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TDRA supports implementation of National Digital Accessibility Policy

In the context of enhancing the digital knowledge society and economy, TDRA emphasized the importance of implementing the principles of the National Policy for Digital e-Accessibility adopted by the Cabinet, to facilitate access to diverse digital services for all segments of society, including people of determination and senior citizens.

The National Policy for Digital e-Accessibility is based on several international references and agreements, the goal of which is to ensure that people of determination have equal opportunities to access services and information available on the platforms and websites of different entities. This ensures eliminating barriers to access those services and platforms.

This policy contributes to enhancing UAE's pioneership in digital transformation, as well as furthers the country's contribution to the sustainable development process and humanitarian goals set by the United Nations in this context and its promise "Leave no one behind (LNOB)."

The policy entails a set of general principles that digital government service providers must follow to enhance smart services and apps. These principles ensure that smart services and apps are packed with techniques that allow people of determination to use and access them just as others do.

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TDRA Launches DLS 2.0 for Federal Websites

On the sidelines of the Digital Readiness Retreat 2024, TDRA released the unified Design System (DLS) for Federal Websites (<https://designsystem.gov.ae>) with the support of the Higher Committee for Government Digital Transformation. The system aims to enhance customer access to information and services by offering user-friendly designs that match customer natures and align with the latest advances in the field.

Implementing the new government entities-wide system would contribute to enhancing governmental efficiency by offering reusable presets and certain components in making government websites, thereby reducing time spent on such processes and therefore achieving financial savings in terms of cutting design costs. Moreover, this streamlined approach saves on customer time, all in line with the principle of “zero government bureaucracy.” Additionally, the system fosters transparency and community participation through digital channels. With a user-friendly interface, it encourages customers to engage more actively in improving government services.

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TDRA celebrates the closing of UAE Hackathon 2024 - Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions

TDRA marked the conclusion of the 7th Edition of UAE Hackathon, themed "Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Solutions." The ceremony, including the announcement of winners, took place at the University City Hall in Sharjah, in the presence of Sheikh Saud bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Director-General of Sharjah Digital Department (SDD), H.E. Eng. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, TDRA Director-General, as well as representatives from various government entities and TDRA's key partners from the government, academic, and private sectors.

UAE Hackathon 2024 stood out with many perks and features that reflect its ever-evolving nature. For the first time, two types of hackathons were introduced simultaneously: the Ideation Hackathon and the Solutions Hackathon. Participants were divided into four Tracks, namely: Rising Stars (for school students), Pioneers (for university students), Entrepreneurs, and the newly introduced 'Gov Innovators.'



TDRA Marks World Telecommunication & Information Society Day

TDRA observed World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (WTISD) 2024, which falls on 17 May of every year, together with UAE telecom service providers, and Huawei. Attendees also included TDRA's partners from various government entities, along with other local and regional partners.

The celebration was held virtually under the slogan "Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development" to raise awareness of the pivotal role digital innovation plays in addressing the world's most pressing challenges, such as combating climate change and eradicating hunger and poverty. During the event, global efforts to advance digital transformation were highlighted, emphasizing the potential the Internet and other ICTs hold for societies and world economies.

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TDRA Releases Updated Building Telecommunications Network Box Specification Manual

TDRA issued version 3 of the Telecommunications Network Box Specification Manual for buildings, which sets out the technical specifications and standards adopted for the design of internal and external networks in new buildings and areas. The manual helps in the design of infrastructure for urban projects, especially in the field of fiber optic network deployment, and sets standards to make all new buildings/areas equipped with physical infrastructure capable of hosting high-speed networks and access points that network providers can easily interface with.

The implementation of the manual will reflect positively on all parties, as it will reduce the sizes and costs of in-building telecom network boxes by 30%, reduce room spaces, sizes and costs by 50%, as well as significantly reduce energy use and developer costs by at least 50%.

One preparatory study of the manual showed that the latter contributes to saving an estimated AED13.5 million annually for developers and service providers by standardizing the specifications of the two providers operating in the sector.

On the other hand, the manual accounts for the strengthening of UAE's leadership and the continued placing first globally in the percentage of fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network connectedness/penetration, according to the report issued by the Fiber Connect Council MENA. The manual promotes constructing smart and green buildings and choosing specifications and solutions that suit modern premises.

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Government Digital Transformation Report 2023 – issued by the Higher Committee for Government Digital Transformation

Digital transformation efforts have been reflected in the UAE's standing as a preferred global destination for investment, living and elevating life experience. This is thanks to The improved digital landscape - encompassing digital learning, health, and justice - combined with greater community involvement in government service design and development, which have enhanced customer satisfaction with government services. This has been further bolstered by enshrining the right to information access and data provision in service of both individuals and organizations, while continuously measuring customer satisfaction when using digital services.

National Youth Agenda 2031

The roadmap is aimed at making Emirati youth a most prominent model, both locally and globally, in terms of thought, values, and effective contribution to economic and social development, as well as national responsibility.

The Agenda is based on 5 major trends for Emirati youth to be:

1. a major driver and supporter of national economic growth
2. an effective contributor to the community, true to Emirati values and principles
3. a positive influencer globally, and a role model for the world
4. up-to-date with technological developments and proficient in skills of the future
5. in top health and wellbeing.

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Dubai Quality of Life Strategy 2033

Encompassing over 200 projects, initiatives and supporting plans, the Dubai Quality of Life Strategy 2033 is set for implementation in three phases from 2024 to 2033. It covers 10 key themes relating to quality of life:

1. Culture & leisure/entertainment
2. Natural environment
3. Urban environment
4. Mobility
5. Society & family
6. Economic environment
7. Employment & working conditions
8. Education
9. Safety & security
10. Health.

CEO for Artificial Intelligence

The UAE Government has created a new role, 'Chief Executive Officer for Artificial Intelligence' in ministries and federal entities.

This initiative aims to position the UAE at the forefront of countries capitalizing on AI applications, through the development and implementation of comprehensive national strategies that contribute to the promotion of innovation and digital economy.

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Dubai Community Participation Policy

The Policy will realize the aims of ensuring the participation of community members in the design of policies and legislation, and government service development. The move aims to improve service quality by identifying and catering for community needs, enhancing innovation and creativity in decision-making processes, and developing the foundations of cooperation and partnership with various stakeholder groups, all in order to ensure providing everyone living in Dubai with all elements of well-being.

Resolving tax disputes

Taxpayers can apply for a request to reconsider any decision made by Federal Tax Authority (FTA). Such request can be made regarding the whole decision or part thereof. Submission requires justifying the request and presenting it in Arabic within 45 working days of FTA's decision. The request must then be submitted by the person concerned or their legal representative.

EmSAT - the Emirates Standardized Test

a set of standardized electronic tests based on the national standards to measure and assess student performance in the UAE. It is applied across various grade levels. Emsat was designed after conducting benchmark comparisons against different accredited global tests to evaluate students' knowledge and skills during transitional stages and the transition to higher education, determine their performance locally and globally, as well as enable higher education institutes to use the same for university admission purposes.

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The savings scheme and insurance fund in the private sector

The Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation (MOHRE) launched the Alternative End-of-Service Benefits System (Savings Scheme), through which amounts allocated for end-of-service remuneration of private-sector employees are invested in approved investment funds, with the aim to grow savings and capitalize on investment returns (or ROI). This system scheme is an optional alternative to the currently applicable end-of-service gratuity scheme in the private sector.

Campaign: Mothers' Endowment

The "Mothers' Endowment" campaign aims to honor mothers in the UAE by establishing a one-billion-dirham endowment fund to support the education of millions of people around the world, sustainably. The campaign also honors mothers by giving everyone the opportunity to donate in their mothers' names.

Proceeds of "Mothers' Endowment" will go to support the education of millions around the world, offering them the necessary tools and skills to lead independent, dignified and decent lives. This effort is in partnership with humanitarian organizations and institutions.

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