

## Welcome Address

**HE ENG. AHMED BIN HASSAN AL DHEEB  
Undersecretary at the Commerce and Industry Ministry  
And Member of ITA Board of Directors**

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**Your Excellency Dr. Lee Boon Yang, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to address this elite gathering of representatives from the public and private sector of Singapore and the Sultanate. Welcome to this ICT Business Forum for fostering exchange of experiences in the field of ICT among our nations. The significance of this forum highlights the mutual interest between our two countries in friendly cooperation for the progress of ICT sector.

This significant participation of public sector ICT champions, private sector thought leaders and industry experts in this event, is a genuine evidence of the ever-growing importance of ICT and its role in providing a more user-centric and trustworthy computing environment be it for the government or the business or the public.

In our aim to implement e-governance in Oman, we fully realize that creating robust infrastructure, offering citizen-centric services and empowering individuals is essential to enable effective participation within a knowledge society. While we have addressed these subjects with much attention, we believe that our initiatives through this forum will greatly facilitate the aim of adding value to citizens and businesses to acquire knowledge and resources that would allow them to avail e-government services.

We wish to use this forum to strengthen the cooperation between us and facilitate the creation of new business opportunities within the ICT sector. We trust this would also bring sustainable development for a better standard of living and quality of life by leveraging information and communication technologies.

For this forum, our respective teams have strived to bring an eclectic range of topics covering infrastructure, e-services in the trade, transport, education and health under the gamut of ICT businesses.

We are looking forward to this opportunity to share our experiences in ICT project implementations and enhance our cooperation to exchange best practices and world-class innovations.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to team IDA and team ITA for having taken the responsibility to organise this ICT Business forum with a comprehensive agenda within a very short time. Their efforts have resulted in this gathering to discuss matters which will accelerate our joint initiatives.

In conclusion, let us make this forum drive forward the ambitions of ITA, MICA and IDA in to an action plan reaching a tangible reality that manifests all the principles and values of collaborative efforts.

Thank you.