

SPECIAL EDITION

الراوي نسو AI Raway



Corporate news from the Higher Colleges of Technology

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Inspired Thinking ... Fresh Perspectives

4th Festival of Thinkers conference opens



روح الاتحاد
40 SPIRIT OF THE UNION
اليوم الوطني NATIONAL DAY
الإمارات العربية المتحدة UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



مهرجان المفكرين Festival of Thinkers®



NOBEL LAUREATES

INSPIRE INNOVATE INVENT

World Thinkers



Welcome to the Festival of Thinkers



Dr. Tayeb Kamali, Festival of Thinkers Chair

350 high-achieving students from 83 universities, representing 40 nations, discussing nine themes over three days. The 4th biennial Festival of Thinkers international conference is not just about an impressive set of numbers. It is about meaningful human interaction and dialogue through a series of highly interactive panel discussions, workshops and round-table think tanks. These international students will join their Emirati counterparts and over 100 renowned "World Thinkers" from business, academics, government, the environment, arts and society, including seven Nobel Laureates, to discuss and propose

From their deliberations we will witness Inspired Thinking and Fresh Perspectives leading to innovative solutions to a variety of global challenges and pressing social, economic and environmental issues that the world's seven billion people face today.

The three days of the Festival of Thinkers will challenge the way attendees view the world, their communities and even themselves, but importantly it will be a rewarding and uplifting experience for all those involved and ideally lead to beneficial change and advancement for many people around the world.

The Higher Colleges of Technology welcomes you to the 4th Festival of Thinkers conference.

HCT launches 4th Festival of Thinkers conference as signature event of National Day celebrations

The Higher Colleges of Technology marked the start of 40th National Day celebrations with the launch of its signature event – the 4th biennial Festival of Thinkers conference.

Coinciding with the Festival of Thinkers, around the UAE 20,000 students and faculty members and staff from the Higher Colleges of Technology will embark on some of the most comprehensive celebrations to mark the milestone of the UAE's 40th anniversary.

Running throughout November, and culminating in the official National Day celebrations on December 2, the HCT campuses will be tangible showcases for the educational excellence that is achieved throughout the year.

The central theme of the HCT campuses celebrations will be education, learning, fun and national pride. Many college campuses have themed their celebrations around the

concepts of educational and societal changes over the past 40 years since the UAE's formation, capturing the spirit of the nation and its people.

There will be a seemingly endless array of action, activities and interactive demonstrations at the colleges – from national cooking demonstrations; children's activities; quizzes; time capsules; sporting events and games; heritage, cultural and historical displays; traditional arts, crafts, games and fashions; competitions for car decorations, posters, fashions, poetry, sand sculptures, photography; parades and graduation ceremonies; music, poetry and dancing exhibitions; horse riding; movies; decorations; Arabic lessons and much more.

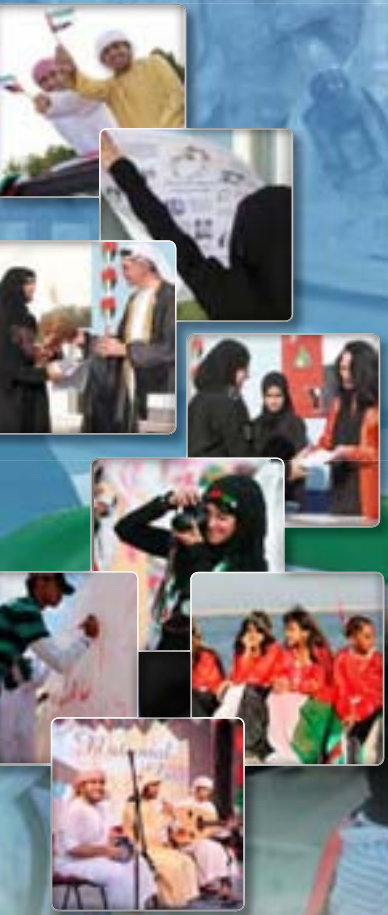
Dr Tayeb Kamali, Higher Colleges of Technology Vice Chancellor and Festival of Thinkers Chair said the Festival of Thinkers will achieve many important goals, relevant to the UAE,

the region and the world.

"This conference is another initiative of the HCT to encourage talented young scholars from around the world to learn thinking skills which will assist and empower them in challenging situations," Dr Kamali said.

"The world needs fresh and innovative approaches to the many challenges, which can come from novel ideas and lateral thinking of this new generation of scientists, technologists and policy makers. We believe that constructive thinking processes, sparked in the young scholars at this Festival of Thinkers, could lead to future innovations and inventions.

"It is our hope that when the scholars and world thinkers return to their homes they have gained new thinking tools to apply to every day challenges in their specific fields and environments," he said. Dr Kamali congratulated the colleges and students on their outstanding preparations for the 40th Anniversary celebrations.



Despair or Opportunities - What has the world learned from the Global Economic Crisis



H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak
Al Nahayan



Prof. Finn E. Kydland



Dr. Eric Maskin



John Young Brown Jr.



Liz Mohn

One of the most vital and relevant topics for discussion at the Festival of Thinkers will revolve around the issue of global economies.

As nations today are still recovering from, or battling the onset of, dire economic conditions esteemed Nobel Laureates and world thinkers will join with students to see what can be done to bolster world economies and therefore improve the lives of billions of people.

The global financial crisis has affected so many nations and struck a chord with so many individuals that the Festival of Thinkers will devote a plenary session and a further panel discussion on world economic issues.

Following the conference opening address by **H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan**, Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research and Chancellor, Higher Colleges of Technology, the plenary session will take the form of a panel discussion consisting of an illustrious and distinguished list of Nobel Laureates and world thinkers, who will consider the weighty topic of Global Renewal under a New Economic Order.

The panelists will include Nobel Laureates **Dr. Eric Maskin** (Economics, 2007) and **Professor Finn E. Kydland** (Economics, 2004); Former Governor of Kentucky and renowned entrepreneur **John Young Brown**; Chairman & CEO of Bertelsmann Stiftung **Dr. Gunter Thielen** and **Professor Malcolm Grant CBE**, President of the University College London

It will be moderated by renowned Washington Post journalist, and celebrated author, David Ignatius.

Following this not-to-be-missed event will be a panel on the first of the conference themes, Global Economic Crisis – three years and counting, held later on the opening day. It will be moderated by **Professor Anton Muscatelli**, the Principal & Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glasgow, and will feature thought provoking discussions by co-chairs **John Young Brown** and **Dr. Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart**, the Scientific Advisor to the State Council of Cuba.





Is Education the Panacea for the world's economic ills?



Betty Williams



Dr. Feridun Hamdullahpur



Professor Brian MacCraith

MacCraith, President of the Dublin City University and **Professor Sung Ki Baik**, President of the Pohang University of Science and Technology, South Korea.

The panel will discuss such issues as how adequate are current educational models to meet the challenge of inspiring and developing innovators for future success and how can we reframe academic institutions, curricula, programs, and assessments to ensure future specialists and leaders are better prepared? This stimulating discussion will be followed by round table panels, involving the Thinkers and students, thinking through the theme and summarizing table discussions.

Dove-tailing with this theme will be another conference theme of *Global Challenges: Making Education Count*, to be held at the Dubai Women's College, and consisting of highly respected educators such as **Dr. Abderrahmane Lahlou**, the Founder of the Mundiapolis University, Morocco; **Dr David Lewis-Hodgson**, Founder & Chairman of Mindlab International; **Prof. Anton Muscatelli**, Vice Chancellor of the University of Glasgow and **Professor Monte Cassim**, Vice Chancellor of the Ritsumeikan Trust, Japan.

This group will look at the many global challenges facing students today and the panel will consider such weighty issues as what world-class educational institutions should do differently to assist the current and future generations of students to better cope.

Robust and progressive education systems have long been seen as vital ingredients for economic success. But many experts have argued that those systems and venerable education institutions did not properly prepare us for one of the worst global economic crises in history.

The conference theme of *Reframing Education*, at the Khalifa City Women's College, will see a panel discussion deconstruct what higher education institutions might have missed and what can be done to prevent further economic chaos. This theme will be opened by the keynote address from **H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan**, who is well positioned to discuss higher education trends in the UAE, followed by a panel of academic leaders.

The panel will be moderated by **Professor Brian Greene** of Columbia University and consist of Nobel Laureate **Betty Williams** (Peace, 1976), who will be joined by **Dr. Feridun Hamdullahpur**, the President of the University of Waterloo; **Professor Brian**





Art for art sake - Conference examines Inspirations from the Arts

Festival of Thinkers will follow a time-honoured practice of the arts being an integral part of the event, not only as a topic of discussions but in a multitude of performances and entertainments.

This year's conference will see a plethora of artists, musicians and entertainers enthrall audiences including the legendary Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, Grammy-winning musician, producer and member of American rock bands *Steely Dan* and the *Doobie Brothers*, who is also a respected counter-terrorism expert.

We will see performers such as **Sara Kempe**, who will launch her new album, singer/songwriter Victoria Austin and music producer and songwriter CJ Vanston. Another highlight will be the International Book launch of *Modern Arab Women – The New Generation of the UAE*, a book portraying women of the UAE and their achievements written and compiled by Austrian author Judith Hornok. Islamic arts will also be a focus, with a team from The Prince's School of Traditional Arts in London, headed by its Director Khaled Azzam, attending the conference.

There will be a star-studded panel to discuss Inspiring through the Arts consisting of Hollywood film and television producer **John Heyman**; Iranian-born painter, musician & performance artist **Reza Derakshani** Sotheby's Middle East Art Specialist **Lina Lazaar**, Indian sarode player **Ranajit Sengupta** and **Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin**, the Chair of Music and Founder/Director of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance University of Limerick.

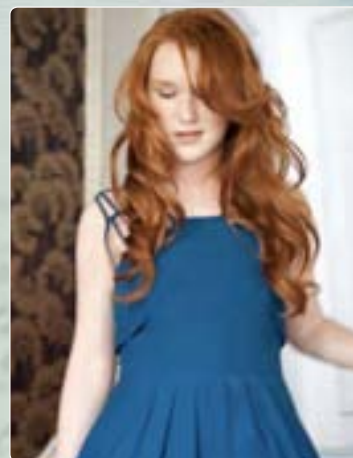
Joining them will be internationally renowned **Professor Nasser D. Khalili**, the Founder of the Khalili Collections and a scholar, collector and philanthropist. Since 1970 he has assembled, under the auspices of the Khalili Family Trust, five of the world's largest and most comprehensive art collections, covering specific periods of Islamic, Japanese, Swedish and Spanish art as well as Enamels of the World from 1700-2000. The five collections comprise a total of about 25,000 works.



Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin



Jeffrey Baxter



Sara Kempe

Moulding today's students into tomorrow's leaders

Strong and effective leadership is at the core of successful enterprises, universities, cities and nations. But what makes a successful leader? Two enthralling and motivational panel discussions will investigate how leadership and exploration are intertwined and also what is needed to nurture the leaders of tomorrow.

The panel discussion, *Exploration, Adventure and Leadership* will be held at Al Ain Men's College, where panelists will engage with students to look at what personal characteristics and development does it take to be a successful explorer and adventurer and what leadership skills are needed for success in all aspects of life.

This panel will consist of astronauts and explorers and adventurers including Apollo Astronaut **Charlie Duke**; Space Shuttle Astronauts **Stephen Oswald** and **Tom Henricks**; Major General **Tim Toyne Sewell**, former Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst; **Sami Solanki**, the Director, Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research and **Professor Robert Williams**, Astrophysicist &

President, International Astronomical Union. It will be moderated by **Svante Lindqvist**, the President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The second panel discussion will be held at Dubai Men's College and will include educational, business and government leaders of the world including **H.E. Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh** of Jordan; Former Mayor of Washington DC **Adrian Fenty**; Founder & President Kids Off The Block **Diane Latiker**; Archaeologist **Kathleen Martinez-Berry** and **Shiv Khemka**, the Vice Chairman of the Sun Group in India. It will be moderated by Julie Cart, Pulitzer prize-winning journalist of the Los Angeles Times.

This panel will consider issues such as what critical skills does the next generation of leaders require to prevent the cycle of global crisis; How can future leaders be developed through innovative education and can good education prepare good leaders or is leadership an innate quality.



Julie Cart



Dr. Svante Lindqvist

Charlie Duke

Tom Henricks

Stephen Oswald



Festival of Thinkers - a meeting of minds and a celebration of thinking

The 4th Festival of Thinkers will be held at a number of HCT campuses throughout the UAE, where participants will engage in robust and meaningful dialogue and interactions revolving around the conference's nine themes.

In addition to the hot topics related to the global economic crisis, the conference will dissect a variety of themes pertaining to the human condition, including the environment and sustainability; health and the UN Millennium Development Goals and the alleviation of poverty and hunger.

Issues such as how can we balance the legitimate need for subsistence and sustenance with decreasing biodiversity, depletion of natural resources and pollution to ensure we leave a healthy planet for the future will be explored, together with the vexing questions of how can we tackle the issue of global disease and what strategies can we adopt to both find and implement solutions to epidemics, and how can education, entrepreneurship, technology and aid be leveraged in the fight against poverty?

Panels made up of some of the world's foremost experts in these fields will attempt to tackle these questions with the assistance of motivated students from around the world. Nobel Laureates will work with Rolex Laureates, CNN Heroes and those who go about doing good deeds for others less fortunate. As

prime examples of the greatness of human nature these world thinkers will inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

On a general view, the objective of this Festival is to celebrate thinking and to foster thinking among the most promising young scholars of the world, by letting them interact informally and in structured settings with the Nobel Laureates and world thinkers. Hence it is not a traditional seminar or workshop, but seeks to impart skills or knowledge to participants through hands-on sessions.

The idea of the round table discussions is to bring bright minds from different cultures and backgrounds together in small table settings to think aloud, to feel free to express their curiosity, ideas and to create solutions to these challenging problems collectively. All delegates are encouraged to think together, in parallel, to look at the pros as well as the cons of propositions, to think of every side of an issue using the Six Thinking Hats process of lateral thinking.

The eminent world thinkers will use the same thinking skills that helped them to solve problems in their fields to think with the young scholars and help them design the future in a multitude of areas.

This Festival is designed to be equally engaging, interesting and fresh both to young scholars and to the world thinkers.





مهرجان المفكرين Festival of Thinkers®

13-15 November 2011 Program

DAY
1

Monday November 14, 2011

Opening Ceremony of the Festival of Thinkers

Emirates Palace Auditorium

10:00am - 12:30pm

Opening address: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, UAE and Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology

Special addresses

A panel discussion on “**Global Renewal under a New Economic Order**”

- > What has the world learned from the worst economic crisis in recent memory?
- > Has the world learned enough from the causes leading up to the crisis?
- > Are we still missing any signs that we are not heading towards real recovery?
- > Is focusing on short term solutions in small patches taking attention away from designing a holistic long term solution?
- > Does the private sector's short term need to address stock market pressures limit its ability to invest in long term growth and stability?
- > When will we see real recovery? What is the outlook for the short, medium and long term future?

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Delegates move to Abu Dhabi Women's College for round table discussions

2:00pm to 5:30pm

Round Table Discussions – Khalifa City College, Abu Dhabi

Theme 1:

Global Economic Crisis – Three Years and Counting.....

2:00pm - 2:20pm

Introduction

2:20pm - 3:20pm

Round table panels thinking through the theme

3:20pm - 3:30pm

Summarizing table discussions

3:30pm - 4:00pm

Tea/Coffee Break

Theme 2:

Environment: A Sustainable World for Our Children

As the global population reaches 7 billion, environmental catastrophes continue to impact our world: A rare earthquake in Virginia, a devastating tsunami in Japan, disappearing ice and permafrost in the Arctic, lethal storms and floods in Latin America and Southern Asia, disappearing glaciers, forest fires and fatal heat waves in Europe, famine in Africa.

- > Climate change has clearly demonstrated its impact on our world, triggering vastly different responses including carbon tax, emissions trading schemes, individual carbon awareness initiatives, 'green' companies etc.
- > Are these options too little too late? What aspects of climate change are already irreversible?
- > How can we balance the legitimate need for subsistence and sustenance with decreasing biodiversity, depletion of natural resources and pollution to ensure we leave a healthy planet for the future?

4:00pm - 4:20pm

Introduction

4:20pm - 5:20pm

Round table panels thinking through the theme

5:20pm - 5:30pm

Summarizing table discussions

Gala Dinner: Emirates Palace

7:30pm to 9:30pm

Dinner and Traditional Cultural Performances

DAY
2

Tuesday November 15, 2011

9:30am to 11:00am

Parallel Session - **CERT Health Sciences Auditorium, Abu Dhabi**

Theme 3:

Health: UN Millennium Development Goals - Panel Discussion

In recent times there have been significant advances in modern medicine, leading to improvements in life expectancy and infant mortality. However:

- > In 2009, 8.1 million children under-five years of age died – more than 22,000 children each day and almost 1000 every hour.
- > In 2008, 1.7 million children under the age of 5 died from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- > An estimated 23 million infants worldwide are still not being reached by routine immunization services.
- > How can we define wellbeing as an aspiration for society?
- > How can we tackle the issue of global disease affecting lives of men, women and children?
- > What strategies can we adopt to both find and implement solutions to epidemics?
- > Is the world better off today than in 2000 AD with respect to basic nutrition, vaccination, infant mortality and preventive healthcare?
- > Is the contribution of individual philanthropic efforts more effective than that of governments?
- > How can we improve global mental health?

10:00am - 11:00am

Parallel Session - **Khalifa City College Auditorium, Abu Dhabi**

Theme 6:

Inspiring through the Arts - Panel Discussion

The importance of the arts in the development of nations often can seem incidental as the relationship to the development of nations is not as direct as that of technologies or medicine.

- > How can the cultural and philosophical ideas presented in the arts impact society and lead to a better world?
- > In what ways do the arts contribute to the creativity and innovation of society?
- > How can encouragement of investment in the arts be delivered?

Tuesday November 15, 2011

11:00am –
12:00noon

Parallel Session - **Khalifa City College Auditorium, Abu Dhabi**

Keynote address: H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology
Panel Discussion with leaders of Academia

Theme 5:

Reframing Education

The best of education neither prevented nor prepared us to face and manage the world out of the major global economic crisis.

- > What did world-class educators and educational institutions miss?
- > How adequate are current educational models to meet the challenge of inspiring and developing innovators for future success?
- > How can we reframe academic institutions, curricula, programs, and assessments to ensure future specialists and leaders are better prepared?

12:00noon – 1:00pm

Khalifa City College Library, Abu Dhabi

Round table panels thinking through the theme
Summarizing table discussions

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Summarizing Session - **Khalifa City College Library, Abu Dhabi**

Moderated by **David Ignatius** Journalist and Writer, USA

Table facilitators and young scholars provide feedback on important ideas and thoughts gathered in all the sessions.

11:00am - 1:00pm

Parallel Session - **Dubai Men's College Auditorium**

Theme 4:

Leaders of Tomorrow - Panel Discussion

- > What critical skills does the next generation of leaders require to prevent the cycle of global crisis?
- > What role do ethical leadership skills play in recurrence of such catastrophes?
- > How can future leaders be developed through innovative education?
- > Can good education prepare good leaders or is leadership an innate quality?
- > In addition to education, what are other environmental factors contribute to the making of the leaders of tomorrow?

11:00am - 1:00pm

Parallel Session - **Dubai Women's College Auditorium**

Theme 7:

Global Challenges: Making Education Count - Panel Discussion

Many global challenges face the younger generation: Global warming, economic downturn, energy crisis, traditional and non-traditional conflicts, food and water shortages, global unemployment problems, increasing gaps between haves and have-nots and the like.

- > How can we make education count in facing and solving these problems?
- > What should the world-class educational institutions continue to do?
- > What should the world-class educational institutions do differently?

11:00am - 1:00pm

Parallel Session - **Sharjah Women's College Auditorium**

Theme 8:

Poverty & Hunger Alleviation - Panel Discussion

- > In Somalia, it is back to 1991 again – only this time it is even worse.
- > Haven't we learnt anything from 1991?
- > What does it take to end the root causes of poverty around the world?
- > How can education, entrepreneurship, technology and aid be leveraged in the fight against poverty?
- > How can we ensure that overcoming poverty is a sustainable outcome and not a momentary success?

11:00am - 1:00pm

Parallel Session - **Al Ain Men's College Auditorium**

Theme 9:

Exploration, Adventure and Leadership - Panel Discussion

- > What personal characteristics and development does it take to be a successful explorer and adventurer?
- > Exploration teams face dangers and situations – some that can be anticipated, and some that are unknown. Leadership skills are therefore vital to success: what can we learn about leadership from explorers and their experiences?
- > The next great challenge for mankind, space exploration, could bring both positive and negative results. Will mankind's drive to explore mean that such exploration is inevitable, only limited by technology; however we assess the risks and benefits?
- > Exploration – going into the unknown – must be done by risk takers, but how do we determine when taking risks is worth it and when it is foolhardy?
- > In the modern age, mankind is also exploring in the scientific world, discovering such things as elementary particles, the human genome and the basis of artificial intelligence. Although physical lives of the explorers are not in danger, unknown consequences of such discoveries could have a major impact on our world. What leadership is required to deal with such unknowns?

Pre-
Conference

Sunday November 13, 2011

Festival of Thinkers Leadership Workshops

10:00am –
12:00noon

Interactive leadership concurrent workshops for participating students will be conducted by the world thinkers participating in the Festival of Thinkers on various themes including:

Leadership in

- Healthcare
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Exploration
- Arts
- Technology
- Media
- Science
- Women in Leadership
- Government

- Venue: CERT Health Sciences Auditorium
- Venue: CTI Auditorium
- Venue: ADMC Library
- Venue: ADMC Auditorium
- Venue: Smart Technology Room, ADMC
- Venue: ADMC Executive Boardroom
- Venue: ADMC Shell Lab
- Venue: Abu Dhabi Women's College Auditorium
- Venue: ADMC Model Classroom