

H. E., Prominent Scholars,

Distinguished panelists and participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It's my greatest honor to congratulate the inauguration of the International Scientific Conference of the College of Law, successfully organized by American University in the Emirates, in cooperation with Emirates Association for Lawyers and Legal. I express my heartfelt gratitude to every organizer for giving me this honorable opportunity to make a speech before you.

Earlier this year, when I first had a meeting with Prof. Tarek Mohamoud Abdelsalam, Dean of the College of Law, with regard to this Conference, I was so fascinated by one of the Conference goals. Prof. Dean said this Conference will attract the attention on the "comparative law" from around the world. I'm so impressed because there are no place to highlight the comparative uniqueness of legal system better than the UAE where 200 diverse nationalities are engaged in this society having also a wider connection with the global world. The UAE legal system has to satisfy such diverse multi-national human society, through hybridizing the legal systems from civil law, common law, Shari'a, and even Roman-Dutch law

Generally speaking, human society has been developed with a certain principle based on respective civilizations. Every legal system should contain each civilization which has been built and composed by specific items such as language, religion, history, culture, life style, social system, geography, and so on. There are distinctive social norms and moral standards to keep inevitable order of each human society. That's why we say "Ubi societas ibi ius - wherever there is society, there is law."

In the meantime, a nation state has been formed by systematized legal system, to keep a well-ordered society in the contemporary and modern era. But, when was the contemporary and modern era? These eras are different in each region to region as well as nation to nation. So, definitely, the legislation in each nation-state shows a variety of history. Then, the legal history has a close connection with the development of each civilization.

In 1996, Prof. Samuel P. Huntington argued in his landmark essay, "Clash of Civilizations" that cultural and religious identities which mainly compose the civilization would dominate global politics in terms of clash of humane society. Prof. Huntington underscored the cultural and religious identities are the primary source of conflict. But, take a look at multi-national city, Dubai. No conflict has arisen from the clash of cultural and religious differences. Obviously, there must be a unique legal system as social norms inevitable to keep order in multi national society. The UAE continuously keeps its peaceful order engaging in this society, while 200 different nationalities respect the diverse cultures and religions each other. What the legal system the UAE has in order to contain variety of diverse civilizations in this multinational societies?

Ladies and gentlemen, one of the biggest pillar of comparative law is to avoid any unnecessary conflict based on the clash of cultures and civilizations. While the UAE obviously has no such clash of cultures and civilization, the Conference explores how the legal system in the UAE contributes the peaceful order of diverse multinational society in the dimension of comparative law.

I sincerely wish the success of the Conference, and hope the fruitful vigorous discussions, then the outcome of Conference will contribute the legal system of not only the UAE but also every country around the globe.