



**The speech of Mrs. Katia Tayyar in the opening ceremony of the 10th session of Arabcom 2007 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April in Dubai**

**Your Excellency Engineer Sultan Bin Sa'id El-Mansoury, the sponsor of Arabcom 2007**  
**Your Excellency Abdur-Rahman Al-Oweis, minister of Culture and society development in UAE**  
**Your Excellency Dr. Marawan Hamadeh, Minister of Telecommunication in Lebanon**  
**Your Excellency Sheikh Mohamed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa Deputy Minister of Telecom in the Kingdom of Bahrain**  
**Your Excellency Moniana Dina secretary of state to the Prime Minister in charge of new technologies in Mauritania**  
**Your Excellency General Abbas Arabi, general manager of the National Telecommunication corporation, and representative of His Excellency Sudanese Minister of Telecommunication**

**Your Excellencies. Ladies and gentlemen**

It is my pleasure to welcome you at the inauguration of the tenth session of ArabCom 2007. I do thank you all for your presence and care, and I convey my thanks to his Excellency Minister Engineer Sultan Bin Sa'id Al-Mansoury, for his generous sponsorship for ARABCOM 2007, and I do appreciate his circumstances and his many commitments. I really thank him for his care and for supporting our activities to serve digital development and the framework to activate Arab efforts in the field of communication, which is the goal of ArabCom since its first launch in 1998 in Beirut.

While inaugurating the activities of ArabCom 2007, I would like to welcome His Highness Abdur-Rahman Al-Oweis, minister of Culture and society development in UAE who honoured us by attending to give the speech of the sponsor of ArabCom 2007 who could not attend for emergency reasons that happened in the last minutes. Our appreciation for what the government of Dubai gives to our activities equals our honour for what UAE in general and Dubai in particular do for all those who live on its land, including the advanced services and modern infrastructure that provides and guarantees the availability of methods of modern communication to make sure our works and activities achieve the success needed. Dubai represents a symbol of the new era, and due to the wisdom of those who govern it, Dubai managed to cope with the world openness revolution and succeeded to cope with the developments that appear in the developed nations, so that today it becomes the destination of businessmen from all over the world.

Our pride for what UAE gives to our activities, either represented in its government or its people, fosters our position and doubles our desire to exert more effort and remain within its route of success to achieve progress and achieve our developmental goals for the good of our nation, through effective co-operation between official and private sectors, in the era of challenge and alliances, and under the directions of His Highness Governor of Dubai and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashed Al Maktoum, in order to promote our societies to guarantee the future of our nations through fostering knowledge, developing abilities, and spreading the culture of communication and information.



Here we are celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ArabCom on the land of UAE, in Dubai which managed, due to the shrewd vision of its government, to occupy a position on the map of new world economy.

ArabCom, which was launched in Beirut in 1998 to spread awareness in the Arab region about the importance and role of developing communication sector in the process to build societies and develop economy, won the bet, and managed to play an important role in the process of building communication and dialogue bridges between the governmental and private sectors in order to push development and modernization forward to face the challenges the region faces.

Your Excellencies, our valued guests and participants, your attendance today, especially in the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our success, is considered as a triumph trophée for us. Through your participation, you express how deep you believe in our role and trust our mission, in addition to expressing your appreciation for our efforts which aim at promoting the future of our nation while our region faces various kinds of challenges. I do salute you, and from you, I inspire the power to continue, and with you, we will celebrate, tonight, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ArabCom, to which I gave all my efforts and sacrifice through hard working at night, taking the burden of travel, bearing the tiring search and follow-up, in order to collect every new thing that might benefit our region and cope with our reality in order to enhance our infrastructure.

After long years, I sign with you a pledge of allegiance on the papers of history to a nation that I loved and that I am really proud to be one of its members. Here began my journey, and here was the inspiration to give and perseverance for the sake of a case that I believed in for the sake of generations that I wanted to defend before time goes. The right of our people to communicate and to know in the age of the economy of knowledge is a legal right and we all have to work to achieve it.

Anyone who thinks that the route of success was full of flowers, and that our journey to spread the culture of communication and knowledge was a matter of festivals and celebrations is totally wrong. Reality shocked those who rejected the leading role for the woman and its effective role to achieve her lofty objectives while leading a thorny battle, rigidly and enthusiastically. We have gone through all kinds of challenges, competitions and rivalries, and, with God's help, and through our belief in the case, we managed to achieve our goal. The recommendations of our conference ArabCom have melted and appeared in the directions of the Arab leaders and kings in the Arab Summit in Jordan 2001, giving immortality to our vision and developmental actions, putting the fingerprints of our huge efforts on the pages of history, indicating our role in providing for a capable Arab society that is able to control the devices of the digital age.

ArabCom has played, and is still playing, an important leading role to push the process of developing communication within our nation forward, as this conference had great effect through achieving approximation between Arab and international decision makers and private sectors and the different related Arab or foreign bodies. So, this conference was, and is, a regional platform to bridge the dialogue gap between the official and private sectors, and to exchange experiences between developed and developing countries, leading us at the end to see what we witness today with the spread of communication services in the Arab World, in different percentages between countries according to the characteristics and abilities of each country to achieve the required speed to develop the sector.



Here we meet again in Dubai, not as a co-incidence, but due to our belief in what this unique and intelligent emirate represents because of its distinguished and elevated position on the map of the modern world. Because Dubai depends on communication and information technologies to move on to internationality, it managed to occupy the most important places in this age and to cope with the requirements of the new world economy.

ArabCom, in its 10<sup>th</sup> session this year, and through its title "TELECOM NEXT", incarnates our vision through working on our objectives to achieve fast jumps towards the future as the second revolution which the world witnesses alerts us that there will be many variables in the daily, practical and professional life styles where communication is becoming, more and more, the backbone of the future of exchange, telecommunication, and knowledge in a way that the progress of countries and its success is measured by the number of internet and telecommunication users living in it. Standards will be changed again, and there will be no place for the classical methods for work, Telecommunication and exchange in response to the conditions of the new world economy.

Networks, with its new generation, and the approximation factors it represents between what is static and what is portable, will provide the user with matchless elasticity and boundless services that we do not know much about these days.

The world today is subject to big and important changes on all levels. And what makes things more difficult is that the fast succession of changes in all fields, especially in the telecommunication sector which is not a mere dynamic sector separated from other sectors but also a technological key that has priority in all economic and social fields and that has a direct effect on the cultural and political developments.

Telecommunication, which represented a digital gap, according to many, may play a positive and effective role to foster development instead of dedicating social and economic gaps in case decision makers and managers double their efforts to represent a motivation to individuals to use the new technologies to increase performance and enhance work methods so that using information and Telecommunication becomes part of the main process to exchange and operate.

So, we appeal to decision makers to let governments and organizational bodies play a bigger role in specifying their new strategies and infrastructure making use of the available experiences.

Also, we appeal to the carrier companies and service and application providers to give more care to the awareness and curiosity of the user.

The big challenge lies in the speed of development that result from the approximation between the technologies of Telecommunication, computer, broadcasting, and information to create added value and integrated Telecommunication services. This lead in more developed countries to the launch of new world class companies that are able to transmit sound, data and pictures at the same time.

The revolution of the networks in the new generation that provides higher speed for data communication will enable us to transmit TV through telecommunication as easy as using phones. Also, the progress that the communication world witnesses will make services more amicable and user-friendly in the future, apart from complexity and difficulty. Important researches made today confirm that human interactions gained the highest priority in the last years, including the role played by artificial intelligence, to simplify operations when one has to work with more than one machine or more than one media at the same time. The subject of our conference this year is "Telecom Next" shows how much we are interested in what



telecommunication have for the future as a result of the technological development that industry witnesses in this field.

The Future Shock is a true reality that will affect huge number of the inhabitants of the world, increasingly, and it is known as the illness of change. And this case appears more severely in the telecommunication world that is subject to fast changes in technologies, as far as innovation, application and usage of these technologies is concerned.

Also, the information and telecommunication revolution is a daily truth especially for communication departments in developing and developed countries all over the world. According to the specific nature of information technology, it is subject to two kinds of shocks, "Civilization Shock", and "Future Shock". The first shock can be attributed to the fact that communication can achieve approximation between different places and civilizations causing each of them to affect the other. The latter is attributed to the accelerated technical change and its evolutionary business applications.

This is the scenario that humanity face, as change always shocks people as if it is an ice cliff. Unfortunately, most of us are not ready to adapt themselves to cope with such a situation to overcome it. Although telecommunication departments are aware of the fact the results from huge changes, they are not real ready to adapt to the new situation and the new scenario.

As an example, and in comparison with the what happens with the carrier companies in the area, an American communication company started to market a new service that it called "Phone Calls For Life". This service gives the opportunity to anyone to make an unlimited number of phone calls during all of his life, for 999 USD.

ArabCom which is of the habit of transporting every new thing to the region will make sure to shed light on the role played by the acceleration and increase of networks that help to formulate a society that is "Electronically Connected", the thing which will lead to non-centralization of businesses. In short, the multi-shaped communication age has developed so much, and telecommunication technologies will achieve "tangible" developments in the following years that can be classified in: Fast speed, and big capacity – Development in artificial intelligence where there will be no place for ignorance, slowness, or weakness, only knowledge, speed and strength can survive.

An example of the possible developments is the telephone that is able to transmit the smell or interpretation, which required the existence of programmed language translations and artificial sound technology for world telecommunication services so that two persons can communicate with each other using their different languages. And finally, there is the direct brain communication which is a new field for future search. Waves of the brain can now be registered in the form of electrical signals, and it is possible to develop computers to be able to solve these waves and send the result to others. This kind of communication would represent a climax in communication between persons, and can lead to a new degree of mutual understanding.

**In a word, telecommunication technology gives a promise of great development that can surprise anyone, even those who are interested in these developments or who are after it. And we are not exaggerating if we say that all these technological developments would happen in the near future.**



**It is very clear that the future surprise will be amazing, and would take us out of the sphere if we do not do anything to absorb it, assimilate it, and adapt with it.**

Intellectuals and teachers speak in pride about "Teaching for the sake of change", or about "preparing people for the future", but we are totally ignorant about how to do that. A warning has been given, and developed countries are aware that the thunderbolt of new technologies is about to fall on their heads, bringing in violent social changes along with new directions to manage businesses to keep them in a state of increasing competition and to create the consumer-based market economy. .

The Arab world is still away from this equation. But this does not mean that it did not achieve good progress in the process of development and modernization. Both the Arab's private and public sectors have helped spread telecommunication services. So, they proved ability to face the digital challenge, and reached a degree of competing with many foreign and local companies and are looking forward to expand regionally and internationally to be among the leaders developing telecommunication in the world to build the information society. Here, I would like to mention Emirates Etisalat (the historic carrier in Emirates) and Saudi Telecom Company that achieved great leaps forward in the field of giving licenses to provide the best and most recent services. For examples from private sector, I would like to mention the Kuwaiti Mobile Communication company that expanded in the region, Orascom, Batelco, Qtel, Watania, etc.

This would have never happened if countries did not have ability to take the decisions, and if decision makers were not able to build a society of knowledge.

I would like to thank Tunisia that hosted ArabCom 2005 for the efforts that it exerted both on the Arab and international levels, and I do appreciate its role in establishing incubators to encourage innovation, and in creating the first internet city in the Arab world, in addition to preparing the first bus with internet connection to teach the people living in villages and remote areas how to use the internet in an endeavour to promote its people.

And I would also like to thank Lebanon, represented in you Mr. Minister, as you gave much to it, and I say that Lebanon, my homeland, always is a leader in all of that. But you, my country, only miss political and security stability to excel and remain as a lighthouse leading the area as you used to be across history.

I also like to offer my appreciation and admiration to the kingdom of Bahrain, in your attendance Mr. deputy minister, for your role in liberating the whole sector in order to foster services in the kingdom.

And I would like to salute the role of Palestine, whose minister is not among us today, after he confirmed attendance, due to closure of passageways, for the role of the Palestinians to cope with developments despite siege. You never surrender to destruction, arbitrariness or blackmailing. We ask God to bless your efforts and to grant you everlasting resistance.

We also appreciate Mauritania for the development witnessed in the sector, in an age when all challenges accelerate.



I would like also to express my greeting and appreciation to Qatar where ArabCom 2002 was held in its fifth session to achieve marvellous success due to the prosperity and activity of the sector in the age of challenges and alliances.

We show our admiration with the openness and progress that the sector witnesses constantly in Sudan and Algeria to spread the telecommunication culture all over the countries. And here, as I do not have enough time to mention all the Arab countries, I would like to thank all these countries and praise them for what this field witnesses, wishing more progress for all.

And at the end, I would like, again, to appreciate your acceptance of our invitation, which shows how much you are interested in this deep-rooted nation which owns, in addition to its natural wealths, human wealths, and that has deep-rooted history, that carried glory, and was generous and tolerant. This nation has the culture of giving and dialogue, and it was the source for Astronomy, Mathematics, Communication Art, and Sailing. And I do wish that my nation will be, like it was in the past, the destination of every one.

Before I pass the speech to the next speaker, I should not forget to thank the sponsors of ArabCom 2007, and I do appreciate the co-operation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority in UAE and those who are collaborating with us to achieve success. Also, I would like to confirm the availability of ArabCom to play an important role to open channels of communication between the parties involved to enhance the required digital awareness and development forward and to encourage to use the latest modernization solutions for the sector through providing service for information democracy, the right to communicate, and provide knowledge for all.