The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology & EDGE Launch ‘Talk 4.0’ Series to Empower Industrial Leaders to Adopt Transformative Solutions and Sustainable Practices



The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (the Ministry), jointly with EDGE Group PJSC have launched the ‘Talk 4.0’ Series, a new enlightening, knowledge-exchange initiative aimed at empowering industrial leaders to adopt transformative technologies and sustainable practices. This follows the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two parties in August 2022, which seeks to expand the offerings of EDGE’s Learning & Innovation Factory to the UAE’s industrial ecosystem, and to collaborate on the establishment of an Industry 4.0 Enablement Centre.

Introduced as part of a series of initiatives to encourage and accelerate digital transformation, and as part of the Ministry’s Technology Transformation Program launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, in October 2022, the ‘Talk 4.0’ Series brings together industrial leaders to share learnings and best practices from implementations of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) solutions, through informative talks, workshops, seminars, and other learning activities.

The inaugural edition of the ‘Talk 4.0’ Series was held at the EDGE Learning & Innovation Factory. The edition featured keynote speakers from global industrial organisations including: Nouman Qaiser, SC Digital Transformation Manager at Unilever, who discussed the lessons learned from an entrepreneurial journey to becoming a 4IR lighthouse; and Dr. Omer Dawelbeit, Principal Solution Architect at Amazon Web Services (AWS), who delivered a talk on modern artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Following the keynotes, participants received a simulation of the EDGE Learning & Innovation Factory’s ‘Smart Learning Factory’, which demonstrated how to design and build digital twins, how to integrate and design connected technologies, and how to use data to enhance productivity and efficiency. Two micro-training sessions focused on Six Sigma and Agile processes were also conducted by EDGE Learning & Innovation Factory trainers.

Moreover, participants had the opportunity to network with other industry professionals, share experiences, best practices, as well as learn more about technology adoption, sustainable solutions, and capacity building.

Mr. Tariq Al Hashmi, Director of Technology Adoption and Development at the Ministry, said: “In order to fully digitalise industry, we must first spread awareness about advanced technologies and their potential to unlock value, as well as empower industrial leaders to adopt them through capability building initiatives. Through education and facilitating knowledge exchanges between industrial stakeholders, Talk 4.0 will directly support the aims of the Technology Transformation Program in accelerating the pace of technological transformation in the UAE’s priority sectors”.

Mr. Ahmed Al Khoori, Senior Vice President - Strategy & Excellence at EDGE said: “The ‘Talk 4.0’ Series is a new, key initiative which will bring together some of the industry’s most innovative and inspiring thought leaders, to challenge conventional thinking, share learnings and best practices, and discuss topics that will ultimately shape the future of the industry. The Series will further promote digital transformation and foster a culture of learning and innovation among the UAE’s leading industrial players.”

The EDGE Learning & Innovation Factory combines theory, technology, and practice under one roof to drive improvements and inspire an innovative approach to encourage digital transformation and modernisation of operations. It provides trainees with experiential, gamified, and actionable learnings in line with the industry’s future requirements.

The Ministry’s Technology Transformation Program is tailored to achieve a set of goals, primarily contributing AED 110 billion to the nation’s GDP; enabling AED 15 billion worth of advanced UAE exports annually; developing 1,000 technological projects; investing AED 11 billion in advanced technology; in addition to nurturing Emirati talent across advanced technology projects within 10 years.

The Program is based on five main initiatives. These include the Industrial Technology Transformation Index, Industry 4.0 Enablement Centres, advanced technology incentives, the Factory of the Future Award, and the Advanced Technology testbed initiative.