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Title: Proposals for criteria for program selection and cost allocation

Abstract

This proposal details criteria for selection of programs and allocation of cost for operating CBCs. Due to the presence of “free zones” in UAE, active participation of members from private sector is anticipated. Thus, UAE is an ideal location for knowledge sharing and training engineers from developing countries. UAE encourages Smart City program to be developed in UAE. In addition, UAE recommends the CBC in the Middle East to be built in UAE.

Rationale

Selection criteria for programs

The programs should be selected based on urgency for the outcome of the program in the region, anticipation for active participation from private sector in the country and feasibility in terms of cost for development of the program. Program developed based on demands should be useful within WTU since the programs can provide solutions to other regions which have similar needs. Furthermore, commercial interest in the programs will accelerate its expansion within a community of countries participating in WTU and enrich content of programs in a timely manner.

Having Dubai as a global trading hub, development of Smart City program is essential to UAE and Middle East. In the last decades, UAE has experienced rapid increase in population, mostly due to influx of foreign workers who are part of rapid expansion of infrastructures in UAE. In addition, the economy in UAE has benefitted from increasing revenues from trading, finance sector and tourism. Moreover, free zones in UAE have attracted global corporations to develop R&D centres in UAE, thanks to relaxed regulations on taxation in the free zones. Multinational companies which operate business in the free zones receive exemptions from import, export and corporate tax in UAE. In addition, the companies in the free zones can be established with 100% non-UAE assets. Several kinds of free zones such as Dubai Internet City, Dubai Academic City, Dubai Techno Park and Dubai Healthcare City have attracted multi-national companies to develop research and development facilities, operation centres and training facilities related to telecommunications and ICT.

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Smart city, which can provide flexible infrastructures to allow active movement of tourists and business people and energy efficient infrastructure to encourage usage of renewable energy to cope with limited supply of fossil fuels, is vital to development of UAE and countries in Middle East.

We can communicate with delegates from the private sector to develop a Smarty City education program from which engineers can learn practical technologies. Inputs from the private sector will help us prioritize contents of the program so that trainees from developed or developing countries can learn applicable technologies that can be implemented in their countries. Training facilities can be built close to the free zone to take advantages of the presence of various R&D centres in UAE.

If Smart City program is conducted in UAE, active exchange of information among developing and developed countries is anticipated due to presence of global technology companies in Dubai. Thus, as mentioned in the next section, cost for the development of the program can be shared among participating developed countries in the Smart City program and the private sector. Knowledge sharing among developed countries requires active participation of all members. Thus, we propose to have biannual meetings in UAE to discuss the content of the program and latest technology, and modify, if necessary, the content of the program. It is desirable to have a CBC located close to UAE to meet growing demands for efficient infrastructure in UAE. However, if CBC is located outside of UAE, there is a need for timely exchange of information among CBCs.

Cost for operation

Cost of construction of CBC, with 50% covered by WTU, should be divided evenly among participating developed countries. It is recommended that CBC in UAE accept trainees not only from Arab region but also from other regions. Thus, cost of operation, covered by the private sector, should be divided evenly among participating developed countries. Cost of dispatch of experts and receiving of trainee should be paid by participating developed countries. Dispatch of trainees must be covered by developing countries. Even distribution of cost among developed countries is proposed, due to equal benefits in knowledge sharing among developed countries.

Proposal

Urgent demand for efficient infrastructure in the Middle East will be met by development of the Smart City program in UAE. Active participation of the private sector will improve the content of the Smart City program. UAE recommends CBC to be built in UAE so that expertise from the private sector can be part of the program to train engineers from developing countries. Cost for the program will be shared evenly among developed countries who participate in the program.

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