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Ministers gather at Sustainability Summit 2014

World players debate global development goals, focusing on policies, resources and programs for sustainable development

Abu Dhabi, New York and Abu Dhabi, February 25, 2014 - Strategic societal and economic development goals were discussed in Abu Dhabi on February 24-25 at the Sustainability Summit, by government ministers from around the world, top representatives of international non-government organizations and decision makers from both public and private sectors. High-ranking delegates from 35 countries joined policy makers from around the world and pioneering innovators from the EMEA region at Wise Media's seventh summit on sustainable development. The Sustainability Summit was hosted under the patronage of UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, His Highness Lieutenant General Sheik Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, endorsed by the European Commission and the Emirates Identity Authority and opened its doors at the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research.

His Highness Sheik Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan offered the Summit's opening remarks, hosted ministerial meetings on February 23 and 24 and participated in policy makers meetings before visiting the exhibition on February 25. Government ministers from 7 nations, top representatives of international non-government organizations and decision makers from the public and private sectors contributed to a rich agenda of proceedings and exclusive meetings. The Secretary General of Interpol, the Inter-Regional Adviser of the United Nations and the Director International Relations of the European Commission cut the ribbon on the opening day of the Sustainability Summit.

High-profile participants and international organization representatives include:

- Ronald Noble, Secretary General - Interpol
- Richard Kerby, Inter-Regional Adviser - United Nations, USA
- Luigi Soreca, Director General Home Affairs - European Commission
- H.E. Atef Helmy, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt
- H.E. Karim Sinjari, Minister of the Interior, Kurdistan
- H.E. Mohamed Ibrahim, Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunication, Somalia
- Hon. A.Silima Pereira, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Tanzania
- Erik Mothibi Molale, Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Labour & Home Affairs, Botswana
- Maj. Gen. Tarek Mahdi, Governor of Red Sea, Egypt
- Isaac Kgosi, Permanent Secretary in Office of the President - Botswana
- Sayed Aqa - United Nations Development Programme
- Minerva Novero-Belec, Bureau for Development Policy - UN Development Programme

"A society granting prosperity throughout its social and economic structure cannot avoid leveraging the digital dimension," said Sophie B. de la Giroday, President of Wise Media and Host of the Summit. "Digitalization is an answer to complexity and governments are progressing with the implementation of the digital society as a key enabler of sustainable development. This happens today in all regions world-wide, within the public and private sectors, whether through the establishment of its foundation in developing countries, or defining new avenues for its expansion in the developed world.

"Modernization progresses at different speeds, revealing different levels of maturity of the supporting regulations and infrastructures. The advantages of turning to the digital dimension are nonetheless being leveraged across all key sectors, both domestically and internationally, with ongoing investments being made to empower communication platforms as a premise, and to define new trust models and innovative delivery schemes. Opportunities for democratization, social and financial inclusion, as well as labor optimization can thus be pursued to uplift entire populations, while security and quality of life in modern metropolises, as well as legality throughout entire supply chains can be protected in the era of global cross-border trade and travel.

“In light of global development goals, technologies play a key enabling role and request the pertinent efforts in terms of standardization to be streamlined within common masterplans. In the context of today’s information and communication infrastructures, creating or upgrading the functionality of identification schemes is a pivotal element. Many additional countries aim to reach the e-government milestone, empowering their society with trusted digital identities. From their side, developed countries seek new paradigms for secure communications, enabling cloud-based infrastructures for governments on a regional scale, envisaging open data standards. Security and transparency of supply chains, as well as new delivery models, are the objective of the modernization of ICT infrastructures, which are similarly leveraging trusted identities in asset tracking and electronic transactions.

“The Sustainability Summit succeeded in creating a neutral territory for a productive exchange at the highest level, focusing on policies, resources and programs for sustainable development. The Summit works for an inclusive digital society and aims to foster the paradigm shift towards a new era of collaboration: may it be public-private, inter-governmental, or international, collaboration is to become the norm in future strategic development plans surrounding the prosperity and stability of Nations, as well as communities,” added Sophie B. de la Giroday.

The two-days proceedings saw key development programs, international funding and cross-border collaborations at the center of debate. 66 speakers graced the stage at the event, in a rich conference agenda featuring some of the most senior and influential decision makers engaged in developing and spearheading today's global ICT masterplans.



Left: Sophie B. de la Giroday with high ranking dignitaries from governments and international organizations including Interpol, the United Nations and the European Commission cutting the ribbon on the opening day of the Sustainability Summit 2014. Right: The Sustainability Summit attracted an audience of world players from 35 countries



Vision and thought leadership were high on the Sustainability Summit agenda during the opening plenary: from left to right: Ronald Noble, Secretary General - Interpol; Richard Kerby, Inter-Regional Adviser - United Nations; Luigi Soreca, Director General Home Affairs - European Commission; Dr. Ali Al Khouri, Director General - Emirates Identity Authority

The Summit which featured the Future Cities conference, ID WORLD Abu Dhabi 2014 and the Global Migration Summit, was hosted once again by the prestigious and highly influential government organization, the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR).



As a global technology symposium for public and private sector players, this conference part of the Sustainability Summit, focused on urban innovation, fostering the drive for prosperity and efficiency in metropolises worldwide. The Future Cities Conference brought together regional, national and local authorities from the different continents, offering a world-class platform to the debate on how sustainable development will be pursued in today's urban aggregates. It illustrated how intelligent infrastructures can support security and governance, while streamlining access to services in urban environments.



The EMEA Summit on security, mobility and traceability focused on the strategic role of identification. It engaged decision makers within public and private organizations, as well as industry experts, in an open debate on identity management in the digital era, illustrating the role of identities as the key to all trust models in the real and digital worlds, as well as in the financial domain, in all vertical sectors. The event also hosted an exhibition showcasing smart innovations and the latest technological advancements from leading players in the development of e-ID based infrastructures.



As the fourth exclusive event on interchange and cooperation engaging policy makers at a supra-national level, the Global Migration Summit brought together leading experts to define a comprehensive strategy and architecture for migration control, protection of human rights and global fight against crime. Key instruments available were discussed as well as strategies to address the impact of international cross-border migration on the economy, security and social stability of both origin and destination countries.

About the Sustainability Summit Abu Dhabi 2014

The Sustainability Summit is a thought leadership symposium devoted to fostering technology-driven innovation and promoting public-private collaboration for more sustainable development across the world's societies and economies. The Summit caters for a globe-spanning and high profile audience of policy and decision makers in the public and private sectors and has carried out its activities since 2010, with the support of governments and public authorities in the different continents. It engages a world-class community via dedicated chapters organized as Working Groups addressing challenges and opportunities faced within key vertical sectors. Endorsed by the European Commission, the Sustainability Summit is a global initiative, with international events held under the Patronage of governments and ministries in the hosting regions. The Sustainability Summit Abu Dhabi 2014 takes place on February 24 and 25 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Full information www.sustainability2015.com.

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