**The oasis**

In the words of HHS Sheik Rashid Al Maktoum “ the race for excellence has no finish line” the UAE has risen from the depths of despair in the early 1970’s to the epitome of progress , innovation, and economic prosperity in 2023. The young nation has been forged by adversity and guided by the unparalleled vision of successive rulers since its independence in 1971. The GDP of the UAE has risen from AED 11 billion in 1973 to over 1 trillion dirhams in 2010 according to the crown prince courts official report and this attests to the competent leadership of the nation’s rulers (United Arab Emirates: 40 Years of progress, n.d) . This clearly illustrates that an ambitious yet realistic vision for a nation is a vital road map to success and the youth 2071 vision is vital to ensure that the UAE is amongst the most developed nations in the world in the decades to come. The children of today are the leaders, innovators, doctors, professors, law enforcement personal and soldiers of the future. The inevitable advancement of the UAE needs world class education which is integrated with government policies focusing on the information driven economic model of the next century and empowerment of the Emirati people especially in the field of science.

A nation without a competitive education is like a blind bus driver and the UAE needs to adapt its education along with government policies to tackle the 4th industrial revolution , in which society is moving from industrial to information-based economies. This is because, in the USA alone the value of intellectual property is estimated to be worth $USD 6.6 trillion in 2021 according to the chamber of commerce organization of the USA (Hayes, 2022).In these information-based economies of the future , most of the trade would take place using information as the equivalent of the current day currency or stock market shares. As such, there needs to be gargantuan efforts to engrain scientific learning from a very early age with a focus on data sciences, business analytics, information security and the digital economy of the future. Given this, there needs to be a focus on education and training which emphasis the futuristic goal of the government structure needed to drive economic prosperity in the digital economy of the future. This mammoth feat can be best achieved by a stable monarchy as is the case in the UAE now because, this form of government will bring about stability and effectiveness otherwise not possible. However, there needs to be changes which includes collaboration between the government and private sector. This will ensure that there is sharing of vital information which is the “crude oil” of the future which will be the source of economic and social advancement to the fast-growing nation. Further, there needs to be laws enacted to ensure that data and information are protected in a similar way to other intellectual property which will increase investor confidence of multinational firms and hence increase the competitive nature of the future economy. These laws will lay the frameworks and provide incentives to drive economic growth of the UAE half a century from now as the rate of technological change increase economic growth and not vice versa.

The empowerment of the Emirati people and attracting competent foreign talent is vital for the scientific and technological advancement of the UAE in the future. In order to achieve this, the Emirati people need to be enlightened about the proud tradition and feared reputation of the Arab inventors of the past such as Abbas Ibn Ferns who laid way to the fundamentals of the modern-day airplanes because, history repeats itself according to the world-famous Karl Marks. This will motivate the Emirati people to purse an education in the field of science and technology with true passion. This is the case because, education is not just learning advanced erudite information and repeating it in the classroom. On the contrary, true education of the future needs to provide a sense of belonging along with the unique identity to Emirati people to tackle the next century with confidence and success. However, this progress is impossible without the collaboration of highly skilled immigrants with much needed expertise in various fields including the physical sciences and allegiance to the UAE. These highly skilled immigrants need to work hand in hand with the Emirati people with a common vision of self-advancement and prosperity.

All in all, the UAE is destined to become the oasis of economic and technological advancement if there is a unified youth vision for the nation in 2071. The nation, tempered by the flames of adversity will stand resolute in the next century and will be the envy of the world in every sector fathomable.

**References**

Hayes, A. (2022, October 29). What is the knowledge economy? definition, criteria, and example. Retrieved February 2, 2023, from https://www.investopedia.com/terms/k/knowledge-economy.asp

United Arab Emirates: 40 Years of progress - cpc.ae. (n.d.). Retrieved February 2, 2023, from https://www.cpc.ae/SiteCollectionDocuments/40%20years%20book%20English.pdf