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Les Entretiens d'Abu Dhabi

2018 Edition

Artificial Intelligence towards a better life

On 30th September 2018, the **French Business Group** organised the second edition of **Les Entretiens d'Abu Dhabi**, focusing on **Artificial Intelligence Towards a Better Life** at the Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

The Entretiens d'Abu Dhabi are inspired by the **Entretiens de Royaumont** conferences, and aim to invite major decisions makers, entrepreneurs and recognised experts from France and the UAE, to exchange their views, share knowledge and foster innovation on a given topic. The first edition of the Entretiens d'Abu Dhabi was held in 2016, devoted to the future of energy and the protection of the environment.

This event was held under the patronage of the **International Security Alliance**, and organised in cooperation with the **Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi**, the **French Embassy in the UAE**, the **Institut Français** and its Dialogue Culturel Franco-Emirien initiative.

Anne Le Guennec, President of the French Business Group, commented: *“The field of artificial intelligence brings out a lot of passion. Many people have strong opinions: some see AI as one of the greatest threats to human kind, while others think it brings incredible opportunities. Although its first applications were confidential and even classified, now artificial intelligence technologies are present in all dimensions of our daily lives and many companies are taking advantage of the technology.”*

For this reason, the French Business Group organised this conference, inviting ministers of state, CEOs, experts and entrepreneurs to **share their latest insights and best practices on making the most of artificial intelligence and machine-learning** to tackle challenges in their respective fields. **More than 450** business people, officials and students heard about the impacts and challenges of artificial intelligence technologies on Culture, Security and Ethics, Mobility, Sustainable Energies, Smart cities, Banking, as well as future challenges presented by the Robot Era.

Opening speeches were made by HE Omar Bin Sultan Al Olama, UAE Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Major General Dr Ahmed Naser Al Raisi, General Inspector of the UAE Ministry of Interior and HE Ludovic Pouille, French Ambassador to the UAE.

HE Noura Al Kaabi, UAE Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development and HE Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi also honoured us with their presence.

Speakers then exchanged their views during the following round-tables:

- Culture -

Jessica Bland, Head of Foresight and Research, Dubai Future Foundation, moderated the panel formed by:

- HE Omar Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence;
- Erik Linquier, General Commissioner for France Dubai Expo 2020;
- Alexandre Cadain, CEO Anima & AI XPRIZE Ambassador.

- Security, Human Society and Ethics -

After an introduction by Eric Papin, Director of Innovation and Technical Development at Naval Group, Captain. Hamad Alhammadi, Head of Projects Information Center at The International Security Alliance lead the discussions between:

- Emile Perez, Chief Security Officer of the EDF Group and former Head of International Corporation Directorate at the French Ministry of Interior;
- Anthony Shiner, Chief Digital Lifestyle and Innovation Officer, EITC du;
- Michel Derdevet, General Secretary of Enedis;
- Patrick Hubert, Partner at Orrick Herrington and Sutcliffe.

- Mobility -

Bibop Gresta, Chairman of Hyperloop TT, shared his insight as an introduction. Cyrus Hodes, Advisor on Artificial Intelligence Office, UAE Prime Minister's Office then lead the exchanges between:

- Ismail Abdulla, Mubadala Vice President, Aerospace, Renewables and ICT & Chief Executive Officer, Strata Manufacturing;
- Chiara Corazza, CEO of Women's Forum for the Economy & Society and member of the Board of RATP;
- Marko Erman, Senior Vice President, Chief Technical Officer, Thales.

- Sustainability and Smart Cities -

After the introduction by HE Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, Stuart Hawkins, Digital Leader for Arup Middle East moderated the exchanges between:

- Michel Lutz, Group Data Officer of Total;
- Helene Verbockhaven, Deputy Director of Engie Digital;
- Mr. Eric Scotto, CEO of Akuo Energy.

- Banking -

Jean Jacques Santini, Global Head of Public and Regulatory Affairs and Senior Advisor to the Chairman of BNP Paribas shared his knowledge on the impacts and opportunities of AI for the banking sector.

After a closing statement by Jerome Chartier, First Vice-President of Ile de France Region and Founder of "Les Entretiens de Royaumont", Mrs. Laurence Devillers Professor of Computer Science at Paris-Sorbonne IV University presented some research on AI and the Robots Era.

QUOTES FROM THE SPEAKERS:

“As cities globally struggle to accommodate population growth and urbanisation, it is not only a choice, but a duty on us all to find innovative solutions to protect what we have and curb environmental degradation. The Sustainable Development Goals serve as guiding principles for us to reach a common goal and a sustainable future. AI can take these principles to a transformational level – allowing us to get there faster, more efficiently, and with immediate impact that lasts for decades to come. Each of us has a part to play – let’s make sure to leverage our technological advancements to protect our scarce natural resources.”

HE Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, Secretary General of the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

“The choice of focusing on Artificial Intelligence is emblematic: firstly because our two countries have very ambitious strategies in this innovative field - the French government plans to invest 1.5 billion euros over the next four years, in order to support research and innovation and attract talents from all over the world - and secondly because Artificial Intelligence is one of the main themes of the Emirati-French Cultural Dialogue.”

HE Ludovic Pouille, French Ambassador to the UAE

“When talking about AI, we could speak a lot about technologies, science and IT. But it is essential to have in mind that AI is first and foremost a question of changing the way we are working. [...] It is very important to address everybody and not only technical people. Everybody, from technician to top-manager, has to be aware of the potential of the AI technologies and to imagine how it could change [their] business.”

Michel Lutz, Group Data Officer, Total

“We’re delighted to be part of this exciting event to discuss the role of AI. AI is now ingrained in our everyday lives and continuing to grow in importance. At Thales, Artificial Intelligence is woven into every single process and area of our business, from defence to aerospace, security, ground transportation or space, and the possibilities for the future are endless.”

Roger Daix, Vice President of Thales-Middle East

“Enedis is strongly involved in AI developments, but for us AI is a mean, not an end. Firstly, AI allows us to improve our operational performance with, for example, predictive maintenance or investments planning. AI also helps us offer better solutions for our clients thanks to chatbots or better forecasts.”

Michel Derdevet, Member of the Executive Board and General Secretary at Enedis

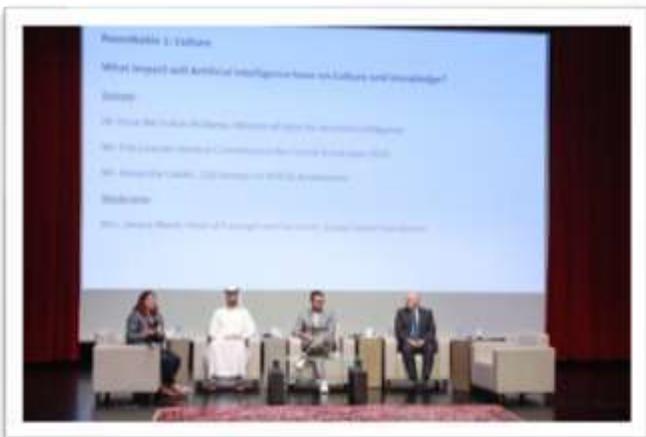
“Dubai 2020 will offer France the opportunity to express its vision on the ecological and united transition in a relevant way. [...] The French Pavilion will expose concrete solutions based on digital technology, notably the newest French innovations in the field of the Artificial Intelligence. “

Erik Linqui er, Commissioner General for France at Expo 2020 Dubai

“Artificial Intelligence (AI) will have very important and positive impacts on banks and their clients and suppliers. AI could also lead to ethical challenges, notably in terms of confidentiality of data and data protection. It may also create new risks, for instance in terms of cybersecurity. It will eventually imply a substantial reshaping of human resources management.”

Jean Jacques Santini, Senior Advisor to the Chairman at BNP Paribas Group

PICTURES





CONTACT:

For more information, please refer to the website:

<https://www.fbgabudhabi.com/en/calendar-event/the-entretiens-of-abu-dhabi/>

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

ABOUT THE FRENCH BUSINESS GROUP ABU DHABI

The French Business Group of Abu Dhabi is a dynamic and independent non-profit organisation committed to promote business relations between the UAE and France. Founded in 1974 by French companies, we have nearly 300 members ranging from UAE national corporations, French top multinationals, SME, to business leaders and individual private members. The FBG's main goals are:

- To promote bilateral trade, exchanges and investment between France and UAE,
- To represent, federate, inform, stimulate and serve the interests of its Members,
- To support commercial endeavours of French Companies in Abu Dhabi and UAE companies in France.

ABOUT OUR PARTNERS

The **International Security Alliance** is a working group co-founded by the Ministers of Interior of UAE and France, with the joint members of the Ministers of Interior of Spain, Bahrain, Singapore, Senegal, Morocco and Italy.

<http://intsecurityalliance.org/>

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is a higher education institution that attracts the best students from the UAE and around the world. Established in 2006 as a result of an agreement between the Sorbonne University in Paris and the Government of Abu Dhabi, Sorbonne Abu Dhabi offers the very best in international higher education, thanks to 760 years of academic excellence and a state-of-the-art campus on Al Reem Island in Abu Dhabi.

<https://www.sorbonne.ae/>

The **Institut Français in the UAE** is the cooperation and cultural department of the French Embassy. It has the mission of promoting French creation, thought and language and encouraging cultural, artistic, educational, academic and scientific exchanges and partnerships between France and the UAE. It follows up on the cultural and educational aspects of the strategic dialogue between France and the UAE.

<http://institutfrancais-uae.com/>

The Entretiens de Royaumont

Grown out of meetings and exchanges organised in the 1st half of the 20th century in the Abbey of Royaumont in France, Les Entretiens de Royaumont are a yearly cycle of conferences aimed at imaging the future and opened to unrestricted discussions. Since 2003, major decisions makers, entrepreneurs and recognised experts deliberate and exchange with complete freedom of expression on topics ranging from politics, economics, social sciences, foreign affairs and technology. The theme of the 2018 edition is "Being a Woman".

<http://entretiensroyaumont.org/>