

## HH Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research of UAE

His Highness Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research of UAE, inaugurated the Conference. He delivered a speech, conveying greetings to guests and participants, appreciating their efforts and wishing them success in reaching their objectives while pledging to provide all necessary support and facilitation. In summary, His Highness Said:

- “The name of your organization – the Arab States Research and Education Network – suggests creativity, innovation, forward thinking, receptiveness to change, and, to me, especially, regional development and global connections. It is a great pleasure to welcome all of you to the United Arab Emirates and to Dubai for this E-AGE 2012 Conference.”
- “There is a need in our region for digital infrastructures that promote more research and discovery in all disciplines – infrastructures that will help our region achieve important objectives. Those objectives include increasing economic growth and development, enhancing academic research, and keeping pace with global developments and innovations. More important, these digital infrastructures in our countries need to help increase the effectiveness of our national universities and research institutions. For all of that to happen, however, businesses, government agencies, and academic institutions must envision the promise and power of these effective connecting tools. They must explore the opportunities such digital infrastructures can provide for the exchange of information among all segments of society and academia about research applications in all areas of our lives.
- “Today, by holding this conference, you aim to advance substantially the research and education capacity of the Arab region. Your network has the potential to expand the boundaries of teaching, learning, and research. You can dramatically increase the ability of students, researchers, and institutions to learn together and to collaborate. You can help place our region in the forefront of technological development. And, of course, you can help our colleges and universities keep pace with global technological innovations and enhance their collaboration with leading universities and research centers around the world.”
- “Our digital infrastructures must allow us to connect, communicate, and collaborate. They must provide individuals and institutions with the knowledge and ability to retrieve, analyze, and use large quantities of information. And they should help to create the conditions that will allow modern technologies and innovation to enrich all aspects of our lives. You are absolutely right to be concentrating on those themes in this conference.”
- “We therefore welcome you warmly to this “e-AGE Conference”, dealing with integrating Arab e-infrastructures in a global environment. Along with you, we are quite excited by the great potential of the Arab States Research and Education Network and by its role in the building of our national capacities in education and research.”