



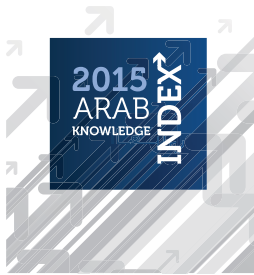
Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



مؤسسة محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم  
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID  
AL MAKTUUM FOUNDATION



# 2015 ARAB KNOWLEDGE INDEX



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Resilient nations.*



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This report has been originally written in Arabic. The English translation has been edited for flow, without losing the content, and as such may not reflect all parts or sentences in the Arabic version in terms of translation.

## Foreword

### Chairman of the Board

#### Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation

### Knowledge Index... The Road Map Towards Sustainable Development in the Arab World

Once again Dubai and the United Arab Emirates have confirmed their leadership in supporting innovative initiatives that contribute to the dissemination, transfer and localization of knowledge, not only in the Arab world but at the international level. Since its inception, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation has sought to monitor the status of knowledge in Arab countries. This effort, in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme, has led to the issue of three reports which give an overview of the knowledge situation in the region, and highlight the key areas experiencing a knowledge gap.

With the launch of the third Arab Knowledge Report in December last year, it was important to discuss the outcome of the report with experts in the field to find appropriate solutions in the dissemination, transfer, production and localization of knowledge in the Arab world. Accordingly, the first session of the Knowledge Summit in 2014 brought together innovative minds from all over the world to review the results of the report and come up with recommendations to enhance the status of knowledge in the region.

As a continuation of this effort, research and surveys were undertaken to identify the strengths and weaknesses in monitoring the challenges and opportunities in the knowledge domain. A major step in this process was the launch of the Arab Knowledge Index by Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Foundation in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme. The index provides accurate data, putting them under specific classifications relevant to every Arab country and highlighting the fundamental areas for the comprehensive development of knowledge.

This scientific tool, which is now in your hands, offers a systematic mechanism to understand the status of knowledge in six key areas: Pre-university education; higher education; technical vocational education and training; research, development and innovation; information and communications technology; and economy.

The Arab Knowledge Index will serve as a roadmap to put in place economic and social development strategies in the Arab world by relying on scientific methods that measure the levels of dissemination of knowledge in the region. The Index will be a key reference point for decision makers, experts and researchers in the formulation of development plans and policies.

The Knowledge Index will contribute to the creation of a competitive environment to inspire government and competent authorities to activate more programmes and initiatives in the dissemination and transfer of knowledge. We believe that this will help achieve a shift in focus from consumer-based societies to societies that produce and export knowledge.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum  
Chairman of the Board  
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation



## Preamble

**Assistant Secretary-General,  
Assistant Administrator  
Regional Director - Regional Bureau for Arab States  
United Nations Development Programme**

It is with pride and pleasure that we present to you the first Arab Knowledge Index, a pioneering, state-of-the-art initiative created for the Arab States Region, by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Arab States in partnership with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation (MBRF) of Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The rationale behind the development of this index is the observation that policymakers and researchers across the Arab States have been hampered by major deficits in data and information about knowledge-and-development contexts in the Arab World. This index is a significant step towards addressing this deficit and empowering policymakers and researchers to carry out more informed analysis and propose more insightful decisions.

In this respect, the Knowledge Index both increases knowledge itself, and can stand as a tool to further knowledge across the region and bring about the development gains associated with more and better movements towards the goal of fostering knowledge societies across the Arab States.

To be sure, the index proposed in this study is only a tool, and like all tools the extent of its effectiveness is defined only by the way it will be used. Our hope at UNDP and with

our partners at MBRF is that the index will be used to inform decision-making and assist in creating effective strategies and policies that promote inclusive and sustainable development in Arab Countries.

This Index is the first of its kind, and like all new efforts it will benefit from partners' feedback and from further future development. We look forward to continuing to refine it together and with the support and engagement with the development community across the region and around the world.

The Arab Knowledge Index is fruit of a partnership between the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States and MBRF that has been in place since 2007, and has allowed the production of three path-breaking Arab Knowledge Reports and numerous conferences and seminars devoted to promoting a knowledge based society across the Arab States and fostering development that creates opportunities for young people and builds bridges towards a brighter future across our region.

I thank MBRF for its partnership towards this important objective, and I commend the Arab Knowledge Index team for this innovative and important contribution towards the Region we aspire to be.

Sima Bahous  
Assistant Secretary-General,  
Assistant Administrator  
Regional Director - Regional Bureau for Arab States  
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