

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

As salaamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

I am happy to deliver this keynote address and to officiate at the opening of the 2nd Trans Middle East 2006 Dubai Exhibition and Conference taking place here at the lively and commercial successful Emirate of Dubai.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to this distinguished gathering. To those delegates who have come from outside the UAE, I would also like to invite you to visit the leisure activities and business facilities that Dubai has to offer. This Event will provide an excellent opportunity for networking where the participants can meet many transport Industry Executives and decision makers from not only the Middle East but also from all around the world.

There has been substantial investment and progress in the transport and logistic sector due to the relaxation of trade policies, economic cooperation and the globalization in business activities that have stimulate economic activity and growth in world trade.

Expansion in the transport and logistic sector in Dubai is currently significant. Clearly logistics in Dubai is being driven by market demand and buoyant conditions. All the companies, as you can see, are experiencing unprecedented growth at the moment, there is enough business to go round for all operators.

The demand for facilities is real and logistics operators are looking at funding infrastructure growth while they have this window of opportunity. If the economy was less buoyant, this would not be as profound. This trend prevails in the Region.

Technology in my view has stimulated growth in this sector. Today, Customers are more mature and there is an expectation that their service providers will provide both off the shelf and tailor made technology seamless solutions.

Today, there are also pressures on companies to deliver products to consumers on demand. What was previously seasonal produce is now demanded 365 days a year. No longer is time or distance a limitation. The multimodal transport system has opened up the world of commerce to a truly

global market. This has also put a lot of pressure on the supply chain management to reduce delivery time and cost. At the same time the exemplary levels of service have to be maintained. Thus planning for the future is becoming a Herculean task. However tough it is to plan for the future, the transportation players will have to get their bearing right to survive and excel in the competitive milieu.

As you can see Ladies and Gentlemen, the changing landscape is making the industry more competitive. In the bargain, new issues need to be discussed at the international level. I hope this Event will provide the platform for discussion.

The conference programme covers a wide range of topics clearly designed to highlight the working of the various sectors of the industry with specific emphasis on the multimodal system. I am confident that the deliberation at this Event will be timely and fruitful.

Ladies and Gentlemen, when you come to Dubai, it is not all work. You will be pleasantly surprised to see a vibrant, modern and lush city with numerous resort, skyscrapers and Golf Courses too. I would like to encourage you to explore the leisure activities that Dubai has to offer.

Before, I conclude I would like to express my appreciation to Dubai Cargo Village for hosting the Event and to Transport Events Management for putting the event together. I would also like to express my thanks to all the delegates, exhibitors and speakers for their support to the event.

I wish you all once again a highly successful Exhibition and Conference. I delighted to declare open the 2nd Trans Middle East 2006 Dubai Exhibition and Conference.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen for your attention!