

F O R E W O R D

N A H A Y A N M A B A R A K A L N A H A Y A N

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THE JOY OF EDUCATION

**T**he vision and leadership of our late president, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, served as the inspiration for the establishment of the Higher Colleges of Technology in 1988. Now, after 19 years of institutional and academic success, we salute his vision and express our gratitude for his strong and unwavering support. With Sheikh Zayed's encouragement, we have established an institution worthy of his high expectations and reflective of the value he always placed on the education of the sons and daughters of the United Arab Emirates. It is, therefore, appropriate to express our pride and satisfaction that these colleges will always stand as a tribute to his wisdom and his leadership.

I am delighted to write the foreword to this anthology that celebrates the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Higher Colleges of Technology. I am very pleased that the anthology contains entries from prominent authors – some of whom helped establish the Colleges 19 short years ago.

I am grateful to every one of the contributors and consider this anthology an opportunity to recognize, honor, and learn from them as thinkers and as intellectuals. The anthology covers a wide range of topics about education and human affairs. The chapters celebrate the intellect. They challenge us to think about ideas, about thinkers, and about thinking itself. The ability to think well and the willingness to think openly and creatively on life's most important issues will help make the world a better place for people everywhere. This anthology is indeed a fitting tribute to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

the Higher Colleges of Technology.

On this occasion, I would like to acknowledge the impressive achievements of so many who have made the Higher Colleges the success it is today. We will always be grateful to them. Their flexibility, creativity and eagerness to work together toward common goals have served the Colleges well. Because of their success, we are confident of our future. I am confident the HCT will continue as an institution of world class distinction – not only because of the scope and quality of the education it provides, but also because of its service to our society. I celebrate 20 years of achievement at the Higher Colleges of Technology with great enthusiasm. I look forward, with high expectations, to many more years of unparalleled opportunities.

As the Founding Chancellor, I want to review what I said in 1988 about our mission and goals. I said then:

“...What is our aim exactly? Well, in broad terms, it is to ensure a clear sense of purpose, to guarantee relevance in our curriculum, to achieve excellence in teaching and learning, and to graduate accomplished young men and women who will ensure the highest quality of life for the United Arab Emirates and its people.”

I then continued:

“Our goals can be summed up in the following five:

Goal 1: The development of the individual student – to provide quality higher educational opportunities and programs that endow our students with the skills and knowledge necessary to enable them to live and work in our rapidly changing society... to foster a positive work ethic and an attitude toward education that will stimulate the desire for continued learning.

Goal 2: Economic growth at the national level – to provide for all sectors of the economy the training programs designed to assist in the economic growth throughout the country.

Goal 3: Local human resources development – to provide learning opportunities to meet the adult educational needs of the

citizens of the particular community served by each college.

Goal 4: Service to the community – to direct the resources of the Colleges to facilitate innovation, economic development, and community progress.

Goal 5: Institutional effectiveness – to improve institutional services and promote excellence in education through constant evaluation and study.”

In these statements from 20 years ago, I also said: “We aim to devote a considerable amount of our efforts to community service, not least of which will be, of course, the establishment of an active technology transfer program...”

These goals continue to drive everything at the Higher Colleges of Technology. It is always useful to look back and measure the extent of our progress and achievement. It is equally important to look to the future. And so I would like to emphasize several basic principles necessary to future progress. We will strive to develop in our students the values, the qualities, and capacities to be leaders in their communities. We will recognize the importance of entrepreneurship training. We will dedicate ourselves to even more effective teaching and learning in the Colleges. The learning climate at the HCT will continue to nurture problem solving, independent learning, and superior skills in accessing, analyzing, and sharing information in this age of electronic and computer-based technology. We will also recognize, more clearly than we have, the benefits of collaboration with both the UAE University and Zayed University. We can thereby promote the integration of different fields of knowledge and achieve more effective use of available resources.

The Higher Colleges have always enjoyed the support and good will of our country's leaders and the people of the United Arab Emirates. The Colleges are fortunate that the president of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, strongly supports us. We are also grateful to His Highness the Vice

President and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and to Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates. I would also like to thank His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, for his generous support for the Higher Colleges. And I am grateful, as well, for the support we have received, and continue to receive, from the community of the United Arab Emirates.

The Higher Colleges of Technology are determined to meet the high expectations of our country to fulfill their mission of education and service. I am grateful to everyone in the Colleges for their dedication and hard work. I look forward to future successes as we prepare to enter our next 20 years and beyond.

