

**Speech Dr. Salim Al Ruzaiqi, CEO of ITA
E-Oman Award ceremony 2009**

13th June 2009

In the name of God, the most Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Excellency Khalid Bin Hilal Bin Saud AlBusaidy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers

Your Excellencies ,

Distinguished guests

Peace, God's mercy and His blessings be upon you,

I welcome you to the grand finale event of the E-Oman Award in its very first edition. We are here today to celebrate the distinguished elite Government institutions that have excelled in using ICT and honor them.

Distinguished attendees,

E-Oman Award aspires to encourage Government institutions to continuously enhance their performance and streamline their e-services and recognize their excellence and achievements in this respect.

ITA in its goal to formulate plans and programs to consolidate and upgrade the ICT culture in the Sultanate of Oman primarily seeks to encourage the governmental organizations to keep on with excellence in performance , productivity and service quality . E-Oman Award is an enhancement of the continual efforts made by all authorities to create digital Oman...

We are driven by an ambition that this award will be a contribution to set up a quality transition in E-services that will be eventually enhancing the position of The Sultanate locally and globally in information technology.

Honorable audience,

It is our pleasure to announce that the Governmental institutions have made great progress in offering e-services and offer several interactive channels. They have worked with Information Technology Authority (ITA) to set up national digital infrastructures and make rapid strides ahead towards digital Oman. Recently the SMS recruitment Applications project of the Royal Court Affairs (RCA) winning the coveted among the global fraternity as the one of the five best world practices within the e-government category. The same project was also a winner of the Arab e-content award for e-government.

Earlier, the same award was also won by Oman's Higher Education Admission System (HEAC). The World Summit Award (WSA) is a global contest to select best practice in e-Content and innovative ICT applications, within the framework of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

All these international awards are significant milestones of nationwide achievement and they are the fruit of collaborative efforts seeking to realize the national strategy of digital Oman undertaken by the ITA in association with the various Governmental organizations.

The Online Donations Portal project, instituted by ITA in cooperation The Ministry of Social Development and several of charity associations in Oman, was again adjudged as a winner of the Arab e-content 2009 for the content category and electronic participation of The World Summit Award (WSA) 2009.

The online charity donations portal is a one of the prominent projects initiated by ITA is an integrated website to enable online contribution of donations to the Omani charity organizations electronically through the e-payment gateway of Oman.

Oman has reached the 39th ranking of the e-government readiness globally as stated in the 2009 World Economic Forum report and the 50th ranking among 134 countries as listed in the same report.

The eOman Award is a unique effort by ITA to encourage stakeholders to provide electronic services to the public and upgrade the quality of their services and strengthen the confidence of citizens in the reliability of the services, and motivate all governmental organizations entering this contest. We are quite

certain that this award will contribute remarkably to disseminate the excellence, innovation and quality standard and concepts and encourage others to adopt the best administrative and professional practices in e-government services. It is our anticipation that this award will encourage many more advanced applications and sophisticated technologies to be incorporated into the government sector activities.

Dear Guests,

The eOman Award consists of five different categories to compete covering a range of e-services sectors delivered by the various governmental organizations to the public. All governmental organizations and institutions were invited to participate in this contest and an independent jury committee of both international and local professionals was formed. The content standards and evaluation criteria were shared with the potential contestants. We are very delighted with a good response to the contest, and the award has already achieved a notable recognition and with wider honour it certainly will gain more recognition in the coming years.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all participants of this award and we are all privileged to confirm that the result of this entire contest realises His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed's vision, whose guidelines and directives have always inspired us to enhance and promote the delivery of electronic services to the citizen.

Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you