كليات التقنية العليا
Higher Colleges of Technology

11th International Conference

ITT 2026

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

28-29 OCT 2026

HCT-Dubai Academic City Campus

Intelligence in Action:
Autonomous Agents, Embodied AI, and the Cognitive Economy

Conference **Program**

Day 01 Wed 28 October 2026

09:00AM – 10:00AM	**Welcome desk & registration**	DBA Reception
10:00AM – 10:05AM	**Opening remarks** **Dr. Hatem Tamimi,** Conference Chair, HCT	Auditorium, DBA
10:05AM – 10:15AM	**Welcome address** **Dr. Faisal Alayyan,** President & CEO, Higher Colleges of Technology	Auditorium, DBA
10:15AM – 10:55AM	**"Beyond Data, Beyond AI: Mining the World's Knowledge for Explainable and Intelligent Decision-Making"** **Prof. Rayner Alfred,** Assistant Vice Chancellor, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia	Auditorium, DBA
10:55AM – 11:35AM	**"AI Decoded- Strategic Trends Shaping the Future & Huawei's Strategy"** **Mr. Faisal Malik,** Chief Technology Officer – Huawei, Middle East & Central Asia	Auditorium, DBA
11:35AM – 12:05PM	**"Powering Your Pedagogy with Conversational AI"** **Mr. Murtaza Sinnarwala,** Google Education Solution Manager – MarsSys, UAE	Auditorium, DBA
12:05PM – 12:20PM	Coffee break	
12:20PM – 01:20PM	**Undergraduate Student Poster Competition** – Poster Showcase	Main Lobby, DBA
01:20PM – 02:00PM	Prayer and lunch break	
02:00PM – 04:00PM	**Parallel sessions** (track-based research presentations)	B126 B133 B135 B137 B139

Track 1 – AI for Government, Public Services, and National Resilience

Track 2 – Smart Cities, Sustainable Infrastructure, and Urban Intelligence (Co-located)

Track 3 – AI for Human Wellbeing, Learning, and Development

Track 4 – Autonomous Systems, Robotics, and Embodied Intelligence (Co-located)

Track 5 – Digital Economy, Innovation, and Cognitive Enterprises

Track 6 – Responsible AI, Cybersecurity, and Digital Trust

02:00PM – 04:00PM	**Workshops - Parallel sessions**	InnCuvation Space

Workshop 1
"AI Starts with Data: How Enterprise Data Becomes Intelligence" – Suhas Saheer, SAAL.ai

"Securing AI: From Data Protection to Trusted AI" - Satyaprakash, SAAL.ai

Workshop 2
"Google Gemini Notebook and Research in Higher Education" - Murtaza Sinnarwala, Google Education Solution Manager - MarSys, UAE

Workshop 3
"Technology Enables Transformation, People Make It Sustainable"– Bushra Amir, Accenture, UAE

Workshop 4
"From Copilots to Agents: The Future of AI in Education & Cybersecurity" – Abdul Shakir, Consultant - Cyber AIQ AG, UAE

Workshop 5
"AI in Cybersecurity"– Neeraj Yadav, Consultant - Positive Technologies, UAE

Workshop 6
"The Engine Room of AI: How Data Centers Power the Intelligence Revolution"– Ziad Al Masri, DataCenter Solution Architect - Huawei Enterprise Business Group, Multi Gulf Region

Day 02 Thurs 29 October 2026

09:00AM – 10:00AM	**Welcome desk & registration**	DBM Reception
10:00AM – 10:40AM	**"The State of AI in 2026"** **Mr. Tarek Rahal,** Public Sector Lead – Intel, UAE	Auditorium, DBA
10:40AM – 11:20AM	**"AI Acts. Architecture Decides. Secure The AI You Use, Build, and Employ"** **Mr. Melih Kirkgoz,** Senior Director – Fortinet, UAE	Auditorium, DBA
11:20AM – 12:45PM	**Discussion Forum - Who Decides When AI Decides? Rethinking Trust, Control and Responsibility in the Age of Autonomous Intelligence**	Auditorium, DBA

Industry and academia

Panelists:
Noorul Razvi Abubacker,
Head of Engineering, Saal.ai

Dr. Ali Albataineh,
Associate Professor – CIS, HCT

Sultan Alkokhardi,
Founder @ GHAFF, Retail Area Manager, ENOC

Parag Mhatre,
Consultant -Cyberknight Technologies FZ LLC, UAE

Rohith Rajan,
CISO - DEF-X Cyber Intelligence, UAE

Moderator:
Dr. Samer Aoudi, CIS Divisional Chair, Sharjah Campuses, HCT

12:45PM – 01:30PM	Prayer and lunch break	
01:30PM – 03:00PM	**Parallel sessions** (track-based research presentations) – Session 2	B126 B133 B135 B137 B139

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Track 6 – Responsible AI, Cybersecurity, and Digital Trust

01:30PM – 03:30PM	**Workshops - Parallel sessions**	InnCuvation Space

Workshop 7
"Behind the Model: Industry Stories of Data Science and AI in Action"
Mr. Andrew Mironov,
Public Sector Lead - Intel, UAE

Workshop 8
"GHOST RX: Securing Autonomous GenAI in Healthcare"
Rohith Rajan,
CISO, DEF-X Cyber Intelligence, UAE.

Workshop 9
"Securing the AI Era: From Shadow AI to AI-Powered Offense - A CyberKnight hands-on workshop featuring Netskope and Horizon3.ai"
Parag Mhatri,
Consultant - CyberKnight Technologies FZ LLC, UAE

Workshop 10
"Cyber Security Awareness Workshop"
Georges Hannoun,
Systems Engineer - Fortinet, UAE

03:30PM – 04:00PM	Closing session – Best Paper/Poster Awards	Auditorium, DBA