiness and related policies we should never forget the larger serious issues of the world”

Unhappiness should be a consideration in the measurement of happiness, Dasho Karma Ura has advised other governments. Heralded as a pioneer in implementing happiness as a key government policy, Bhutan was among the first to conduct a national survey on happiness.

The president of the Centre of Bhutan Studies & Gross National Happiness explained that the main function of the country’s Gross National Happiness Survey is to discover which, where and why people are not happy, and what governments, organisations and individuals could and should do to improve it.

He warned that any government that wishes to encourage happiness and related policies should be careful never to forget the larger serious issues affecting the world and how they in turn upset efforts to promote happiness.

Family and relationships, good health and money were cited as important to happiness, as well as a low level of negative emotions.
The Next 100 Years: Exploring Scenarios For Governments

Dr George Friedman
Founder & Chairman of Geopolitical Futures
Zeina Yazigi
Anchor for Sky News Arabia, Moderator

“The world will need leaders prepared to challenge the norms of the past 70 years”

The twin solutions that shaped geopolitics since the end of World War II have come to an end, according to Dr George Friedman. The world is no longer bound together by multilateral organisations run by a technically skilled elite, and the belief that nationalism is a negative force that must be controlled so that it does not destroy us, as it threatened to do in the 20th century, is also obsolete.

In their place, the world is witnessing a new era of nationalism, contended Dr Friedman. People’s right to national self-determination is reasserting itself as the force shaping international relations.

With this will come a number of challenges and opportunities. For example, there will be substantial internal instability within nations and new countries will rise on the global stage – such as Poland and Turkey. Moreover, the world will need strong leaders who can look beyond those old solutions and denounce the norms of the past 70 years to find new ways of operating.
How Can We *Stay Happy* In The Age Of Robots & Technology?

**Shawn Achor**  
Founder of GoodThink Inc, Author of *The Happiness Advantage*

“Every business and education outcome improves when our brains are positive first”

People can ‘train’ their brains to be happy like they can train any other muscle. As people all over the world are depressed and struggling to find happiness in today’s world, Shawn Achor confessed that, despite being one of the world’s leading experts on the connection between happiness and success, he also experienced depression for two years while he was a student at Harvard University.

He said he used the methods he had learned studying happiness to help him overcome his problems, namely taking a positive approach, because viewing the world through a persistently negative filter would train the brain to keep that pattern.

Achor advocated a solution called ‘happiness hygiene’ – thinking of three new things to be grateful for and why for two minutes every day while brushing one’s teeth. Over the course of time, these positive thoughts could dramatically change someone’s outlook on life, he said.
Values & Dreams: 
Antidotes To Radicalisation

Scott Atran
Director of Research in Anthropology at the National Center for Scientific Research

Yasser Al Amro
Anchor for MBC, Moderator

"Civilisations rise and fall on cultural ideas, not material assets alone"

Offering insight into the psyche of terror groups, renowned anthropologist Scott Atran explained that a committed belief in sacred values fused with a strong group identity gives rise to maximum willingness to fight, die, torture, kill and even lose your family.

Atran was among a team of academics and policymakers who investigated the will to fight among extremist groups. In their research, the team discovered that the sacred values motivating these groups to fight were so powerful because they are immune to normal cost-benefit trade-offs, do not respond to material incentives and even have unique neural signatures.

Faced with this data, Atran proposed that the best antidote to radicalisation is to replace these motivating negative values with a set of constructive sacred values. This is best accomplished through actively engaging youth on a global scale, and spreading a message that binds people together beyond self-interest, he emphasised.
Inside The Most Dangerous Minds

Prof Arie Kruglanski
Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of Maryland

Yasser Al Amro
Anchor for MBC, Moderator

“We have to try to reduce feelings of insignificance through education and policy. Our governments have to understand the individual quest for dignity.”

The heinous atrocities perpetrated by extremists the world over would surely make them seem insane, but renowned social psychologist Professor Arie Kruglanski revealed that terrorists are not mentally ill.

That does not mean they are normal either, he asserted. Extremism, according to Kruglanski, can be defined as wilful deviation from general norms of conduct.

So what drives thousands of people to pick up a weapon, risk their lives or don a suicide belt in order to kill others?

Prof Kruglanski, a distinguished professor of psychology at the University of Maryland, explained that the different motivations for violent extremism include honour, respect, the promise of heaven and adoration of a leader, among others. The common underlying factor, however, is the desire to feel important, which he refers to as the ‘quest for significance’.

He stressed that when a given motivation is so strong that it overshadows other needs, like love and family, it creates an imbalance that often leads to extremism.
What Is The Future Of Happiness?

**Sir Richard Layard**
Programme Director for the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics

**Prof Jeffrey Sachs**
Special Adviser to United Nations Secretary General António Guterres on the Sustainable Development Goals, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development at Columbia University

**Prof John Helliwell**
Senior Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research & Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of British Columbia

**Richard Quest**
Anchor & Correspondent for CNN, Moderator

Sir Richard Layard, Professor Jeffrey Sachs and Professor John Helliwell, educators who have devoted most of their lives to researching what makes people happy, discussed six key factors required for happiness.

Authored by the panellists, the United Nations’ *World Happiness Report* cited income, a healthy life expectancy, freedom to make key life decisions, trust in government or industry, generosity and having someone to count on as the six main contributors to a happy life. On the other hand,

Layard revealed that poor mental health has a huge negative impact on happiness.

Prof Helliwell advised that the first step towards happiness is for people to communicate. Prof Sachs agreed, adding that there is nothing preventing the spread of happiness in the world.

To help leaders affect a person’s happiness level, the educators agreed that world leaders should be asking “are you happy with your life?” instead of asking if citizens are content with their police or health service.
Enabling Youth To Shape
Their Future In Collaboration With
The United Nations Development Programme

HE Helen Clark
Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Dr Jad Chaaban
Associate Professor of Economics at the American University of Beirut

Deborah Wetzel
Senior Director for Governance Global Practice at the World Bank

Rolf Alter
Director for Public Governance & Territorial Development of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

Ayman Al Sayyad
Editor in Chief of Weghat Nazar Magazine, Moderator

Young people aged 15 to 29 make up a third of the Arab states’ population, and those under 15 make up another third.

With such a large demographic wave pushing its way through the region, the challenge of engaging with, empowering and providing opportunities for young people is massive.

Her Excellency Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, spoke alongside economist Dr Jad Chaaban, the World Bank’s Deborah Wetzel and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development’s Rolf Alter in a discussion moderated by the Egyptian writer Ayman Al Sayyad, to address this challenge.

To ensure a good quality of life, youth in the Arab world need better education, housing and health services.

All four panellists also agreed that young people need the chance to engage politically and participate in civic life. Even when their trust in governments is low and the region is wracked by conflict, their role in achieving peace and stability needs to be built and strengthened.
The Japanese Model
In Diplomacy

Dr Tomoko Kitagawa
Specialist in Japanese History, Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley

"The position they were in at that time could be similar to many places we live right now"

With no government in place, the country’s 250 domains each vied for power in bloody and fierce battles. The two women, however, used the ‘power of the pen’ to foster diplomatic negotiations.

Dr Kitagawa explained how Higashi wrote letters to her brother and son as they fought each other in battle and persuaded them to call a truce.

Nei, Japan’s original first lady, also sent letters to diplomats which helped to unify Japan, focusing on negotiation and avoiding instability, a message that remains relevant in today’s diplomatic negotiations.

At the end of the 16th century Japan was at war. Yet lessons can still be learned from the women who managed to unify the country, stated a historian from the World Government Summit 2017’s guest country.

Dr Tomoko Kitagawa, a specialist in Japanese history, told the story of the two Lady Samurai, Higashi and Nei.
Festival
The Japanese Model In
Behavioural Engineering

Morinosuke Kawaguchi
Futurist, Innovation Expert & Founder of Morinoske Company Ltd

"Humanisation provides sustainability"

Innovation expert Morinosuke Kawaguchi discussed how Japan embraces its history and culture, teaching even the youngest children about fairness and respect.

Kawaguchi looked at anime, a mainstay of contemporary Japanese culture, and its links with traditional Japanese culture. Cartoons teach children the basic themes of Sumo wrestling – skill can beat overwhelming odds, victors must respect the opposition and not show off, and how one wins is as important as winning itself.

The futurist also looked at companies’ mascots, present throughout the country. The cute, cartoonish figures bow, as if in apology for the slightest inconvenience, and are more human than ‘WARNING’ signs.

Major companies also maintain links to Japan’s history, with even bioscientists paying tribute with tombstones dedicated to the spirit of the bacteria they destroy.

Nowadays, said Kawaguchi, the things people use are functional and disposable. By holding on to its past, Japan has found a way to strengthen the connection between humans and products.
Flow: How Can We Optimise Our Life Experience?

Prof Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
Distinguished Professor of Psychology & Management at Claremont Graduate University

“You grow by experiencing flow”

Have you ever been so captivated by what you are doing that everything else seems to fade away?

A psychological concept in which a person feels complete and is living enraptured in the present is the subject of Professor Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi’s study.

The professor called it ‘flow’, and researchers have found that the people who experience flow are often living some of the happiest moments of their life.

While the psychologist, who is also the author of the best-selling book Flow: The Psychology of Optimal Experience, said he sees the phenomenon most often in people who have done great things with their lives, he revealed there was a simple and empowering formula to enable anyone to use their skills to derive joy from the things that they do.

To achieve flow, people should set clear goals, always know what they want to do next, seek continuous feedback on their performance and find the right balance between things that need to be accomplished and the skills at their disposal, Prof Csikszentmihalyi said.
What Is The Role Of Cities In Creating Happiness?

HE Dr Aisha Bin Bishr
Director General of Smart Dubai

HE Luis Alberto Mella Gajardo
Mayor of Quillota, Chile

Antanas Mockus
Former Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia

Mary Hanafin
County Councillor of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Dublin, Ireland

John Defterios
Emerging Markets Editor for CNNMoney, Moderator

CNN’s John Defterios sat down with Her Excellency Dr Aisha Bin Bishr of the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Luis Alberto Mella Gajardo of Chile, Antanas Mockus of Colombia and Mary Hanafin of Ireland to discuss the role of local governments in promoting happiness.

Dr Bin Bishr stressed the value of understanding the needs of different communities in a multicultural society. In a city like Dubai, which is home to 200 nationalities, this is fundamental to sustaining happiness and well-being.

Hanafin highlighted the importance of focusing first on housing and safety, as social inclusion and a strong sense of community are key factors in the happiness of citizens.

Gajardo said that his city is moving away from competing and towards collaboration in order to encourage happiness, while Mockus said economic goals and happiness must be balanced. Local governments need to change citizens’ mindsets on issues such as road safety to encourage happy behaviour, he explained.
What Works For Well-Being?
Lessons From The UK

Dr Paul Litchfield
Chairman of What Works Centre for Wellbeing

“A What Works Centre is about what works, why it works, how it works and trying to communicate that effectively”

Evidence-based practice is playing an increasingly important role in the study and development of well-being in the United Kingdom (UK). The What Works Centre for Wellbeing (WWCW) is bridging the gap between knowledge and action, said Chairman Dr Paul Litchfield, by reviewing the evidence and translating it into something meaningful that can be used to draft policy guidance.

Dr Litchfield, who champions the idea that good decision-making should be informed by the best evidence available, explained how the WWCW is one of nine independent What Works Centres in the UK. Each one focuses on a different issue such as well-being, health, education or crime.

Most recently, the WWCW has looked into how music and singing can improve well-being. Evidence from around the world showed that singing in community choirs improves well-being for older people, and listening to music may be an effective way to prevent mental health problems and alleviate anger in young offenders’ institutions.
Is It The **End Of Globalisation?**

**Prof Alan Krueger**  
Bendheim Professor of Economics & Public Affairs at Princeton University

**Zeina Yazigi**  
Anchor for Sky News Arabia, Moderator

"While a slowdown in global integration is natural, the concern now is that it could change abruptly" 

Several major trends are converging to threaten the path to further global integration, according to leading economist Professor Alan Krueger, a previous Chairman of former President of the United States, Barack Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers.

This ‘perfect storm’ could have significant consequences for economies and cultures across the world, he said.

Identifying three main issues that have all accelerated in recent years – growing income disparity, the impact of world trade on politics, and the associated resurgence of protectionism – Prof Krueger showed how these key factors are beginning to slow globalisation more than any time since the 1930s.

For this shift to be countered, he concluded that those forces – whether institutional or political – who value the benefits of integration between nations urgently need to come up with a more compelling message.

If they cannot, then the change in direction could be abrupt, with a resulting impact on everything from economic growth to quality of life across the globe.
Designing A Better Future For Food

Dan Glickman
Former United States Secretary of Agriculture,
Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Congressional Program

David Rosenberg
Co-founder & CEO of AeroFarms

Marc Zornes
CEO of Winnow

Greg Shewmaker
Founder of Food + Future coLAB, Moderator

The future of agriculture is changing more quickly than ever before. Governments are paying more attention to spending in the sector, and private companies are investing more money in new technology.

Dan Glickman, a former United States Secretary of Agriculture, in conversation with the pioneers of food technology companies, explained that while agriculture has been absent from the tech investment scene for the past 15 to 20 years, its return shows that there is money to be made and consumers are willing to accept new technologies.

Questions were asked by Greg Shewmaker, the founder of Food + Future, which launches ventures combining food, art and technology to develop a better understanding of food’s role in society.

Agriculture entrepreneur David Rosenberg explained the risks companies and farmers faced in developing new technology, but expressed confidence that positive progress could be made.

Marc Zornes discussed how food waste has risen on the agenda for governments and businesses, which expect more data availability to drive significant change.
Climate Change & Global Food Supply: What You Should Know

Dr Thomas Homer-Dixon
Centre for International Governance Innovation Chair of Global Systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs

Naoufer Ramoul
Anchor & Producer for Dubai TV, Moderator

"The world is going to be radically different, and as human beings we face enormous challenges"

By the middle of this century, global warming will dramatically alter the world’s food supply – and society is already far behind the curve in what it needs to do to adapt, warned Dr Thomas Homer-Dixon, an expert on the impacts of environmental stress and conflict.

While the situation might not feel severe right now, radical change is on the way. Citing independent climate change data, Dr Homer-Dixon predicted that the children of today will witness that change in the future. Every sector of food – agriculture, fisheries and livestock – faces huge challenges. Droughts, extreme temperatures, floods and more will occur beyond the parameters that current food production systems can cope with.

Not only is food production a 'victim' of global warming, it also generates between 18 and 29% of greenhouse gas emissions. Dr Homer-Dixon counselled that these emissions must be lowered and technological innovation must be invested in for humans to adapt and survive.
Is Happiness The New GDP?

Prof Andrew Oswald
Professor of Economics & Behavioural Science at the University of Warwick

“Human well-being is as fundamental as food, clean water and health”

Happiness is often overlooked by governments, and even the general public, as a measurement of developed societies.

Professor of Economics & Behavioural Science at the University of Warwick, Andrew Oswald, explained to the audience of government and business leaders that happiness should be regarded as a replacement for GDP, given that it is as fundamental to life as food, clean water and health.

Prof Oswald said that a reliable government, job satisfaction, positive social relationships, good mental health and the environment all have a major impact on a person’s well-being, with mental illness and chronic negative emotions acting as barriers to happiness.

More than simply a luxury, happiness among employees results in 6% higher business performance, and lower rates of staff turnover and sickness absence. Happy people are also healthier, live longer and make better citizens, being more likely to help in emergencies, donate to charity and give something back to their community.
Ancient Healing
For Modern Disease

Dr Andrew Weil
Founder & Program Director of the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine

“Healthcare is the responsibility of governments. It is in the interest of government to keep its citizens well and healthy and to improve well-being.”

Dr Andrew Weil, a key figure in integrative medicine, explained that modern medicine is fuelled by a for-profit system that is reliant on drugs. Yet doctors should focus on patient well-being, self-healing and healthy lifestyle choices.

Keen to differentiate between a healthcare system and disease management system, Dr Weil said that many developed nations have systems that “function very imperfectly, and get worse by the day”.

Integrative medical treatments are not anti-drug or anti-surgery, he clarified, and do not exclude conventional medicine. The emphasis is, however, on treating certain types of ailments, like chronic pain, with drugs, but addressing epidemics such as obesity with health promotion and disease prevention.

Dr Weil is an advocate of the human body’s ability to heal itself, but claimed this idea had been lost in the enthusiasm for technical solutions to solve all of mankind’s problems.
How **Advanced Science** Is Shaping The Future Of Governments

**Prof Brian Greene**
Co-founder & Chairman of the World Science Festival

“Investment in basic science creates a pervasive culture of discovery, of innovation, of exploration”

Investing in science for the sake of simply understanding our universe better is what really drives innovation, world-renowned theoretical physicist and best-selling author Professor Brian Greene said, captivating the audience of international policy-makers and leaders.

Humans are born with an innate desire to explore and understand our world, a quality that the best scientists harness to fuel their discoveries. Even if they do not originally intend for their experiments to lead to a practical application, any advancement of knowledge has the opportunity to encourage international collaboration and drive serious economic growth.

Prof Greene illustrated his point by describing two major scientific breakthroughs: the detection of gravitational waves and the discovery of quantum mechanics. Both innovations were made possible through the collaboration and investment of numerous countries working to answer questions. What began as an effort to satisfy human curiosity ultimately led to the development of a trillion-dollar consumer electronic industry.
Agile Governments: Survival In An Ever-Changing World

Steven Kotler
Co-founder & Director of Research of the Flow Genome Project

John Defterios
Emerging Markets Editor for CNNMoney, Moderator

“There are cognitive technologies that let us upgrade our brains so we can keep pace in an exponential world”

Visionary author and entrepreneur, Steven Kotler, transported the audience to a technology-driven world where new techniques help us perform better physically, and cognitive technologies upgrade our brains to keep pace with an ever-changing society.

These tremendous advances would lead to the possibility of ‘agile governments’ capable of adapting in times of extremely rapid change.

Kotler pointed out that science and technology are advancing by leaps and bounds. The human brain, however, was not designed to move at this speed or think at this scale, he stressed, suggesting that it too needs to be upgraded.

The Flow Genome Project, of which Kotler is a co-founder, addresses this very issue. It teaches practitioners to tap into ultimate human performance by being in an optimal state of consciousness, or state of ‘flow’, which enhances performance and productivity by 500%. The flow state, Kotler contended, is a tool for governments, which can increase their ability to respond and adapt to the unique challenges and opportunities of today’s world.
“Where we see populations with particularly spry 80, 90 or 100 year-olds... the key is that longevity happened to them. It was not something they pursued”

Dan Buettner, an American explorer, researcher and writer, has spent more than a decade tracking down the healthiest, longest-lived communities on the planet and trying to replicate their results.

His biggest discovery, Buettner told the Summit, is that communities which produce a plethora of spry elderly people do so not because people decide they want to live to see 100. Instead, he said, longevity is the result of an environment which makes nurturing happiness a priority.

He began researching longevity earnestly in 2003, when he went looking for ‘blue zones’ – longevity hotspots where people live significantly longer, healthier and happier lives than the rest of the world.

From there, he helped launch the United States’ largest preventative healthcare project, which works to create blue zones in American towns and cities. His successes, including Albert Lea, Minnesota, and Fort Worth, Texas, offer lessons that can help health and happiness interventions all over the world.
The Evolution Of **Food**

**Caleb Harper**  
Principal Investigator & Director of the Open Agriculture Initiative at the MIT Media Lab

**Naoufer Ramoul**  
Anchor & Producer for Dubai TV, Moderator

"We’re asking for better, more sustainable, more nutritious food"

Young people need to be inspired by innovation to help save the future of the farming industry. Caleb Harper announced to Summit attendees his vision to create a network of a billion new ‘farmers’, by using computers to grow crops.

Personal food computers can be built at home using open source videos and diagrams supplied by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States (US), and weather data from farmer’s almanacs. These computers, which create microclimates that enable crops to grow anywhere, are a result of research by Harper’s Open Agriculture Initiative at MIT.

Harper’s vision is that data will be accessible by all and shared widely between food computers, replacing the concept of shipping fruit and vegetables across the world.

The computers have so far been given to schools around the US, allowing young people to construct their own climates and discover more about the science behind farming and the potential future of the industry.
The social impact will also be huge, they emphasised. Driving is a major source of employment, and there could be significant job loss when self-driving vehicles become common. This mirrors an anticipated shift in many sectors, where automation will reduce the time people spend working.

The panel debated two responses policy-makers could adopt: providing a ‘universal basic income’ to compensate, or investing in training for other roles. Although there is no clear answer, they suggested a solution with a balance of both should be explored.
Why Should Governments Take Psychological Well-Being Seriously?

Prof Ed Diener
Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of Illinois

“All the things we want are abetted by happier citizens”

Happiness helps people live better lives and creates a cohesive society that is healthier, resilient and more productive. Professor Ed Diener, a leading researcher in positive psychology, revealed there is compelling evidence that happiness really does matter.

Prof Diener urged governments to move well-being higher up on the agenda, alongside issues such as health, clean water and poverty. Known for conceptualising ‘subjective well-being’, a way to empirically measure happiness, he stressed the importance of happiness in terms of life expectancy, work, social relationships, creativity, resilience and charity.

With 15 years of research into the causes of happiness, Prof Diener has found that happiness is encouraged by employment, efficient governance, a healthy environment, access to basic needs and mental wellness.

He discovered that happiness improves cardiovascular health and the immune system. Furthermore, companies with a happy workforce are 6% more productive, happy teenagers are more likely as adults to get and stay married, and happier people have a greater tendency to help others.
Bio-Engineering
Eggs Without Hens

Isha Datar
CEO of New Harvest

Naoufer Ramoul
Anchor & Producer for Dubai TV, Moderator

“It seems only natural that we would move to an era where we can cultivate foods in a controlled setting”

Innovative ways to produce food such as meat, eggs and milk – without the need to farm animals – could help fight climate change. Isha Datar, CEO of non-profit research institute New Harvest, explained to the Summit audience the benefits of the cellular agriculture initiatives which her organisation invests in.

She claimed that animal agriculture is responsible for producing more greenhouse gas emissions per year than all the fuel combustion in China. Growing these foods from cell cultures in a laboratory environment, however, would enable them to contain any harmful gases, protect the process from extreme weather and natural disasters which can devastate agriculture, and have greater control over food production in general.

Datar explained that the price of cultured meat, which is currently tremendous, would decrease significantly with mass production. It will eventually be more cost effective than traditionally produced meat products, which are becoming more expensive due to scarce land and reduced government subsidies.
The Future Of Healthcare

**Dr Arjen Radder**  
CEO of Phillips Middle East & Turkey

**Dr Shamsheer Vayalil**  
Founder & Managing Director of VPS Healthcare

**Dr Andy Poh**  
Adviser to the Healthcare Strategy & Policy Department of the Prime Minister’s Office of the United Arab Emirates, Moderator

Many patients being treated in hospitals today could be monitored at home, said Dr Shamsheer Vayalil and Dr Arjen Radder. Both physicians agreed that they were eager to see technology used more extensively in healthcare.

In a discussion moderated by Dr Andy Poh, Dr Radder explained Philips’ biosensor which can monitor the vital signs of patients remotely.

Data could also be better used in monitoring people’s health, Dr Vayalil said, as anyone with a smartphone can see the number of steps they take every day and how many calories they have burned at the touch of a button. This helps a patient become the CEO of their own health, Dr Vayalil said.

Another problem affecting medicine is wastage, with too many drugs being given to patients without the doctor knowing if they will work. Certain drugs work better on some people than others, and ‘genetic mapping’ could be used to personalise medicine, highlighting which medications are best for a certain group, added Dr Vayalil.
The Future Model Of Higher Education

Joseph Aoun
President of Northeastern University

Hend Al Otaiba
Director of Strategic Communications for Abu Dhabi Media, Moderator

“The university has to come to you; you don’t have to go to the university”

Visionary educationist Joseph Aoun gave a stark warning that in the next 15 years, 45% of the jobs known today are likely to disappear due to advances in robotics and artificial intelligence.

This scenario poses a serious challenge for higher education, he said, emphasising that the current system must be remodelled to prepare students for a life that is rapidly evolving.

While Aoun, President of Northeastern University in Boston, United States, said that white-collar jobs involving financial analysis and accounting are bound to decline, new occupations such as data visualisation and forensic technology will emerge, and people must be prepared. They will need to be equipped with a new type of literacy in order to fill these jobs.

He called for an overhaul of the current higher education model, stressing that the only thing that will make humans and their jobs "robot proof" is dedication to a life-long learning process.

Aoun concluded that while understanding technology and data analysis is imperative to keeping pace with such advances, it must be integrated with humanics, the essence of humanity that distinguishes people from machines.
The **Global Revolution**
Of Innovators

**Kathleen Kennedy**
Director of Special Projects for The Engine by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**John Defterios**
Emerging Markets Editor for CNNMoney, Moderator

"Our mission is to empower and enable the most radical entrepreneurs... We want them to be able to make their dreams a reality"

Kennedy stressed that while there is already an entrepreneurial ecosystem to create lifestyle companies and consumer apps, there is a void when it comes to supporting path-breaking innovations like a grid-scale battery that could power an entire city.

She pointed out that such big ideas do not make it to market because they need large-scale funding and the right infrastructure.

This is where MIT’s The Engine comes in. Kennedy said the novel venture aims to support revolutionary entrepreneurs working on radical innovations by channelling finance, making equipment available and providing expert guidance to help make their dreams a reality.

The world needs revolutionary innovators to develop technologies that address large-scale global challenges like energy shortages and climate change, said Kathleen Kennedy, Director of Special Projects at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

MIT’s new thrust is to provide such radical entrepreneurs with an ecosystem that nurtures their talent and aids innovations that need time to develop.
Radical Curiosity

Paul Bennett
Chief Creative Officer at IDEO

John Defterios
Emerging Markets Editor for CNNMoney, Moderator

"Even though government is big, people want to participate – let them in“

In his challenging and inspirational talk, Paul Bennett drew parallels between his work as a designer and the role of governments, concluding that the two share the same purpose. He pointed out that both activate the next generation through ideas and design.

Relating projects his organisation, IDEO, had conducted in countries as diverse as Singapore and Rwanda, Australia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Benet showed how there are techniques common to successful design and successful government. These include conducting open conversations, being generous and acting with humility.

He concluded by highlighting the fact that we are living in radical times, which requires leaders to themselves be radical – in empathy, dreams, humility, collaboration and curiosity. Optimism and hope, he advised, are the most powerful tools that both governments and designers have at their disposal.
Can Our **Education Systems** Destroy Talent?

**Dr Scott Barry Kaufman**  
Scientific Director of the Imagination Institute

**Hend Al Otaiba**  
Director of Strategic Communications for Abu Dhabi Media, Moderator

"We should leave more room in our school systems for children to surprise us"

Nurturing children’s imaginations could be a key to world peace. Leading cognitive psychologist, Dr Scott Barry Kaufman, explained his views on why traditional ways of preparing children for the future are inadequate.

His proposed new approach encourages the creation of children that are simultaneously ‘dreamers and doers’, traits he believes are universally lacking in schools. By encouraging characteristics that relate to creativity and openness to experience, students are able to develop the ability to love work, persevere and tolerate mistakes, have a sense of purpose, and be open to change and risks. It also helps children cultivate the courage to stay true to their values and beliefs, which can aid them in resisting negative peer pressure.

Dr Kaufman developed his reassessment of education through one key question: “If imagination is essential to compassion, and compassion is essential to world peace, then is imagination what should be taught today for a better tomorrow?”
Gen Z: They’re Coming & They’ll Disrupt Governments

Thomas Koulopoulos
Founder & CEO of the Delphi Group

John Defterios
Emerging Markets Editor for CNNMoney, Moderator

“Gen Z is not about birthright; Gen Z is about behaviour”

Thomas Koulopoulos asserted that regardless of when the people in the audience were born, they are all members of Generation Z, or Gen Z – the demographic cohort following the millennials. Gen Z is the ‘first truly global generation’ and its ideas will change the way societies and governments operate, he emphasised.

In today’s post-generational world, we are defined less by our age than by our behaviours, and Gen Z’s behaviours are a necessary part of the social structure we all inhabit. Known as one of the industry’s leading futurists, Koulopoulos envisions a future where multiple generations work together with a greater capacity to innovate.

Gen Z is cross-cultural, he stressed, and takes pride in celebrating heritage, while at the same time embracing ‘the tolerance of true globalisation’.

Koulopoulos concluded that Gen Z would demand governments become more transparent and ‘friction-less’ due to hyper-connectivity, a larger educated population and greater transparency in all they do.
Inside The Happy Brain

Dr Rick Hanson
Senior Fellow of the Greater Good Science Center at the University of California, Berkeley

“GDP is not a sufficient statistic for feelings”

There is a connection between brain activity and income, but this does not constitute true happiness.

The mere fact of outperforming a neighbour creates a flow of oxygenated blood, which sends a signal to the ventral striatum, the reward area of the brain, explained Dr Rick Hanson. The effect is relative, however. This means that an overall increase in GDP does not make for a happier society, rather a neutralising of genuine pleasure. As people earn more money, they actually lose their ability to find real pleasure and, instead, feel a superficial, materialistic type of happiness, he said.

The neurologist mused that economics used to be a social science concerned with the efficient allocation of scarce resources, which was relevant in the 1930s given shortages and deprivation. Today, it should be concerned with the best way to allocate plentiful resources to maximise happiness and mental health in society, he argued.
A 75 Year Study On Human Happiness

Dr Robert Waldinger
Director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development

"Giving our full attention to a human being is maybe the greatest gift we can offer"

Relationships determine a person’s health, according to findings from what is believed to be the world’s longest survey of adult life.

Dr Robert Waldinger, a psychiatrist and psychologist at Harvard Medical School and the fourth director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, explained the project which studied two different groups – a selection of Harvard students and a cohort of boys from Boston’s poorest families. Participants included former President John F Kennedy, newspaper editors, factory workers and people across the social scale.

Beginning in the 1930s, the study examined, interviewed and scanned the brains of subjects from the age of 19, through World War II, and into their marriages, jobs and pensions.

In a review of learnings about what made them happy, Dr Waldinger said those who had more connections during middle age were less likely to develop arthritis, diabetes or experience cognitive decline. Those involved in acrimonious relationships, however, saw their health decline faster.
How’s Life:
The OECD Framework

Dr Carrie Exton
Policy Analyst for Measuring Well-Being & Progress at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

“The question of what makes a good life is something that governments implicitly answer every time they spend money.”

To raise well-being, Dr Exton said, governments should know how their decisions are affecting people’s lives. GDP may be the traditional measure of performance, but it misses important parts of the picture.

The OECD is looking at a dashboard of different indicators to get a sense of a country’s well-being. In doing so it can help governments understand whether or not their spending is helping improve lives in their countries.

The OECD’s Better Life Initiative also includes the Better Life Index, an interactive website that lets citizens join the debate about what a better life means.

The question of what makes a good life is a debate faced by policy-makers, who must depart from the idea that it is all about money, highlighted Dr Carrie Exton, author of How’s Life?, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development’s (OECD) report on measuring well-being across nations, which is part of the organisation’s broader Better Life Initiative.
Dr Rodrigo Márquez
Coordinator of the Human Development Report for the
United Nations Development Programme in Chile

“Capabilities are an actual freedom to do
something, not just a formal freedom”

Public policies alone cannot directly affect
well-being, but they can be used to create
an environment for people to be happy.
Dr Rodrigo Márquez argued that governments need
to promote capabilities to improve well-being.

For capabilities, which he defined as the opportunity
or freedom to do something, to be real, they must
constitute fair and equal access to an opportunity, he
warned, giving the example that work opportunities
are only real if the people who need to benefit from
them have, or can obtain, the right skills.

He pointed out that there was an underlying suspicion
about the idea of happiness in development and
public policy. People tend to think you are using
happiness as a way to distract them from the real
issues, he said, adding that this is because they often
do not recognise the link between well-being for
society and well-being for the individual.
Happy Schools Framework

Gwang-Jo Kim
Director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization in Bangkok

“We should look beyond cognitive dimensions and address the issues of well-being and happiness”

Happiness and the quality of education are inseparable, and work must be done to bring the two together, Gwang-Jo Kim told the Summit. To live in a peaceful world, we must emphasise collaboration and cooperation, and work to understand others better.

Kim, an expert on the education systems of Asia and the Pacific, developed his Happy Schools Framework after a survey revealed that schools overall possessed low levels of happiness. He and a team of policymakers used that information to devise ways in which schools could blossom into positive, friendly and happy environments for young people.

The framework promotes friendships and relationships, avoids excessive homework loads and encourages an eco-conscious environment free of bullying. These are not difficult aims to achieve, said Kim, but country leaders must enable their education systems to place less emphasis on exams and instead focus on equipping children with the tools they need to maintain a happy lifestyle.
Research Design and Methodology

- Conceptual Framework: "domains and Learning to be, Learning to Live together and Positive Psychology"

- Research Methods:
  - 9/11 Media, (June 2014 – November 2014)
  - AJAH Schools, Workshop (November 2014)
  - Happy Schools Survey, (January – May 2015)
  - Happy Schools Survey (June 2015)
Development Through Closing The Happiness Gap

Mattia Romani
Managing Director for Economics, Policy & Governance of the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development

"Education and job satisfaction are absolutely crucial elements of happiness and life satisfaction in general"

Mattia Romani, Managing Director for Economics, Policy and Governance at the European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD), shared his insights on what has helped transform the lives of nations which have faced turmoil and transition. Among the most surprising was that while money cannot buy happiness, it can certainly help.

Romani reported some surprising findings from the EBRD’s research into fostering happiness. The bank conducted the longest life-satisfaction survey in the world, *Life in Transition*, which monitored the conditions for life satisfaction across 51,000 households in 31 countries between 2006 and 2016.

A senior economist and senior visiting fellow at the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics, Romani revealed that the survey showed people who are richer are in general happier, and if a person’s mother is well educated it is likely they will experience more satisfaction in life.
Do You Have the Happiness Gene?

Prof Meike Bartels
Professor of Genetics & Well-being at Vrije University Amsterdam

"If you want to make people happier you need to realise that everyone is different"

Happiness is genetic, caused by certain chromosomes which create in some individuals a greater propensity towards happiness.

Before despairing or celebrating, however, Professor Meike Bartels, who has led large-scale research studies looking into the correlation between genetics and happiness, said everyone has the potential to be happy.

Environmental factors are most important in determining a person’s happiness. "Just because something is genetic, doesn’t mean it cannot change," she said. "It only means it is harder to change for some people than for others."

As governments are motivated to change levels of happiness, she highlighted that they must first recognise everyone is different. This means everyone requires an individual approach.

"We need to develop many interventions and ask people what they would like to do," she concluded.
**A Brief History Of Happiness**

**Prof Darrin McMahon**
Professor of History at Dartmouth College

“Happiness and progress do not always go hand in hand”

Historian Darrin McMahon charted the evolution of happiness since the age of early man in a session which carried great insight as well as stark warnings.

The Professor of History at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, United States, said that for centuries people believed that you had to be lucky to be happy. Humans’ perceptions of happiness have gradually been through revolutions, characterised by technological advancements, religion and politics, to the point where people now believe that happiness is a right.

He advised governments to equip people with the support and resources they need to achieve happiness, with gratitude, hope, fellowship and forgiveness having been most effective throughout history.

Promoting happiness has not always been in the human interest, he highlighted, adding that regimes which have tried to enforce their interpretation of happiness have left disaster in their wake. Furthermore, being happy to the point of complacency is not optimal from an evolutionary standpoint.
Track Your Happiness:  
When & What?

Matthew Killingsworth  
Founder of the Track Your Happiness App

“People should stay in the present because that’s where they find happiness”

Matthew Killingsworth, a scientist who studies the nature and cause of human happiness, revealed that people are happiest when interacting with friends and loved ones.

Killingsworth began collecting happiness data in 2009 using a survey which randomly sends questions to participants a few times each day, asking them what they are doing at that moment and how it makes them feel. Through this research, he found people are most unhappy when at work. Interestingly, his findings also showed that we are less happy when our minds wander from the present moment – even if we are thinking about something more pleasant.

On the other hand, he said, happiness spikes when we are engaging with other people. He also pointed out that happiness levels are about seven times higher when these interactions are face to face instead of on mobile phones or video chats, a finding which has important implications for governments focused on increasing their citizens’ well-being.
The Private Sector’s Role In Promoting Happiness

Renuka Jagtiani
Vice Chairperson of Landmark Group

“In this connected world, we believe that change can only come through ideas, education, innovation, tolerance and sharing.”

The private sector has a vital role to play in supporting and promoting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government’s efforts to make the UAE the happiest country in the Arab world, said Renuka Jagtiani, Vice Chairperson of Landmark Group, one of the Middle East’s largest retail firms.

Jagtiani inspired business leaders with a passionate speech about the necessity of promoting positivity in the workplace, and the undeniable ties between happiness and success.

Jagtiani recognised that business leaders across the region share a vision to create an environment of growth and happiness, and stressed the importance of focusing on ideas, education, innovation, tolerance and sharing to build value and positivity within companies.

She explained that people are every company’s greatest asset – and the happiness of customers and employees should be the driving force behind their statement of purpose, social responsibility programmes and success.
Shaping The Future: Cognitive Science & Innovation In Education

Prof Roberta Golinkoff
Unidel H Rodney Sharp Chair in the School of Education at the University of Delaware

Dr Hafez Ghanem
Vice President of the World Bank for the Middle East & North Africa

Javier Arguello
Founder & Executive Director of COGx

Noah Samara
CEO & Chairman of Yazmi

Rebecca Taber
Head of Government Partnerships for Coursera

Kim Ghattas
International Affairs Correspondent for BBC, Moderator

Education must change to equip children with 21st century skills, agreed a panel of experts in cognitive science and technology, who discussed solutions to address gaps in the world’s education systems.

Professor Roberta Golinkoff, a multi-award winning psychologist, and Javier Arguello, a specialist in helping people improve their mental skills, discussed developments in cognitive science that encourage governments to rethink existing education models.

These included redefining success, applying core skills such as collaboration and critical thinking, ensuring technology use is targeted and recognising that all human brains learn in different ways. Teachers should ‘unleash the power of the mind’, not just convey content, Arguello argued.

Noah Samara and Rebecca Taber described their companies’ innovative initiatives, using technology to address challenges related to access to and quality of education. Yazmi provides learning to remote areas of the world via a ‘satellite to tablet’ network and Coursera partners with governments to provide online learning content. Dr Hafez Ghanem also outlined a World Bank initiative to improve provision globally.
Bringing Order To The

Fourth Industrial Revolution

In Collaboration With Dubai International Financial Centre

The Hon Loretta Preska
United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York

Prof Gillian Hadfield
Richard L & Antoinette Schamoi Kirtland Professor of Law at the University of Southern California

Dr Sam Muller
Founding Director & CEO of the Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law

Justice Shamlan Al Sawalehi
Court of First Instance Judge for the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts, Moderator

The fourth industrial revolution may be bringing the world major innovations, but those changes are not finding their way into the legal industries.

All three panellists – New York senior district judge the Honourable Loretta Preska, United States legal expert Professor Gillian Hadfield, and the Netherlands-based international lawyer Dr Sam Muller – agreed technological innovations were not benefitting the law.

Part of the problem, Dr Muller said, is that legal systems lack diversity and have a very low tolerance for failure. To encourage innovation, ministries of justice around the world need to create ‘safe spaces’ where people can fail without fear.

The three panellists agreed that technological leaps, like artificial intelligence and robotics, are going to bring challenges to systems of law. To address these issues, governments need to move away from traditional models, adopt truly interdisciplinary approaches, and involve the innovators behind the fourth industrial revolution and its advances in the structures drawn up to regulate it.
Cities For **Entrepreneurship**  
In Collaboration With 1776

**Ian Klaus**  
Former Senior Adviser for Global Cities at the United States Department of State

**Christopher Schroeder**  
Entrepreneur, Adviser & Investor in Interactive Technologies & Social Communications

**Evan Burfield**  
Co-founder & CEO of 1776

Entrepreneurs can improve cities, but they must first be attracted to them, explained Ian Klaus, Christopher Schroeder and Evan Burfield. By bringing together start-ups within a city, innovation is encouraged, benefitting residents and inspiring other cities around the world.

Leaders must change the way a city works to help it progress, encouraging new, innovative solutions to established problems. Rather than contracting an established company to solve problems, smaller, ambitious start-ups should be brought into the fold early. These innovators can involve citizens at all levels to help reinvent the traditional way municipal business is carried out. City leaders should also encourage the free movement of ideas, goods and services.

Most importantly, cities must think of themselves less as part of the country in which they are located, and more as a player on a global stage – notable in their own right, and a decentralised character which must project their appeal to the rest of the world to thrive.
Good policies fail when best practice is not followed, or there is too little capacity or political will to see them succeed.

The panel discussing the World Bank’s *World Development Report 2017: Governance & the Law* concluded that long-term objectives, support, coordination and trust from parties willing to cooperate for the public good were required for policy-making to be successful.

Professor James Robinson said the report did a good job of explaining some of the obstacles, which prevent the world’s poorest countries from adopting pro-growth policies, such as manifestations of power from stakeholders who benefit from the status quo.

Where there is a public appetite for change, however, it can be achieved by reshaping the preferences and beliefs of stakeholders using incentives and openness.

His Excellency Jorge Quiroga said the report was ‘timely’, as the United States and Europe witness a rise in populism. It also spoke of the need to maintain strong institutions, governance and pro-growth practices that have been developed over time.
Global Platform: Innovation & The Future Of Governance
In Collaboration With The Organisation For Economic Co-operation & Development

HE Dr Asman Abnur
Minister of Administrative & Bureaucratic Reform of Indonesia

HE Boris Koprivnikar
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Public Administration of Slovenia

HE Maria Manuel Leitão Marques
Minister of the Presidency & of Administrative Modernization of Portugal

Rolf Alter
Director for Public Governance & Territorial Development of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development, Moderator

Austerity measures, big data and brainstorming with the public and government departments are three major drivers for innovation in government. Three ministers of state set out how their respective countries are taking innovative steps towards supporting governments of the future in a discussion session.

Her Excellency Maria Manuel Leitão Marques explained that Portugal’s hand had been forced into innovative reform as the government demanded more with less money. This has been done by asking citizens what they want their future to look like, creating a laboratory to experiment with public services and using mapping to streamline purchasing.

Slovenia’s approach is to encourage citizens to share non-private data, added His Excellency Boris Koprivnikar. Everything except a person’s most private data should be centralised to help the government control innovation, he said.

His Excellency Dr Asman Abnur reported that Indonesia’s ‘one innovation per institution’ policy and state-run competitions encouraged 2,476 innovations in 2016.
The world is experiencing an explosion in big data, extremely large data sets that can be analysed to reveal patterns and trends. Currently, governments mainly use big data as a resource to answer existing questions, but its real potential lies in shaping the questions that have yet to be asked.

It is only when governments are clear about the problem they are trying to solve that big data becomes truly groundbreaking, concluded Dr Brandon Barnett, Chan Cheow Hoe, Deborah Wetzel and Robbie Schingler in a discussion moderated by Rory Cellan-Jones.

The panellists set out a seven-point plan for governments that are planning to use big data. It calls for collaboration between the public and private sectors, broader skill sets, regulatory frameworks to ensure privacy and security and changes in the public’s perception of data. The plan also advises governments to seek out smart solutions which combine both big data and traditional sources to achieve optimal benefit.
To open this panel discussion, Dimitris Tsitsiragos identified renewable energy, urbanisation and infrastructure, and financial inclusion as key areas where the private sector can successfully deliver projects that governments need, particularly in the developing world.

The panel of international experts then examined barriers which must be removed in order for the private sector to capitalise on these opportunities. All five participants agreed that the biggest roadblock was attracting adequate investment, and the need for developing skill sets.

Joseph Brandt pointed out one major challenge is in getting first-world capital into developing-world projects because investors misperceive the risk.

Anna Ryott, however, said she believes a new model is emerging where business concepts consider social impact and sustainable jobs ahead of financial viability. Fadi Ghandour agreed, adding that it is the private sector’s responsibility to create the jobs governments cannot. Sandeep Aneja pointed out that these ideas work well when the private sector unites governments, people and providers, citing his own Kaizen Fund as an example.
The **Technologies Of Finance**  
In Collaboration With  
The International Monetary Fund

**HE Pierre Gramegna**  
Minister of Finance of Luxembourg

**Jörg Gasser**  
State Secretary for International Financial Matters of Switzerland

**Howard Lee**  
Senior Executive Director of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority

**Jill Carlson**  
Partner Lead & Business Development Lead at Chain

**Patrick Murck**  
Special Counsel at Cooley LLP, Fellow at Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University

**Ross Leckow**  
Deputy General Counsel at the International Monetary Fund, Moderator

While innovation has enabled financial organisations to compete in the international marketplace, digitalisation and globalisation are dividing communities at home.

This panel discussion looked at some of the challenges and opportunities created by digital technology in international finance, or ‘FinTech’.

Jörg Gasser said the biggest opportunity for FinTech was open markets, meaning opportunities that could be seized all over the world. It could also, however, lead to whole skill sets becoming obsolete.

The panel acknowledged that the world is losing faith in the idea that open markets bring more wealth to all residents, and advances of FinTech are only relevant if citizens have money in the first place.

A ‘digital divide’ has also grown between those who are willing to embrace digital technology for banking, and those who aren’t, which is most apparent between younger and older residents in developed countries.

The panel agreed that financial organisations should properly maintain on and offline services, and be transparent with citizens about changes.
Sir Anthony Seldon  
Vice Chancellor of the University of Buckingham,  
President of the International Positive Education Network

Lord James O’Shaughnessy  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health of the United Kingdom,  
Co-founder of the International Positive Education Network

Dr Martin Seligman  
Director of the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania

Charlie Scudamore  
Vice Principal of Geelong Grammar School

Héctor Escamilla  
Rector at TecMilenio University

Sir Anthony Seldon, Lord James O’Shaughnessy, Charlie Scudamore and Héctor Escamilla all agreed that “well-being is too important to place at the periphery of the curriculum. Well-being should be the core”. The education experts shared examples of how education and well-being can be combined in a practical way.

Seldon and O’Shaughnessy, both from the International Positive Education Network (IPEN), pointed out that governments need to change the outdated education model which promotes simply learning facts for tests. Education should instead focus on teaching entrepreneurial, active learning skills to produce citizens who engage with others and solve problems.

Scudamore and Escamilla both described how their schools focus on empowering students, supporting teachers and parents, finding a unique model rather than copying others, and having strong leadership and governance to implement and sustain positive education.

Dr Martin Seligman, the so-called founder of positive psychology, concluded the session by detailing a number of studies from around the world which prove positive education directly improves performance.
The Making Of An Extremist

Abdulah bin Bijad Al Otaibi
Writer & Political Analyst

Yasser Al Amro
Anchor for MBC, Moderator

“There is hope to find solutions that will yield results”

Are human beings inherently good or evil? This question has troubled both philosophy and religion for years, Abdulah bin Bijad Al Otaibi said, but all agree people are capable of both. He stressed that the way religious texts are interpreted play a large part in which one manifests.

The Saudi Arabian writer and researcher argued that extremism has no religion, but many religions and civilisations have gone through stages of war and bloodshed because of issues around identity.

“Extremists can always search religious texts to find what they need to build this system upon,” he said.

Sources of Islamic extremism stretch back over the last century or more, but there is hope that the battle against it can be won, Al Otaibi stressed. Muslim communities must accept that the solutions have to come from them, and governments must work to tackle the discourse and financing that fans the flames of extremism.
Privacy & Prosperity: How Can Governments Strike Balance?

Bruce Schneier  
Fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University

John Defterios  
Emerging Markets Editor for CNNMoney, Moderator

“We are living in the golden age of surveillance, because this data is collected about us all the time”

Mass data is the ‘pollution problem’ of the Information Age, and our generation will be judged on how we handle it, security technologist Bruce Schneier told the Summit.

In today’s ‘golden age’ of surveillance, Schneier explained that data is being created constantly through every computer interaction a person has – with almost no option to opt out. This data is being increasingly stored and used by companies and governments, he said, resulting in a ‘public-private surveillance partnership’, which creates several information challenges.

As technologies become more and more embedded in our governments, private companies and critical infrastructures, people will need transparency and oversight so that they can have confidence that their data is being handled carefully and correctly. To ensure liberty, justice, privacy and commercial freedom do not suffer, Schneier advised that the connected world needs a single unified approach to managing this influx of data.
The **Power Of Play**

**Hanan Al Hroub**  
Recipient of the 2016 Global Teacher Prize

**Hend Al Otaiba**  
Director of Strategic Communications for Abu Dhabi Media, Moderator

"Children have the right to live joyfully and cheerfully, and to learn while having fun"  

While education was mentioned extensively during the Summit, few speakers gave as inspiring an insight as Hanan Al Hroub, the Palestinian teacher who was awarded the 2016 Global Teacher Prize for her forward-thinking teaching model, ‘We Play, We Learn’.

In outlining the motivations, nature and benefits of the ‘We Play, We Learn’ method, Al Hroub provided a very real example of how education can make a difference in the world and why governments should make it a high priority.

She described how the circumstances under which she and her colleagues taught, as part of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and her own experiences, had inspired her to value teachers’ roles in developing morals, changing children and shaping societies.

This led to her award-winning approach, which incorporates fun and collaborative play into learning – and costs nothing. Al Hroub concluded by urging policy-makers to rethink how they see education, and to put teachers at the heart of a new, better model.
The **Ideology Of Ignorance**

**Ibrahim Al Buleihi**  
Writer & Philosopher

**Yasser Al Amro**  
Anchor for MBC, Moderator

"Leaving the mind to run arbitrarily is like having a hollow in the ground where everything carried by the wind will end up”

Ignorance is the default state of the human mind and whatever gets to it first, occupies it, said Saudi Arabian writer and thinker Ibrahim Al Buleihi.

Speaking to journalist Yasser Al Amro, Al Buleihi explained modern science has shown that the human mind cannot on its own tell right from wrong or truth from illusion, but it is instead shaped by whatever information gets to it first. The mind is then ‘programmed’ by whatever is in its environment.

Not even education can be relied upon to free the mind, as societies do not teach ideas that change them; they teach what they already believe in and they instil the values, ideas and perceptions they have inherited from previous generations.

He argued that the general orientation of schools, the media, places of worship and other institutions should shift from alienation to tolerance, from hate to love. To change the mind, people must develop new habits that stop them from accepting unverified ideas.
Liquid Borders: How Is Technology Reshaping The World?

Parag Khanna
Senior Research Fellow for the Centre on Asia & Globalisation at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore

Zeina Yazigi
Anchor for Sky News Arabia, Moderator

"Every region of the world is becoming important. Our future is symmetrical rather than hierarchical"

Is the world today becoming more divided along national and regional lines, or moving closer together?

While some recent geopolitical developments may support the former view, author and international affairs expert Parag Khanna told the Summit that he believes the opposite. He feels greater factors are at play — and that, in fact, the world is on course for its most united era ever.

Rapidly increasing connectivity is rendering conventional borders 'liquid', ushering in new possibilities everywhere.

"We have more nations and states than ever before," he said, "but we are also building more connectivity than ever before."

Assessing issues such as transport, energy and communication, Khanna described how a new ‘skeleton’ is being laid across the world, superseding natural and political geographies. Citing examples from all over the world, he suggested that the oft-predicted ‘end of globalisation’ needs rethinking in light of this more dynamic interpretation.
Happiness Meter:
The Dubai Experience

HE Dr Aisha Bin Bishr
Director General of Smart Dubai

"Why, on Tuesday at 10am, are people happier? I don't know the answer yet, but we're researching why this has happened"

The primary goals of Smart Dubai are to discover what makes its people happy and tailor government and private policies to reflect those findings. It also aims to educate people to recognise and measure happiness.

One way the city is measuring happiness is with happiness meters, which allow users to indicate whether they are satisfied, neutral or dissatisfied with their service or experience – creating a scientific measure of happiness around the city. Dr Bin Bishr explained how these meters make data available immediately, allowing faster analysis and for changes to be implemented more quickly.
Wake-Up Call: **Japanese Skills**

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**Prof Jun Mitani**  
Professor of Systems & Information Engineering at the University of Tsukuba

**Harue Oki**  
Second Master of Ikebana

Creativity came to the fore on the first day of the Summit, which opened with an introduction to the use of origami in industrial design and a display of ikebana – an ancient Japanese art that has been practised for more than 600 years.

Added to the programme in honour of the World Government Summit 2017’s guest country, Japan, the session on Japanese skills energised the audience for the day ahead.

The paper magician Professor Jun Mitani held a quick and nimble demonstration of the traditional art of paper folding using handmade paper. He explored the use of modern paper styles to create different shapes and discussed his speciality: geometric modelling in the field of computer graphics.

Harue Oki, Second Master of Ikebana, next captivated the audience by delicately cutting stems, leaves and flowers to create two arrangements of this sophisticated floral art.
Wake-Up Call:
The Universal Language We All Speak

Eric Standop
Face Reader

“A lot of people say language is essential for civilisation and development, and that’s true — but language is also a barrier.”

By reading tiny signals in people’s facial expressions one can have a deeper understanding of their feelings, expert face reader Eric Standop told the audience.

Standop offered guidance as to how certain facial features can be interpreted.

Someone with small pupils thinks analytically, while someone with large pupils deals in feelings and emotions. If someone talks with a pursed mouth, it makes those around feel tension. Someone who talks while smiling, however, wants to support others, and makes people feel good while talking to them.

Unlike facial movement, body language is not hardwired into the nervous system. It can be taught, allowing someone to appear approachable while disguising their real thoughts and intentions.

One should show feelings, positive and negative, to connect with people, and should not be afraid of lines on the face. These lines show people’s personalities and are put there by experience. In Standop’s words: “The face is a book where one writes a lifetime.”
Wake-Up Call: Wisdom In The 21st Century

Dr Joel & Michelle Levey
Founders of Wisdom at Work

"It's all about finding that still point in the midst of the whirling world"

Credited as the first professionals to introduce the practice of mindfulness, the pair, based in Seattle, United States, explained how people can change their ways of thinking to open themselves to inspiration.

The Leveys believe that by remaining attentive and open to learning, and encouraging a curious and accepting attitude, one can gain wisdom. By showing gratitude, people lead more fulfilling lives, and this 'attitude of gratitude' is essential to achieving happiness and wisdom.

Just like malfunctioning computer and mechanical systems can be fixed by connecting them with other systems, so too can people. Once they realise this, they can build connections with others and move closer to wisdom.

The pair also explained that humans can train their brains to encourage emotional balance, empathy and intuitive wisdom. While all individuals, humankind wants the same things at a basic level – to be happy, healthy, safe, free from suffering and successful.

Leaders should teach these skills, they advised, to develop a better way of working together and sharing inspiration.
Wake-Up Call:
Breathe To Heal

Max Strom
Author of A Life Worth Breathing & There is No App for Happiness

“The average human being is a silo of contained emotions that we have been holding onto since we were children.”

Breathing methods improve the nervous system, he said, and the fact that they are taught to pregnant women to help them deal with the pain of childbirth is testament to their effectiveness.

These breathing practices are also useful in dealing with negative emotions, alongside communicating about problems.

Suppressing feelings causes emotional distress, he warned, adding that about 25% of people take medication to combat emotional issues, which could be tackled by addressing the root of the problem. In his words: “The only way out of grief is through it.”
Wake-Up Call: Meditation Yoga

Tao Porchon-Lynch
Master Yoga Teacher

“I know there is nothing I cannot do, for I am not the doer. I am the instrument of life”

Age is not a factor in success or happiness, said the nearly 100 year-old yoga instructor, Tao Porchon-Lynch, while demonstrating several yogic exercises which would challenge people half her age.

Born in 1918, Porchon-Lynch is considered one of the most acclaimed yoga teachers in the world. She has practised yoga for over 70 years, and in 2012 – at the age of 93 – was named the world’s oldest yoga instructor by Guinness World Records.

She advised the leaders and delegates in attendance to “start every day not thinking about what you cannot do or anything negative inside of you, but start the day knowing that within you is all the power of the universe. Not somewhere out in space, but right inside of you”.

The key is to stay positive, Porchon-Lynch said, and to begin each day with the thought that ‘this is going to be the best day of my life’.
“In my head I’m still in my 20s, and I have no intention of ever growing up.”

-Tao Porchon-Lynch, 98 years young
Experiences

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His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai, toured 13 government innovations being showcased by 12 countries at the Edge Of Government experience. He underscored that innovation is not a luxury, an administrative improvement or propaganda, but that it is the key to governments’ existence and revival.
The Edge Of Government was an immersive experience, with visitors invited on a journey through a landscape of rapidly emerging and continuously evolving solutions.

Governments at the cutting edge do things differently, whether that’s recruiting help from unusual sources, fast-tracking experimentation, customising public services or exploring non-obvious solutions.

The World Government Summit 2017 gathered pioneers from across the world to exhibit such experiences at the Edge Of Government, which was organised by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation.

The showcase presented disruptive new, and often counter-intuitive, ways to solve some of the most pressing public challenges. The main purpose of the exhibition was to inform other governments of the increasingly wide array of tools at their disposal, trigger new thinking and inspire them to connect with the innovators behind the exhibits.

Visiting the experience, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai, observed that the World Government Summit had become ‘a global forum for innovation’.
His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces, spent time exploring the Edge Of Government experience and speaking to the innovators behind the featured projects.
Can a barber help prevent suicides?

Suicide intervention training helps barbers to recognise mental health issues and teaches them how to talk and listen to their customers.
Can a vulture help map illegal waste dumps?

The scavenging birds were fitted with GoPro video cameras and GPS trackers, enabling municipalities to locate illegal dumps. Awareness also increased as the public watched videos of the vultures going about their work.
Mass Services Or Customised?

Can a porch rich with memories be recreated in a nursing facility?

A nursing home accommodates elderly residents in indoor streets reminiscent of 1930-40s style neighbourhoods to activate their senses.
Customising for persons with disabilities, innovating for all?

‘Virtual Warsaw’ is a smart city using thousands of sensors to help visually impaired residents navigate the city. It can also guide tourists, gauge air quality and count parking spaces.
What if you could count every cigarette butt in the world?

Artificial intelligence that can analyse litter that’s been captured on video has enabled Japan to conduct cost-effective litter research and analysis, increasing the efficiency of waste collection efforts by up to 50%.
Can a whole country help decide on the national budget?

The Portuguese government is encouraging its population of 10 million people to have their say on the national budget by using their smart phones.

Do you have a molecular view of your cities?

Scientists are developing standards for measuring the microbial ecosystem of a city in order to track the spread of potentially harmful pathogens.
Are You Experimenting Fast Enough?

Learning from the energy blockchain experiment

Peer-to-peer energy transactions mean citizens produce and sell energy to each other, reducing reliance on traditional energy suppliers.
Where experimentation in government is embraced and encouraged

Experimental Finland is trialling ideas such as giving thousands of unemployed citizens a guaranteed basic income.
Citizens: Part Of The Problem Or The Solution?

Switching seats, when citizens train public servants

In Brazil, residents are becoming ‘open government agents’, providing training to civil servants in many subject areas.
The chatbot lawyer: trouble maker or valuable resource?

The world’s first robot lawyer provides free legal aid to people facing unfair parking fines. It plans to expand to help people facing homelessness.
EXPERIENCES

Back Office Or Front?

Releasing budgets before disasters happen

Forecast-based financing has enabled governments to put cash in the hands of more than 7,000 families before natural disasters occur, helping them to reduce losses.
Steal with pride!

Rewarding government employees with Zorro masks and Copycat of the Year awards encouraged Danish government organisations to adopt, or steal, other entities’ bright ideas.
The Museum Of The Future showcased inventions and technologies inspired by future scenarios.

The Museum Of The Future showcased inventions and technologies that will shape the future as a means to discuss important policies and investment decisions today. Themed ‘Climate Change Reimagined’, the exhibition held during the World Government Summit 2017 examined ways to radically innovate the way human beings live on Earth, tackling in particular the issues of water supply, food security and housing.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai, reminded observers during the opening of the experience that the Museum Of The Future was a vital part of Dubai’s vision and would soon be a permanent fixture in the city. It will be a popular tourist attraction as well as an innovation incubator, leading to new policy initiatives and partnership opportunities.

“We take the opportunity today, through this influential global platform, the World Government Summit, to share our vision for the future and our proposed solutions to face climate change, while exploring any and all possible opportunities that may lie therein,” said Sheikh Mohammed. “The Museum Of The Future is a global platform where top-tier experts can identify the most prominent scientific and technological trends of the future. It is a catalyst for future forecasting and study efforts, and plays a pivotal role in setting up policies and strategies that allow the world’s governments to benefit from the technologies of the future and their potential.”
His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai, inaugurated the Museum Of The Future’s impressive showcase, which was set up by Dubai Future Foundation and held in Madinat Jumeirah during the Summit.
Reimagining Climate Change visualised scenarios addressing food security, water supply and sustainable cities

One of the exhibits was called the ‘AutoFarm’, an inventive answer to the agricultural challenges of the 21st century. The AutoFarm is a fully automated hydroponic micro-farm that uses DNA seed printers and robotic gardeners to produce fresh food with 99% less water, energy and waste.

The technology enables the AutoFarm to create personalised menus for whole neighbourhoods, harvest the ingredients, prepare meals and deliver them right to the customer’s doorstep. Furthermore, the smart system can synchronise its data with the wider market, enabling it to directly address health needs or solve city-wide nutrition problems.

Another exhibit explored the future of water security and how societies will be able to generate enough fresh water in the future. The result is a giant 350 metre-wide jellyfish that acts like a living ‘freshwater factory’, proposed as a response to the shortcomings of desalination.

The final exhibit explored a solution for disaster response and building sustainable cities. City Kit was conceived as a robotic ‘self-building’ technology, capable of constructing entire cities, producing electricity, growing crops, draining flooded streets, repairing crumbling buildings and developing sustainable infrastructure.
The Museum Of The Future has grown over the last four years, since it was first launched at the Summit, into the world’s leading platform for design, technology and foresight. Each year, it explores a new aspect of how emerging technologies may affect important areas such as education, healthcare, transportation, energy, security and housing.
The City Kit is a ‘self-building’ structure which makes use of biotechnology and robotics to construct entirely self-sufficient cities in a matter of weeks.
The Museum Of The Future, set up by Dubai Future Foundation, will be a hub for the world’s technology giants, cutting-edge start-ups, academics and researchers, as well as visitors.
The Future Of
Abu Dhabi & Dubai
“The future belongs to those who can imagine it, design it and execute it. It isn’t something you await, but rather create”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
During the World Government Summit 2017, visitors were transported more than 30 years into the future using state-of-the-art virtual reality (VR) technology. The VR experience aimed to show participants what could be achieved if the United Arab Emirates leadership’s plans and goals are attained. The simulation displaying the nation’s capital depicted suspended gardens, adding lush, sustainable greenery to Abu Dhabi’s landscape. The world’s biggest vertical park formed the centrepiece of the immersive experience.
In the Dubai VR experience, visitors were surrounded by revolutionary technologies touching nearly every aspect of life, most of which are already on the horizon. The future vision of Dubai includes buildings made from 3D-printed materials, smart energy-generating infrastructure, autonomous and drone transport and supersonic travel through the city. Holographic and virtual communication systems, which project information without the need for a screen, were also exhibited, and robot city cleaners could be seen roaming about the landscape.
Visitors had the unique opportunity to experience the future of Abu Dhabi and Dubai by simply donning a pair of VR goggles. The vision of the nation’s leaders materialised right before the users’ eyes.
Futuristic 3D-printed structures stand alongside iconic buildings in **Dubai’s** future landscape.
In the immersive future simulation of **Abu Dhabi**, artificial intelligence and humans live and work side by side.
"Human ambitions have no limits"

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai

The ambitious target to establish the first inhabitable human settlement on Mars by 2117 was revealed among the innovative fringe events taking place around the World Government Summit.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ruler of Dubai, accompanied by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, unveiled the Mars 2117 programme and announced the intention of the UAE to lead the initiative.

The Mars 2117 programme will be developed and executed in partnership with major international scientific research institutions, with the first phase focusing on preparing the skills to achieve the necessary scientific breakthroughs. It will also seek to develop faster means of transportation to and from the Red Planet.

It is envisaged that the city would first be built by robots. During the Summit, the Mars 2117 team demonstrated its vision of how the city would work by using virtual reality.

The platform showcased how life on Mars is anticipated to look and the expected lifestyle humans would experience there, taking into account how they would access food, modes of transport, energy production, infrastructure works and construction materials, among other considerations.
“The new project is a seed that we plant today. We expect future generations to reap the benefits, driven by their passion to learn”

**HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai

“The landing of people on other planets has been a long-time dream for humans. Our aim is that the UAE will spearhead international efforts to make this dream a reality”

**HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces
The City of Wisdom embodies the hopes and dreams of humanity, towards a unified vision of life thriving on Mars.

The preview of life on Mars in 2117 transported viewers into the future and told them the story of how humanity began settling on Mars.

The first scientists and researchers to land on Mars arrived in pods, and after 20 years of extensive research, they built the infrastructure they needed to assemble the robots that would build the cities.

The cities are built vertically, with zones dedicated to specific purposes. A dome provides shelter and generates oxygen, enabling citizens to breathe freely inside without wearing a space suit.

Capital Dome is the administrative and political centre, home to the United Government of Mars, which governs the planet’s development and its relations with Earth and other inhabitable planets.

Superconducting nanotechnologies harvest solar energy and transfer it wirelessly, while a hyperloop is the fastest ground transport in the solar system.
The community on Mars in 2117 embodies a mix of cultures, harmoniously brought together thanks to a universal system of social benefits. All technological, environmental and social aspects of Earth’s various nations have been integrated, leading to new models of communication and the most advanced social order of the 22nd century.
Initiatives

Dubai 10X 256
Arab Youth Forum 262
Global Dialogue For Happiness 276
Climate Change & Food Security Forum 282
SDGs In Action 2017 286
Shaping Future Governments 302
    Global Universities Challenge
Dubai’s government is on a mission to be 10 years ahead of the rest of the world, following a call to action from His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai.

Sheikh Mohammed launched the Dubai 10X initiative at the World Government Summit, directing all government entities to embrace disruptive innovation as a ‘fundamental mantra’ of their operations. This means radically changing the way they do things by exploiting all available technology and basing change on design-based and customer-focused thinking.

Under Dubai 10X, all government and quasi-governmental entities have three months to provide and implement the first three directives:

1. Establishing an X-Unit within every department that is dedicated to disruptive innovation
2. Reviewing the organisational structure of the department and finding new structures, systems and technologies that facilitate creative innovation and disruption
3. Removing regulatory obstacles and partnering with truly disruptive companies and start-ups

At least three scalable prototypes will be exhibited at the World Government Summit 2018.

“With its forward-thinking vision and initiatives, the UAE Government is setting an example for authorities all around the world as it moves from simply forecasting the future to actively working to shape it”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
“The future belongs to those who effect radical changes, not those who make minor, gradual improvements”

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
The Dubai Future Foundation and the Dubai 10X Council will oversee the development and implementation of each government entity’s comprehensive plan.
“Youth are our advisers and they are most qualified to work on a strategy designed for them”

**HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Presidential Affairs of the United Arab Emirates
108,231,780
Young leaders from 22 Arab countries brainstormed ways to influence the future of their region at the Arab Youth Forum, which took place during the three days of the World Government Summit.

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it is considered the first event of its kind to bring together the brightest young Arab minds to discuss their dreams and shape a better future for their countries and the Arab world.

Their ideas and recommendations helped in formulating the Arab Youth Strategy, which was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, during his inspiring address at the World Government Summit.

The forum involved 150 participants from all of the Arab countries, aged between 15 and 30, who had been selected for their exceptional contributions across various sectors and disciplines. The forum covered a wide variety of topics such as entrepreneurship, culture, environment, giving, health and safety, identity, knowledge and education, media, opportunities and values. It had four primary objectives:

1. To build a better future for Arab youth
2. To introduce initiatives and projects that benefit the region
3. To engage Arab youth in constructive conversations with decision-makers
4. To formulate the first Arab youth strategy
Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, welcomed the young participants to the Arab Youth Forum’s three-day workshop.
“It is our responsibility as Arab governments to create hope and open doors of opportunity for youth”

HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Presidential Affairs of the United Arab Emirates
The youth focused on creating a vision to achieve sustainable development, stability and prosperity in the Arab region.
The young participants engaged in collaborative group work, lively discussions and insightful presentations of ideas and concepts.
INITIATIVES
Representatives from 22 Arab countries launched the Arab Youth Strategy alongside His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
In conjunction with the World Government Summit, youth had the opportunity to voice their aspirations, challenges and recommendations to global leaders from the private and government sectors through Youth Circles. The initiative was launched by Emirates Youth Council, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai.

Youth Circles aim to inspire a sustainable youth-centric dialogue across a variety of topics and policy matters, to channel the energy and creativity of youth towards community impact and leadership.

Born out of an idea proposed by youth themselves, Youth Circles is a platform for young people to meet, discuss and shape solutions together. By crowdsourcing the energy, intelligence and creativity of youth, governments and policy-makers are able to hear a diverse range of ideas to address global challenges.

Youth Circles also serve as a platform for governments to gain feedback from the younger generation on upcoming policies and projects, gather data, understand their aspirations and dreams, and inform them about important government messages.

Youth Circles participants are selected to represent a variety of age groups, different fields of study and knowledge, and are comprised of both males and females.
Attended by the President of the World Bank, the Co-founder of LinkedIn and the Vice Chairman of Dubai Holdings, the Summit’s Youth Circles focused on skill-based learning and entrepreneurship.
Global Dialogue For Happiness

“As governments, we are responsible for creating an enabling environment that empowers people to be happy”

HE Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi
Minister of State for Happiness of the United Arab Emirates, Vice Chairman of the World Government Summit

For the first time, the World Government Summit 2017 dedicated a full day of events to the advancement of human happiness around the world.

The Global Dialogue For Happiness, held the day before the Summit’s main programme commenced, invited top international thinkers, decision-makers, government leaders, academics and experts to discuss the main themes impacting happiness and well-being in the world today, including the role of government and public policy in creating a happy and positive society.

Experts participated in workshops, panel discussions and plenary sessions on various topics such as sound and effective ways to measure happiness, developing policies to enhance happiness, how to achieve happiness in cities and the latest scientific literature and research into happiness.

One of the outcomes of the collaborative platform was the creation of a network of global happiness experts and scientists, which will continue to share knowledge and best practice.
“It is through your shared knowledge and commitment today that we held the most important dialogue, in the most critical of times”

HE Ohood bint Khalifa Al Roumi
Minister of State for Happiness of the United Arab Emirates,
Vice Chairman of the World Government Summit

The platform defined happiness not as a luxury, but as a basic human right.
Experts, academics and policy-makers from around the world came together to share their ideas about instilling happiness.
Climate Change & Food Security Forum

“The world needs to achieve quantum leaps in the food industry to reduce the impact of climate change”

HE Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
Minister of Climate Change & Environment of the United Arab Emirates

The global challenge of food security in the face of climate change was tackled by world leaders during the Climate Change & Food Security Forum, held on the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2017.

The forum, held under the auspices of His Excellency Dr Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates, brought together ministers, business people, decision-makers and leading international experts in the field to confront the difficult question of how to ensure sustainable food supplies in the face of increasing populations, evolving diets and climate change.

It included a dialogue session called ‘Our Climate Is Changing, Our Food Must Too’, which focused on the threats to food security posed by climate change, including access, utilisation and price stability.

Other deliberations addressed the role of technology in adapting to and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change, renewable energy and the role of governments in working together to achieve results through global policy frameworks such as the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
INITIATIVES
International government leaders and industry experts convened at the Summit to identify innovative solutions to address climate change and its damaging effects.
International experts, scientists, government officials, youth and the private sector joined forces to discuss ideas and solutions that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the three days of the World Government Summit, experts from around the world focused on the role of science, technology, and innovation in achieving the SDGs, and shared individual country experiences, as well as the role of international organisations in the matter.

The United Nations (UN) identified 17 SDGs in the pursuit of sustainable development, which were the centrepieces for the SDGs In Action initiative. Following a welcome by His Excellency Abdullah Nasser Lootah, Director General of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority in the United Arab Emirates, panel discussions and group workshops were held.

During brainstorming sessions, focus groups developed solutions for implementing the SDGs, and suggested further ways in which science, technology and innovation could be used to achieve these aims.

The audience voted on the solutions they believed would have the highest impact locally and globally. Ideas to improve health and well-being, reduce inequality and promote gender equality were the winners. They were recognised with awards from the World Government Summit and SDGs In Action and will be supported to develop a prototype to present at the UN’s Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation in New York, United States.
Experiences In Implementing SDGs: Thematic Exploration In Collaboration With International Organisations

To open the discussion, Professor Jeffrey Sachs delivered a keynote address on the role of science, technology and innovation in the implementation of the SDGs.
Prof Jeffrey Sachs
Special Adviser to United Nations Secretary General António Guterres on the Sustainable Development Goals, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development at Columbia University

The Hon Kasim Reed
Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, United States

HE Patricia Espinosa
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

HE Prof Enrico Giovannini
Co-chair of the United Nations Secretary General’s Independent Expert Advisory Board on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, Professor of Economic Statistics at the University of Rome Tor Vergata

Ramia Farrage
Presenter & Producer for Dubai Media Inc, Moderator
Country Experiences In Implementing The SDGs

The second panel focused on the early experiences of countries in implementing the SDGs, analysing challenges and methods of deployment.
Tao Porchon-Lynch, the world’s oldest yoga teacher, spoke about the great opportunities for achieving the SDGs despite the challenges countries face today.

HE Amb Michael Gerber
Ambassador & Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development for Switzerland

HE Annika Lindblom
Secretary General of the National Commission on Sustainable Development of Finland

Tao Porchon-Lynch
Master Yoga Teacher

Ramia Farrage
Presenter & Producer for Dubai Media Inc, Moderator
Panellists discussed the role of international organisations in realising the SDGs, and ways to increase support from countries.

**Flavia Schlegel**
Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences of the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization

**Ibrahim Thiaw**
Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

**Rolf Alter**
Director for Public Governance & Territorial Development of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

**Deborah Wetzel**
Senior Director for Governance Global Practice at the World Bank

**Ramia Farrage**
Presenter & Producer for Dubai Media Inc, Moderator
Cluster Brainstorming Workshop

The two-day workshop hosted brainstorming sessions which focused on identifying the key challenges and solutions to achieving the SDGs both locally and globally.
In this closing panel, announcements were made regarding new initiatives and recommendations.
HE Reem Al Hashimy
Minister of State for International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates

HE Amb Macharia Kamau

Dr Kathy Calvin
President & CEO of the United Nations Foundation

Dr Mahmoud Moheildin
Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations & Partnerships of the World Bank

Ramia Farrage
Presenter & Producer for Dubai Media Inc, Moderator
Collaboration Towards Achieving The SDGs

The heads of each brainstorming group from the SDGs In Action workshop shared the outcomes of their respective deliberations.
The audience voted on which solutions they believed would have the highest impact both locally and globally.
Chief Innovation Officers from the UAE Government served as facilitators for the brainstorming clusters during the workshop.
1st Place
SDG 3: Good Health & Well-being
Idea Health in Your Hands

2nd Place
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
Idea Goal Hub

3rd Place
SDG 5: Gender Equality
Idea Game-In
Some of the brightest minds from top graduate schools of public policy and business administration around the world were called upon to help shape the future of government in the World Government Summit’s Shaping Future Governments Global Universities Challenge.

More than 100 students from 14 universities and graduate schools engaged in a dialogue about improving the ways in which governments work around the world. The participating universities included top-performing business schools from China, France, Spain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), United Kingdom and United States (US).

The challenge was a unique global initiative designed to bring together tomorrow’s leaders with today’s policy-makers.

Working in groups embedded with the spirit of teamwork, competition and innovation, each institution brainstormed its proposal for a more effective government.

The university students then presented their projects before a high-profile judging panel during a session called ‘Shaping Future Governments Global Universities Challenge’. They expressed their ideas and aspirations for the future in which they envisioned governments as flexible, smart and transparent.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, honoured Harvard Kennedy School, who presented the challenge’s winning concept, during the World Government Summit awards ceremony.
Each team presented the concept they devised during the brainstorming session to a prestigious panel of judges.
Global Universities Challenge Awards

Harvard Kennedy School

The winning concept was presented by the students from Harvard Kennedy School of Government, based in Massachusetts, US. The idea focused on ‘motivating general participation’ through direct interactions between citizens and government, which could yield results in incentivising civic engagement.
IESE Business School, University of Navarra

Students of IESE Business School, based in Madrid, Spain, suggested altering the structure of government to operate in a modular configuration, creating a Ministry of Facilitations which would widen the range of participation and strengthen the efficiency of policies.

Stanford Graduate School of Business

To ensure innovation and adaptability, future government should embed ‘design thinking’ across all processes and policies. This approach to government was presented by the students of Stanford University, located in California, US.
Connections
A Platform For Exchange
A Platform For **Exchange**

“Successful governments are those that can innovate the tools of government work to pre-empt potential challenges”

**HE Mohammad Abdulla Al Gergawi**
Minister of Cabinet Affairs & The Future of the United Arab Emirates, Chairman of the World Government Summit

The World Government Summit presents governments and organisations around the world a unique opportunity to come together in a single location to hold meetings, exchange expertise, forge relationships, build trust and launch initiatives.

Creative ideas and inspirations are encouraged to flow freely at the Summit. With representatives from over 130 different nations, meetings and discussions yield cutting-edge solutions and policies that leaders and delegates can implement in their home countries.

Among the many meetings held on the sidelines of the Summit was the Closed Session For International Mayors hosted by Dubai Municipality. Attended by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ruler of Dubai, the meeting gathered public management representatives to devise initiatives promoting sustainability and happiness.

The Summit is also an occasion for government departments and organisations to bolster cooperation by signing memorandums of understanding (MOUs). Many agreements were reached this year, establishing partnerships and strengthening global ties.
During the Closed Session For International Mayors, civil leaders met to exchange ideas and share successful models. Participants collaborated to identify solutions based on the specifics of each city.
A round table discussion, titled ‘Knowledge Accelerator: Big Data & Government’ and held in collaboration with the World Bank, focused on how leaders can use big data to inform policy.
International leaders exchanged innovative practices during the meeting of the MENA-OECD Working Group On Open & Innovative Government.
Leaders, experts and policy-makers participated in round table discussions to debate pressing issues such as higher education and economic diversification.
Memorandums Of Understanding

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum attended the signing of the agreements for the World Government Summit 2018 partners.
The UAE Ministry of Interior and Smartmedical Corp of Japan signed an agreement on the sidelines of the Summit.

The UAE and Bhutan signed MOUs promising that the two countries would cooperate on government development, the exchange of expertise and air transport services.

Emirates Youth Council signed an MOU with HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz Philanthropic Foundation to empower the youth of Saudi Arabia and the UAE in various fields.
Dubai’s Roads & Transport Authority signed an agreement with Tesla Inc for vehicles equipped with self-driving technology.

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment signed an MOU with Singapore’s Ministry of Environment & Water Resources to promote cooperation in conservation, climate change and sustainable development.

Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Happiness of the UAE, and Her Excellency Angela Maria Gonzales Loayza, Secretary General of the Administrative Department of Civil Service of Colombia, signed an MOU to promote cooperation between their respective governments.
The Emirates News Agency signed accords with Kazakh and Tunisian news agencies, agreeing to exchange expertise, organise training programmes and share news.

Smart Dubai and the Ministry of Public Administration of Mexico signed an MOU to strengthen joint cooperation in the field of e-government services.
Launches & Announcements

The UAE’s Gender Balance Guide was launched to reduce gender gaps in the workplace.

Dubai Future Foundation announced the launch of Dubai Future Centre in collaboration with Oxford University and Harvard University to support future-related studies.

“The AAV exhibited at the Summit is not just a model”

HE Mattar Al Tayer
Director General & Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of RTA

Dubai’s Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) announced the first trial run of a manned autonomous aerial vehicle (AAV) during the Summit. The AAV is designed to fly for 30 minutes at a maximum speed of 160 kph.
Created using advanced 3D imaging and printing, the scale model of the 1,800 year-old Palmyra’s Arch of Triumph was unveiled at the Summit, serving as a symbol of hope for the region and the importance of preserving history with future technologies. Weighing nearly 11 tonnes and standing roughly 20 feet tall, the replica is two-thirds the size of the original, which was made of Egyptian marble. Reconstructed from photographs of the original structure, the arch was created by Dubai Future Foundation and the Institute for Digital Archaeology as part of a joint project between Oxford and Harvard universities. It was also displayed in London and New York City and at the G7 Summit in Italy.
Awards

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World Government Summit Awards

Honouring government initiatives that showcase outstanding innovation

Best Minister Award

HE Dr Awa Marie Coll-Seck
Minister of Health & Social Action of Senegal

Her Excellency Dr Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Minister of Health and Social Action of Senegal, earned the honour of being named the Best Minister of 2017 for her outstanding work in malaria prevention on a local and international level, as well as curbing the spread of Ebola in Senegal.

Each year, the World Government Summit’s Best Minister Award recognises a single government minister who displays excellence in the public sector, inspiring other leaders and service providers to promote innovation within their domain in order to better serve the needs of their citizens.

Presented in cooperation with Ernst & Young, the prestigious award invites nominations from across the globe to bring recognition to government leaders who have implemented revolutionary initiatives and solutions in an effort to make their country, and by extension the world, a better place.
Creative Governments Innovation Award

**Releasing Budgets Before Disasters Happen**  
Government of Togo

The Government of Togo was honoured for developing a sophisticated flood prediction tool which 'learns' by integrating both hydrometeorological data and humanitarian impact data to trigger forecast-based financing. This mechanism enables government bureaucracies to release funds for early action before disaster strikes, instead of waiting until after tragedy has befallen their nation to act. Results show that this approach decreases the losses incurred by the affected population.
Emirates Innovative Teacher Award

Mariam Rashid Al Zeyoudi
Teacher at Al Massa High School in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates

Launched in 2015 in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates’ (UAE) Ministry of Education and the GEMS Education Foundation, the Emirates Innovative Teacher Award recognises an Emirati teacher who is revolutionising education in the UAE. This year’s winner of the Dhs.1 million prize, Mariam Rashid Al Zeyoudi, was awarded for her work in developing several interactive and innovative initiatives to reconnect students with the Arabic language.
World GovTechioneers Race

Acknowledging government technology pioneers for providing global solutions to global challenges

Blockchain Virtual GovHack

Project Oaken

An autonomous blockchain-based internet of things platform, Project Oaken powers smart cities with automated machine-to-machine communication and value transfer, allowing for smart and safe tollbooth payments.
HealthBlocks
A trusted platform for health information exchange, HealthBlocks provides an easy and secure way to share health records among patients, clinics, insurance agencies, government entities and health providers.

Hypergive
In celebration of 2017 being the ‘Year of Giving’, Hypergive was awarded a special prize for its project, which allows the public to crowdfund secure digital food wallets for homeless and hungry people within the community.

Land Registry Project
An innovative solution which allows United Arab Emirates property title deeds to be stored on a centralised registry, the Land Registry Project allows for efficient asset ownership transfers approved by the Dubai Land Department.
Best Government Emerging Technologies Award

**e-Health Records**
**Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia**

Using the technology behind bitcoin, Estonia secured one million health records to make it impossible for histories to be changed. Estonian citizens carry a smart card that stores their data and provides access to over 1,000 government services.
Self-driving Transport
Ministry of Transport, Singapore
The Singaporean government granted permission to nuTonomy, a start-up focused on bringing automated transport to urban environments, to test its self-driving cars within the city.

Amsterdam Smart City
Government of the Netherlands
Amsterdam has deployed public networks, open infrastructure and data for developers, accelerating emerging internet of things innovations and solidifying its position as the world’s benchmark for smart cities.
Best m-Government Service Award

Safety & Security
Dubai Police General HQ, United Arab Emirates
Project Dubai Police

The application offers a number of intelligent, integrated services, such as reporting accidents and threats to public safety, to increase the level of security in the emirate.
Economy & Commerce
Ministry of Finance Accountant-General’s Department, Singapore
Project Vendors@gov
The application enables government vendors to manage invoices and payments, and provides access to relevant interactive services.

One-Stop App
Ministry of Information & Communication, Kazakhstan
Project The Mobile Government of Kazakhstan
This application provides a single platform where citizens can access the country’s top 80 smart government services.
Social Affairs
The Federal Office for Migration & Refugees, Germany
Project Ankommen
Available in five languages, the application provides useful services for newly arrived refugees adapting to life in Germany.

Health
Ministry of Health, Brazil
Project The Guardian of Health
A participatory monitoring system which helps to strengthen the detection of public health emergencies and outbreaks, the application allows users to register their daily health status and symptoms, and provides statistics and advice.
Transportation & Infrastructure
Roads & Transport Authority,
United Arab Emirates
Project RTA Dubai
With a comprehensive list of services and features designed to support the latest standards for road and public transport users, RTA Dubai provides everything from booking taxis to renewing vehicle registrations.
Tourism
Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, United Arab Emirates

Project: Visit Abu Dhabi

Offering extensive tourism information about Abu Dhabi attractions and experiences in 10 different languages, the application allows users to plan itineraries and make bookings, and provides location services.
Education
Department of Education & Training, Australia
Project Learning Potential
Providing a plethora of useful tips and ideas, the Learning Potential application helps parents support their child’s learning from high chair to high school.

Environment
Estonia
Project Eesti Energia
A useful tool for controlling individual energy consumption, the application notifies each consumer of his or her daily, weekly and monthly energy usage.
“The greatest accomplishment of leadership is not measured in monetary targets, but in the positive impact the leader has on his or her people”

**HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**
Vice President & Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Ruler of Dubai
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