

His excellency, Prominent speakers, Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my great honor to be invited to the today's prime event, 23rd Middle East Smart Government and Smart Cities Excellent Awards. I also have the tremendous privilege of having a floor before distinguished winners, speakers, guests from the esteemed government and private sectors. I extend my superior gratitude to the Middle East Excellence Awards Institute, which organizes this award ceremony.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

When I received the today's invitation, I was so astonished that the organizer has continuously held this kind of future oriented awards for 22 years successfully. Whatever and however the state of art technologies advances sophisticatedly, our society needs a key-player who devises strategies for innovative agenda setting. Such agenda setting role has been played by this annual ceremony, so that the first winner of this smart excellent awards could be granted to the organizer. Congratulation.

In the past, the term "smart government" had been the concept of so-called "small government" which cuts and reduces the every administration process through the integration of organization sectors, with increasing an access for citizens to the government service. However, this simple productivity-oriented strategy can no longer work effectively because of difficulty in responding the diversified society needs as well as lack of capability to follow technological development.

A current concept of SMART is required to accomplish the highly sophisticated needs from the society. These needs are: highly innovativeness, environment secured sustainability, intelligent mobility, user-friendly accessibility, high-speed network capability, security wise reliability and of course eminently efficient. The today's "Smart Concept" has such high-standard complicated needs. So, today's every winner is a successful key player which has accomplished such diversified highly sophisticated needs for future smart society. It's great, isn't it.

In Japan, we have created a policy slogan, "Society 5.0". It means we are now entering into the 5th generation phase of society development, after the 1st phase, hunting society; 2nd phase, agricultural society; 3rd phase, Industrial society; 4th phase, information society. Then, we are now enjoying a super smart society that is designated as the 5th generation phase, Society 5.0, based on AI, IoT, Robot, big-data and so on.

However, we can't, or should not, or may not be allowed to stop our generation phase. We have to continuously develop our society for our future. Last year when we celebrated the 46th UAE's National Day, President H.H. Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan sent a message that "Preparing of the future starts today." Yes, indeed. Also, the Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, H.H. Shaikh Muhammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, always tells us "This is just the beginning". So, I wish this award exercises continuously the innovative leadership with today's winners in a smart manner. It's because the best way to predict future is to create it by our hands.

Thank you very much, and congratulation on all your successes.