ENHANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY: FOCUS ON AFRICA AND OTHER DEVELOPING REGIONS

The Center for Technology and Economic Development

In collaboration with the UAE Ministry for Foreign Trade and under the Patronage of Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi

February 12-13, 2012
Intercontinental Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Photo by Dan Johanson
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2nd Annual Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED) Conference, in cooperation with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Trade and under the patronage of Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, will focus on how cutting edge technology can aid economic development. Specifically, the conference will feature panel discussions on the topics of Mobile Money, Energy, Food Security, Education and Healthcare. The conference will be a discussion between high-level policy makers, representatives from the private sector and prominent academics from around the world, as well as leading practitioners from the field of information and communication technologies for development. The Mobile Money panel is organized in partnership with UAE Exchange, a leading global remittance and foreign exchange company, which are CTED’s research collaborators and data partners. The Energy panel is organized in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), a leading international organization created to promote a rapid transition towards the widespread and sustainable use of renewable energy worldwide. This year’s conference will also provide a specific focus on Africa and its development, including a distinguished lecture by His Excellency Jerry Rawlings, Former President of the Republic of Ghana and African Union High Representative for Somalia and the African Union Face for Humanitarian Efforts in the Horn of Africa.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS:

UAEXCHANGE
Service is our Currency
Co-Sponsors on Mobile Money Panel

IRENA
International Renewable Energy Agency
Co-Sponsors on Energy Panel
DAY 1: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th, 2012

Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in Meeting Quarter 1.

9:00 AM REGISTRATION
Coffee & Registration

9:30 AM WELCOME AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, UAE Minister for Foreign Trade

His Excellency Jerry Rawlings, Former President of the Republic of Ghana and African Union High Representative for Somalia

Dr. Al Bloom, Vice Chancellor, NYU Abu Dhabi
Dr. Fabio Piano, Provost, NYU Abu Dhabi
Dr. B.R. Shetty, CEO and Managing Director, New Medical Centre Group
Dr. Yaw Nyarko, Professor of Economics, NYU; Director, Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED)

11:00 AM BREAK & REFRESHMENTS

11:30 AM PANEL: MOBILE MONEY
In Partnership with our Research Collaborators and Data Partners, UAE Exchange

Chair: Dr. Mwangi Kimenyi, Director of Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institute

Policy Makers:
Prof. Benno Ndulu, Governor, Central Bank of Tanzania
Dr. Njuguna Ndung’u, Governor, Central Bank of Kenya
Dr. Louis Kasekende, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Uganda

Private Sector:
Herman Chinery-Hesse, Chairman and Co-Founder, SOFTtribe Limited
Sudhir Shetty, COO of Global Operations, UAE Exchange

1:30 PM LUNCH
Hosted by our Research Collaborators and Data Partners, UAE Exchange
Binyas Majlis
3:30 PM  COMMODITY MARKETS

Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Asiedu, Research Director, African Economic Research Consortium

Keynote Address:
Dr. Eleni Gabre-Madhin, CEO and Founder, Ethiopia Commodities Exchange

4:30 PM  BREAK & REFRESHMENTS

4:45 PM  CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS FROM MOBILE MONEY PANEL

Academia and Research:
Chair: Dr. Shing-Yi Wang, Assistant Professor of Economics, NYU

Dr. Lakshmi Subramanian, Professor of Computer Science, NYU; Co-Principal Investigator, Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED)
Dr. Peter Ondiege, Chief Research Economist for Networking and Research Partnerships Division of Development Research Department, African Development Bank
Michael Paik, Researcher, NYU/Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED)

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE BY HIS EXCELLENCY JERRY RAWLINGS
Somalia, the Horn of Africa and Food Security

6:00 PM  REGISTRATION
Auditorium Lobby

6:30 PM  KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Auditorium

His Excellency Jerry Rawlings, Former President of the Republic of Ghana and African Union High Representative for Somalia

His Excellency Hamid Chebira, Ambassador of Algeria, Dean of African Ambassadors to the UAE
Dr. Mary Chinery-Hesse, West African Representative, African Union Panel of the Wise
His Excellency Alhaji Abdulai Yakubu, Consul-General of Ghana to the UAE

7:30 PM  RECEPTION
Hors d’oeuvres and soft drinks will be served.
FEBRUARY 13th, 2012

9:00 AM  PANEL: EDUCATION AND ACCESSABILITY

Chair: Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi, Director of Macroeconomics & Forecasting Department, Dubai Economic Council

Indrani Medhi, Associate Researcher in the Technology for Emerging Markets Group, Microsoft Research India
Andrea Emiliani, Regional Manager, Learning Solutions, IBM Middle East
Dr. Joyojeet Pal, Assistant Professor, School of Information, University of Michigan
Dr. Rakesh Agrawal, Microsoft Technical Fellow, Search Labs, Microsoft Research Silicon Valley

10:30 AM  BREAK & REFRESHMENTS

11:00 AM  PANEL: ENERGY

Organized in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Chair: Dr. Yaw Nyarko, Professor of Economics, NYU; Director, Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED)

Keynote Addresses:
Kweku Awotwi, CEO, Volta River Authority (Ghana)
Michio Hashimoto, Head of Innovation and Technology Unit, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Roundtable Discussion:
Dr. Scott Kennedy, Associate Dean for Engineering Research and Associate Professor of Engineering Systems and Management, Masdar Institute for Science and Technology
Dr. Ayman Shabra, Assistant Professor of Microsystems Engineering, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology
Dr. John Ohiorhenuan, Independent Researcher

1:00 PM  LUNCH

Binyas Majlis
2:00 PM  PANEL: FOOD SECURITY

Chair: George Naufal, Assistant Professor of Economics, American University of Sharjah

Panel Discussion:
Dr. Jenny Aker, Assistant Professor of Economics, Tufts University
Dr. Ed Kutsoati, Associate Professor and Director of the Undergraduate Program in Economics, Tufts University
Dr. Doug Gollin, Professor of Economics, Williams College
Isaac Boateng, Project Lead, Monitoring and Evaluation Team, Esoko (Ghana)
Nicole Hildebrandt, Researcher, NYU/Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED)
Sunandan Chakraborty, Researcher, NYU/Center for Technology and Economic Development (CTED)

4:00 PM  BREAK & REFRESHMENTS

4:30 PM  PANEL: TECHNOLOGIES FOR HEALTHCARE

Chair: Dr. Mike Perrott, Professor of Microsystems Engineering, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology

Dr. Umar Saif, Associate Professor of Computer Science, Lahore University of Managements Sciences
Dr. Bill Thies, Researcher in the Technologies for Emerging Markets Group, Microsoft Research India
Santanu Biswas, Director of e-Health, du

6:00 PM  CLOSING REMARKS
BIOGRAPHIES OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE

Dr. Rakesh Agrawal, Microsoft Search Labs, USA
Rakesh Agrawal is a Microsoft Technical Fellow working at the Search Labs in Microsoft Research in Silicon Valley. Dr. Agrawal is a Member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery, and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. His research focuses on the fields of databases and data mining.

Dr. Jenny Aker, Tufts University, USA
Jenny Aker is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Tufts University, a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Global Development and a member of the Advisory Board for Frontline SMS. Jenny Aker works on economic development in Africa, with a primary focus on the impact of information and information technology on development outcomes, particularly in agriculture.

Roland Akosah, ENO International, Ghana
Roland O. Akosah, a national of Ghana, is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of ENO International, a firm involved in farming, information technology, commercial real estate, pharmaceuticals and financial services.

Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Ministry of Foreign Trade, UAE
Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi is the United Arab Emirates’ Minister of Foreign Trade and former Minister of Economy and Planning. Sheikha Lubna is one of the UAE’s pioneering women professionals in the computer engineering field and has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Tejari, the Middle East’s premier electronic business-to-business marketplace. She is the first woman in the history of the UAE to assume a cabinet position.

Dr. Elizabeth Asiedu, University of Kansas, USA
Elizabeth Asiedu is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Kansas. Professor Asiedu is the incoming Director of Research of the African Economic Research Consortium and the President-elect of the African Finance Economic Association. Her research, which has received international recognition, focuses on Development Finance.

Kweku Awotwi, Volta River Authority, Ghana
Kweku Andoh Awotwi is the Chief Executive Officer of the Volta River Authority which generates and supplies electrical energy for industrial, commercial and domestic use in Ghana. He is the founder of Cenpower Generation Company and has held senior management positions within the mining, oil and energy industries in companies such as Ashanti Goldfields and Kaiser Aluminum.

Dr. Alberto Bisin, New York University, USA
Alberto Bisin is a Professor of Economics and a fellow of the Center for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS) at New York University. Professor Bisin is also a fellow of IGIER at Bocconi University, Milan and Associate Editor of the Journal of Economic Theory. His main contributions are in the fields of General Equilibrium Theory, Financial Economics, Behavioral Economics, and Social Economics.

Santanu Biswas, du, UAE
Santanu Biswas is the Director of e-Health Services at du, the Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company. He is currently heading the development and execution of du’s strategy in the mobile health and eHealth arena and is tasked with building sustainable business models aligned with existing and emerging clinical objectives.
Kofi Blankson Ocansey, Dixcove Ventures, Ghana
Kofi Blankson Ocansey is the Founder and Managing Partner of Dixcove Ventures, a consulting firm in Accra. Mr. Blankson Ocansey has extensive global experience in the fields of strategic consulting, executive operational management, corporate strategy development, and information and marketing communications.

Dr. Al Bloom, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE
Al Bloom is the Vice-Chancellor of NYU Abu Dhabi. Before joining NYU Abu Dhabi, he was President of Swarthmore College for 18 years. Prior to Swarthmore, he served as executive vice president of Pitzer College in Claremont, CA. Previously, he was vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty at Pitzer. He was appointed as assistant professor of psychology and linguistics at Swarthmore in 1974, and named associate provost there in 1985.

Isaac Boateng, Esoko, Ghana
Isaac Boateng is the Team Leader for Monitoring and Evaluation at Esoko Ghana. An Agricultural Sciences and Food Security expert, Mr. Boateng coordinates Esoko’s research activities with partner academic institutions. His interests are agricultural initiatives and innovations that improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers.

Sunandan Chakraborty, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE
Sunandan Chakraborty is a PhD Student Researcher at the Center for Technology and Economic Development.

Jay Chen, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE
Jay Chen is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Science at NYU-Abu Dhabi and a researcher at the Center for Technology and Economic Development. Dr. Chen’s research interests are in the areas of systems and networking, and his research is broadly about providing appropriate technical solutions to problems in developing regions.

Herman Chinery-Hesse, SOFTtribe Limited, Ghana
Herman Chinery-Hesse is the founder and CEO of the SOFTtribe, one of the largest and most successful software companies in West Africa. An innovator and visionary who is often described as "Africa's Bill Gates", Mr. Chinery-Hesse has embarked on a mission to spark an entrepreneurial revolution in Africa by bringing e-commerce to the most remote corners of the continent.

Dr. Mary Chinery-Hesse, African Union, Ghana
Dr. Mary Chinery-Hesse is the West African Representative on the African Union Panel of the Wise. In 1981, Dr. Chinery-Hesse began working for the United Nations and has since served in a variety of positions and on panels relating to development, HIV/AIDS, labor, and women’s issues. She is also currently a Member of the U.N Secretary-General's Blue Ribbon Panel of Eminent Persons on Threats, Challenges and Change. In addition, she acts as a Consultant to several Governments and International Institutions.

His Excellency Hamid Chebira, Algerian Embassy to UAE, UAE
His Excellency Hamid Chebira is the Algerian Ambassador to the UAE. He is also currently the Dean of the African Ambassadors to the UAE.
Ted Chu, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, UAE
Ted Chu is Chief Economist at the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). He joined ADIA from General Motors in Detroit, where he was responsible for providing the Executive Committee with support on key investment decisions, business planning and strategic research. Dr. Chu has also served as a macroeconomist at the Central and Eastern European division of the World Bank in Washington.

Alexander Coutts, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE
Alexander Coutts is a PhD Student Researcher at the Center for Technology and Economic Development.

Dr. Chetan Dave, Assistant Professor of Economics, NYU Abu Dhabi
Chetan Dave is an Assistant Professor of Economics at NYU Abu Dhabi. A specialist in macroeconomics and econometrics, Dr. Dave studies economic growth and the causes of business cycles. His current research focuses on macroeconometrics and behavioral and experimental economics as relevant to macroeconomic phenomena.

Dr. Juan Dubra, Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay
Juan Dubra is a Professor of Economics at Universidad de Montevideo, Uruguay. He has taught at Yale University, Carnegie Mellon University and several universities in Latin America. Professor Dubra’s research is in microeconomic theory, applied game theory, and issues of political economy in topics like the political and economic causes of the natural resource curse.

Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi, Dubai Economic Council, UAE
Ibrahim Elbadawi is the Director of the Macroeconomics Research and Forecasting Department, Dubai Economic Council and Visiting Fellow at the Center for Global Development. Until recently he was Lead Economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank. He has published widely on macroeconomic and development policy. His regional specialization covers Africa and the Middle East.

Andrea Emiliani, IBM Middle East, UAE
Andrea Emiliani, is the Regional Manager for Learning Solutions at IBM Middle East in Dubai.

Ghassan Frache, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE
Ghassan Frache is the Chair of Educational Technology at the Madinat Zayed Colleges at the Higher Colleges of Technology.

Dr. Eleni Gabre-Madhin, Ethiopia Commodities Exchange, Ethiopia
Eleni Gabre-Madhin is the founder and Chief Executive Officer and Founder of the Ethiopia Commodities Exchange and a research collaborator with the Center for Technology and Economic Development. Dr. Gabre-Madhin is an economist who has previously worked at the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute and is a research collaborator with CTED.

Dr. Ismail Genc, American University of Sharjah, UAE
Ismail H. Genc is currently professor of economics at the American University of Sharjah in Sharjah, UAE. He is a past Vice-President of the Southwestern Economics Association, currently sits on various editorial boards, and provides testimonies to policy/decision makers in industry and governmental bodies. Dr. Genc’s research interests include Macroeconomics, Applied Quantitative Methods.
**Dr. Doug Gollin**, Williams College, USA
Doug Gollin is a Professor of Economics at Williams College, a Visiting Fellow at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a member of the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. Dr. Gollin’s research interests are in agriculture, economic growth, and development.

**Michio Hashimoto**, IRENA, UAE
Michio Hashimoto is a Senior Project Officer at the International Renewable Energy Agency. Mr. Hashimoto has extensive experience working for the Japanese government on numerous international energy projects. His former roles include Counselor for Science and Technology Policy to the Cabinet, Director for Automotive Technologies and Director for International Affairs at Japan’s Nuclear Safety Agency.

**Nicole Hildebrandt**, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE
Nicole Hildebrandt is a PhD Student Researcher at the Center for Technology and Economic Development.

**Dr. Louis Kasekende**, Bank of Uganda, Uganda
Louis Kasekende is the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Uganda. Dr. Kasende, former Chief Economist for the African Development Bank, is a member of the United Nations Group of Eminent Persons for the Least Developed Countries and was recently appointed to the Financial Stability Board taskforce on Emerging Markets and Developing Economies.

**Dr. Scott Kennedy**, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, UAE
Scott Kennedy is Associate Dean for Research and Associate Professor of Engineering Systems and Management at the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi. Dr. Kennedy’s research and teaching interests focus on the evaluation of socio-technical systems using both quantitative and qualitative systems analysis techniques.

**Dr. Mwangi Kimenyi**, Brookings Institute, USA
Mwangi Kimenyi is Senior Fellow of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institute. Dr. Kimenyi is also the founding executive director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis. His research focuses on Africa’s development including institutions for economic growth, political economy, and private sector development.

**Dr. Edward Kutsoati**, Tufts University, USA
Edward Kutsoati is an Associate Professor and Director of the Undergraduate Program in Economics at Tufts University. His research interests are primarily on applied microeconomics. He has done and continues to work on research papers that span topics on incentives in organizations, financial markets and more recently, on microfinance.

**Dr. Innocent Matshe**, African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya
Dr. Innocent Matshe is the Director of Training Programmes at the African Economic Research Consortium. A former head of the Department of Economics at the University of Zimbabwe, Dr Matshe has extensive university teaching and research experience in Microeconomics, Agricultural and Development Economics, Information, and Health Economics. He is a Fulbright fellow.
**Indrani Medhi**, Microsoft Research, India  
Indrani Medhi is an Associate Researcher and member of the Technology for Emerging Markets Group at Microsoft Research India. Her research interest is in the area of Ethnographic UI Design and Technology for Socio-Economic Development. Her current work has been in User Interfaces for Illiterate and Semi-Literate Users. She is a 4th year Ph.D. student at the Industrial Design Centre, Mumbai, India.

**Dr. Kupukile Mlambo**, African Development Bank, Tunisia  
Kupukile Mlambo is attached as lead expert to the Chief Economist of the African Development Bank. Before joining the Bank, Dr. Mlambo worked as a lecturer of Economics in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Dr. Mlambo’s research interests cover areas such as economic growth, finance, investment, and productivity growth.

**Dr. George Naufal**, American University of Sharjah, UAE  
George Naufal is an Assistant Professor of Economics in the School of Business and Management at The American University of Sharjah. His Ph.D. thesis investigates the determinants, motivations and effects of remittances. His primary research interests include labor economics, with an emphasis on migration, education and health economics. His secondary research interests include macroeconomics and monetary theory.

**Dr. Sundaravalli Narayanaswami**, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE  
Sundaravalli Narayanaswami is on the faculty at the Higher Colleges of Technology, Abu Dhabi. Dr. Narayanaswami’s major areas of work are transportation scheduling, intelligent transportation and modeling computationally hard, large scale problems using linear programming, heuristic and learning-based Intelligent agents. Her recent research interests are revenue management, assets and services pricing.

**Prof. Benno Ndulu**, Central Bank of Tanzania, Tanzania  
Professor Benno Ndulu is Governor of the Central Bank of Tanzania. Prior to this, he worked as a Lead Sector Specialist with the Macroeconomic Division of the World Bank for Eastern Africa. Professor Ndulu helped set up the African Economic Research Consortium and served as its Research director and later as its Executive Director. His research interests are growth, adjustment, governance and trade.

**Dr. Njuguna Ndung’u**, Central Bank of Kenya, Kenya  
Njuguna Ndung’u is the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya and an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Nairobi. Prior to his appointment as Governor, Prof. Ndung’u was the Director of Training at the African Economic Research Consortium. Prof. Ndung’u has extensive research and teaching experience in macroeconomics, microeconomics, econometrics and poverty reduction.

**Dr. Yaw Nyarko**, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE  
Yaw Nyarko is a Professor of Economics at New York University and the Principal Investigator at the Center for Technology and Economic Development. A theoretical economist, Professor Nyarko’s current work focuses on models where the economic actors engage in active learning about their environments and human capital models of economic growth and development.
Dr. John Ohiorhenuan, USA
John Ohiorhenuan is an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and an Independent Researcher at the International Renewable Energy Agency. Dr. Ohiorhenuan’s research interests include the political economy of development, post-conflict economic recovery, Africa and globalization, and global governance.

Nicholas Okot, African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya
Nicholas Okot is currently the Principal Banking Officer for Financial and Capital accounts of the external sector statistics in the Bank of Uganda and a Researcher for the African Economic Research Consortium. Mr. Okot’s research interests focus on Macroeconomics, Applied Econometrics monetary policy, Finance and evaluation of technical efficiency and productivity of private enterprise and public institutions.

Dr. Peter Ondiege, African Development Bank, Tunisia
Peter Ondiege is Chief Research Economist in the Networking and Research Partnerships Division of the Development Research Department (EDRE). He coordinates the network for Eastern and Southern African Countries as well as Investment Climate Assessment and African Competitiveness Reports jointly undertaken with the World Bank and World Economic Forum. His research interests include African Economic Development Issues; Small and Medium Enterprise Sector Development; and Private Sector Development.

Michael Paik, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE
Michael Paik is a PhD Student Researcher at the Center for Technology and Economic Development.

Dr. Joyojeet Pal, University of Michigan, USA
Joyojeet Pal is an assistant professor at the School of Information at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. A lot of his past work was on technology and a child, specifically children’s sharing of computers in resource-strapped environments. More of his recent work has been on the development and adoption of assistive technology following the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Dr. Mike Perrott, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, UAE
Dr. Michael Perrott is a Professor of Microsystems Engineering at Masdar Institute of Science and Technology. Prior to joining Masdar Institute, he was Chief Circuit Architect at SiTime Corporation, a Silicon Valley startup developing clock generation and timing solutions which incorporate Micro-Electro Mechanical Systems (MEMS) resonator devices inside standard silicon electronic chips. His research interests include analysis and design of analog integrated circuits and high speed communication circuits.

Dr. Fabio Piano, NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE
Fabio Piano is the Provost at NYU Abu Dhabi, serving as the chief academic officer. Even before his appointment as provost, Dr. Piano was instrumental in developing and advancing NYU Abu Dhabi, helping to craft its innovative undergraduate science curriculum, as well as its distinctive research program. Dr. Piano is the Director of NYU’s Center for Genomics and Systems Biology in New York and leads an active research program in genomics and systems biology.
**His Excellency Jerry Rawlings**, African Union, Somalia  
Flt Lt (retired) Jerry Rawlings is the African Union High Representative for Somalia and the former President of the Republic of Ghana. He is best known for his role in bringing Ghana back to democratic rule. During his rule, President Rawlings sponsored Ghana’s numerous peacekeeping and conflict-resolution campaigns in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Rwanda. He is the joint recipient of the 1993 World Hunger Award.

**Giorgia Romagnoli**, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE  
Giorgio Romagnoli is a PhD Student Researcher at the Center for Technology and Economic Development.

**Dr. Umar Saif**, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan  
Umar Saif is an Associate Professor at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. A computer scientist and entrepreneur, Dr. Saif is the founder of the Saif Center of Innovation. Dr. Saif’s research interests broadly span areas of Ubiquitous Computing, Distributed Systems, Mobile Systems, Network Protocols and Architectures and ICT for developing world countries.

**Dr. Ayman Shabra**, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, UAE  
Ayman Shabra is an Assistant Professor of Microsystems Engineering at the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi. His analog and mixed signal circuit design experience includes circuits for communications, battery and power management, sensor interfaces and MMI technologies.

**Hesham Shehab**, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE  
Hesham Shehab is the Coordinator for the Center of Applied Research and Technology at the Higher Colleges of Technology in Abu Dhabi.

**Dr. B.R. Shetty**, New Medical Centre Group, UAE  
Dr. B.R. Shetty is the CEO and Managing Director of the New Medical Centre (NMC) Group in Abu Dhabi, which was founded as a one room clinic in 1975. Over three decades after its inception, NMC has flourished into a multi-activity conglomerate, encompassing a diverse spectrum of businesses. Seeing the lack of affordable and efficient fund transfer facilities in Abu Dhabi, Dr. Shetty started UAE Exchange in 1980. Today, UAE Exchange is a global player with a direct presence in over 250 offices in 22 countries.

**Sudhir Shetty**, UAE Exchange, UAE  
Sudhir Shetty is COO of Global Operations for UAE Exchange. UAE Exchange is one of the largest foreign exchange firms in the United Arab Emirates and across the world, with over 250 offices in 22 countries.

**Gauri Singh**, International Renewable Energy Agency, UAE  
Gauri Singh is Director of Knowledge Management Innovation and Technology at the International Renewable Energy Agency. Ms. Singh is a Joint Secretary in India’s Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Her responsibilities include all policy formulation and international cooperation. She is also in charge of designing the framework for renewable energy certificates.

**Emilia Soldani**, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE  
Emilia Soldani is a PhD Student Researcher at the Center for Technology and Economic Development.
Dr. Lakshmi Subramanian, Center for Technology and Economic Development, UAE
Lakshmi Subramanian is an Assistant Professor in the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University and co-Principal Investigator at the Center for Technology and Economic Development. Professor Subramanian’s research interests are in the areas of networks, distributed systems and computing for development.

Bill Thies, Microsoft Research, India
Bill Thies is a researcher and a member of the Technologies for Emerging Markets Group at Microsoft Research India. His research focuses on creating appropriate information and communication technologies to promote socio-economic development, as well as the description and automation of biology protocols on platforms such as microfluidic chips.

Dr. Kevin Thom, New York University, USA
Kevin Thom is an assistant professor of economics at New York University. His research interests include labor economics, applied microeconomics, and the economics of health. He received a PhD in economics from Johns Hopkins University.

Viju Varghese, du, UAE
Viju Varghese is a Project Manager at du, the Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company, where he manages the application, development and implementation of all of du's eHealth service initiatives.

Dr. Shing-Yi Wang, New York University, USA
Shing-Yi Wang is an Assistant Professor of Economics at New York University and a consultant for the Millennium Challenge Corporation. She is a development economist who works on microeconomic issues in developing countries, with a particular interest in issues related to property rights and labor markets.

His Excellency Alhaji Abdulsei Yakubu, Consulate-General of the Republic of Ghana, UAE
Alhaji Abdulai Yakubu is Consul-General of the Republic of Ghana to the United Arab Emirates. He has served as a lecturer and a senior civil servant. Prior to his appointment, Alhaji Yakubu was a real estate development entrepreneur. He has a BSc in Building Technology from Ghana’s University of Science and Technology and an LLB from the Ghana School of Law.