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## Chairman of the Council the conference shed lights on vital contribution of the industry to sustainable development ✉

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(MENAFN Press) Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment and the Digital Economy HE Mr. Moulay Hafid ELALAMY inaugurated today the activities of the 5th edition of FTTH Council MENA with the attendance of the Moroccan ANRT Chief Mr. Azdine EL MOUNTASSIR BILLAH. The minister also inaugurated the Council's exhibition which witnessed the participation of 15 regional and international companies.

300 large regional and international companies representatives, industry experts and stakeholders from among several Arabic and foreign countries representing the public and the private sectors participated in the conference.

Faris Awartani, FTTH Council MENA Chairman of the Board stressed that the keenness of the Council to hold this conference annually stems from the increasing interest in the introduction of the fiber optics infrastructure to the region yet reflecting the ever increasing interest in the high speed digital telecommunications for its vital impact on sustainable economic development in the Middle East and North Africa.

He added that there are many Arabic countries actually started the introduction of these technologies thus becoming a vital infrastructure component, pointing out that the UAE was ranked as the number one in the uptake of this technology in addition to other countries like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Jordan which were in the forefront of that trend. He stressed that the entire region is witnessing a quantum leap in introducing and investing in this field reflecting a strong conviction in the future of fiber optics technology.

The conference gathers a number of stakeholders under its umbrella from the public and the private sector from the countries in the region and provides a platform to discuss the introduction of this technology and exploits the green spaces to accommodate them with the fiber optics infrastructure. Moroccan governments represented by telecommunications minister



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## FTTH Council MENA announces holding its 6th edition in the UAE

2013-12-01

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the FTTH Council MENA Faris Awartani announced the holding of the 6th edition of its annual conference in Dubai, UAE next year, under the theme "FTTH, the Rise of a Smart Nation". He pointed out, at the conclusion of the 5th edition of the FTTH conference, held in Marrakesh, Morocco that this session of the conference was characterized by the rising interest of the public and the private sectors in the North African countries toward the introduction and utilization of fiber optics networks at the aim of transforming their economies into knowledge based economies. He cited that the conference provided an ample opportunity to companies working in the field to get acquainted with the available investment opportunities in these countries and other countries. Awartani expressed his gratitude for the Moroccan Ministry of Industry, Trade, Investment and the Digital Economy for its support of the conference.

He also thanked the Director General of the ANRT who showed a big interest in knowing the latest developments in the regulatory regimes related to fiber to the home technologies. The conference has also opened the doors for the private and public sectors to get acquainted with the international experiences from their peers in the United States, Europe and other countries who participated in the conference in addition to the governments' legislative experiences and adopted policies, seeking to develop their own legislative regimes. The participants have discussed the role of the FTTH in accelerating the transformation of the economies and the importance of ultra-high speed broadband in realizing economic growth and in creating a better future along with the creation of promising jobs. The conference showcased the available opportunities and challenges in deploying fiber optics to the homes including, the surrounding environment, investment, and public-private sector Partnership in the regulation process through the coordination between the needs of the regulators and the investors. The participants stressed on the role played by the fiber optics technology in developing content on the internet in light of the enormous growth of such services. They also discussed the opportunities available and the challenges that stand in the way of providing these services in the light of the aspirations of consumers to new approaches in dealing with the traditional media and new content such as e-games.

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MENAFN Press - 01/12/2013

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