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## Moving towards a fully networked city

### Dubai's Smart City push will have a lasting impact on multiple layers of economy

By **NIDAL ABOU ZAKI**  
*Special to Gulf News*

**D**ubai has taken proactive steps in making the shift towards a more intelligent and sustainable economy. The move has resulted in a successful journey that marks the realisation of Dubai's 'Smart Government' vision, designed to act as a solid foundation for the government's efforts to drive automation and be part of

the Top Five governments of the world by 2021.

Dubai has already demonstrated the elements that have placed it right on track towards achieving full Smart City status by 2021. This is evident in the advanced status within industry verticals like financial, commercial, logistics and service centres.

The success can also be attributed to the high penetration rates of broadband, mobile phones and smartphone usage posted over the years.

Furthermore, the move to transform Dubai into a Smart City will help reap strategic gains that will impact the eco-

nomie returns of all business segments and also help drive higher indicators of quality life and environmental security.

In fact, the most positive effect to be felt in this journey is the strong support it renders on the national economy, through the launch of 'smart' ports, airports and stock markets. The adoption of a Smart City status can also help in the development of sectors such as tourism, health, education, trade, transportation and telecommunications, public utilities and energy, resulting in a significant spike in Dubai's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Smart City project will

also provide a wide portfolio of job opportunities for vital sectors. According to a recent report from Booz & Company, Dubai has the potential to generate more than 27,000 new jobs between 2013 and 2018. The shift to being a Smart City will also pave the way for a new culture of entrepreneurship and the forging of effective partnerships between the public and private sectors, open more job opportunities and support new projects aimed at building a better future.

■ *The writer is the general manager of Orient Planet Media Consultancy.*