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SUB WORKING GROUP 1 –Contribution

Source: Saudi Arabia

Title: Proposals on the location of CBCs and structure of CBC Organization

Abstract

This contribution proposes to establish a CBC in Arabic region to support capacity building in developing countries focusing on area of smart city to achieve their sustainable and inclusive economic growth. It also proposes to establish an organization which can stand on participating countries' interests and operate with efficient and effective manner..

Rationale

Cities are powerful engines of economic growth. Urbanization's advantages are however mirrored by significant sustainability challenges such as pollution of water and air. Given that an estimated 70 per cent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050, sustainable urbanization has become a key policy point to administrations across the world including developing countries. Here ICTs have a crucial role to play by increasing environmental efficiency across industry sectors and enabling such innovations as intelligent way of management city's resources.

Indeed, Arabic countries have paid big efforts to establishing smart cities to achieve economic growth, reducing environmental impacts and increasing quality of life of society. For example, the government of Saudi Arabia has invested more than 300 billion dollars for upgrading infrastructure such as transportation, education and healthcare in its five year action plan, which identifies ICT as one of the key element.

We believe that sharing our experiences and know-hows on smart cities can assist developing countries to build their capacity to address sustainability challenges. We also recommend that the CBC should involve key players from those areas such as industries and academia to increase an availability of appropriate financing and educational structure which produces trained trainers who can reach out to those with the greatest need.

Proposal

We propose to establish a CBC in Arabic region, focusing on the area of the smart city. One of candidate location for CBC is the city Sudayr, a model of industrial smart city locates north of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi.

CONTACTS: HIROKO IOKA
SAUDI ARABIA

TEL: +81 3 6252 2194
FAX: +
EMAIL: IOKA.HIROKO@JP.FUJITSU.COM

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To make it successful, it is important to establish an organization capable of efficient and effective operational support. We propose to share the following principles to define the structure of CBC organization.

- The CBCs should locate at the countries which can stand on all members' interest, not only own country.
 - CBC should involve industries and academia. They're the key to ensure an availability of appropriate financing and educational capability which produces trained trainers who can reach out to those with the greatest need from developing countries.
 - CBC Operation should keep a central Committee to avoid inefficiency in operation and cost. .
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EMAIL: IOKA.HIROKO@JP.FUJITSU.COM

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