

Newspaper	GULF TODAY
Date	21 APRIL 2016



Dr. Mahathir confers with Sheikh Nahyan.

Gulf Today - 21/4/2016, Pg. 3
Prasanth Mukundan / The Gulf Today

'Dubai mirrors visionary leadership'

BY MOHAN VADAYAR

DUBAI: Knowledgeable leadership is the need of the hour for a country to take up challenges and grow like Dubai, on par with the rest of the developed world, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said in Dubai on Wednesday.

Sharing his insights on leadership as a key driver of the global economy, Dr Mahathir added that "we need leaders who understand the expectations of their followers; humane leaders who are concerned and are good listeners...with

similar successors in order to change a country."

Citing Dubai as the "perfect example of what leadership means and what leadership can do", he said several democracies tested after the so-called Arab Spring failed because of wrong selection of leadership.

He further shared with the audience tales of dictatorships as well as the problems of democracy. He hailed Dubai's transformation from a small village into a great city, and nearly the world's largest trade hub. "When you have leaders, who have a vision, changes can be amazing and mind-boggling," he added.

Speaking about his experience of leading the transformation of Malaysia during his 22-year-reign as prime minister, Dr Mahathir said the foundation of good leadership is in uniting a population and knowing the expectations of one's followers expect.

In another keynote address during the opening session, David Wang, CEO of a leading technology solutions providers and chief sponsor of ICLIE'16, Huawei UAE, discussed the theme of innovation. Wang tackled the topic "Building a Better Connected Tomorrow". He said, "We are only at the 'beginning of the beginning' of technology stage."

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Saeed Al Ghandi, Chancellor of CUD and Wang, in the presence of Chang Hua, Chinese Ambassador to the UAE. The new agreement will see CUD and Huawei UAE cooperate on a range of initiatives that promote R&D, and the professional development of students.

Day one of the conference saw over 200 researchers, practitioners and policy makers come together to debate the emerging challenges and long-term solutions to some of the key business challenges arising in the globalised economy.