

“What is The Future of the ICT Connected World Post COVID-19?”

Moderator

Dr. Taseer A. Rangrez, DBA, Ph.D.

BICSI EMEA Advisory Committee Chair
Member, Smart Cities Council
Global Digital Infrastructure Alliance Member,
451Research Member, UNA USA, United Nations Foundation



Panelists

- 1. Mr. Abdulla Al Wahedi**
Leading Facilities Management Expert
- 2. Shaimaa Hashem, PMP, RCDD, DCDC, ATD**
Senior Telecommunication Engineer, Dar Al-Handasah
- 3. Mr. Miodrag Kavanovic**
District Vice-Chair, BICSI Mainland Europe
- 4. Mr. Chris Frazer, RCDD**
Layer Zero Services
- 5. Mr. Edmond Ayvazian**
MEA Region Manager, Furukawa Electric



What is The Future of the ICT Connected World Post COVID-19?

- From automated tills in supermarkets, to autonomous vehicles on roads and voice-activated technologies in our homes, digital technologies are changing the way we work, shop, travel and relax, how we interact with the world around us and how we think about, commission and build our infrastructure.
- Adopting and mainstreaming digital and other new technologies, such as advances in robotics and artificial intelligence, will be a game-changer for the industry, speeding up the otherwise slow-and-steady modernization of the sector, and providing answers to the challenges and opportunities we face.
- The digital revolution will redefine the sector. It will lead to a reshaping of business strategies, a re-imagining of our offering to the customer and a shift in the kind of roles infrastructure companies recruit for.



Source: <https://www.balfourbeatty.com/innovation2050>

Panelist: Mr. Abdulla Al Wahedi



Abdulla Al Wahedi
Leading FM Expert

- Can you shed some light on the risk assessment you had to conduct as an FM expert to ensure that integral building services remain enabled despite limited human interactions?



Panelist: Mr. Chris Frazer, RCDD



Chris Frazer, RCDD
Owner, Layer Zero Services

- New questions have arisen from members in the FM community such as: Will employees require more space? Will open plan offices be replaced with closed offices? Will WFH become the new standard? How does this impact your business of infrastructure asset design development, delivery & operations?



Panelist: **Shaimaa Hashem, PMP, RCDD, DCDC, ATD**



Shaimaa Hashem, PMP, RCDD, DCDC, ATD
Senior Telecommunication Engineer,
Dar Al-Handasah

- In your opinion, was the resultant surge in demand for greater bandwidth for video conferencing, etc. ever considered by Infrastructure Design Consultants like yourselves, especially for residential networks?



Panelist: Mr. Edmond Ayvazian



Edmond Ayvazian
MEA Region Manager, Furukawa Electric

- Interestingly, the pandemic has also changed the way we use the internet. Previously, asymmetrical, one-way download use (e.g., streaming Netflix) took up much of our at-home bandwidth, but now, symmetrical uploads and downloads (e.g., video conferencing) are much more prevalent. Do you believe that fiber broadband was the right enable for sustainable networks?



Panelist: Mr. Miodrag Kavanovic



Miodrag Kavanovic
Business Development Manager, TR Services
BICSI Mainland Europe Vice Chair

- As the OSI seven-layer model describes, layer 1 is known as the “physical layer.” Is the same as what has been dubbed “layer 0” to represent cabling infrastructure? And in your opinion has this pandemic situation (increase in digital services) brought about some change in the way we look at this layer 0 design?



Panelist: Shaimaa Hashem, PMP, RCDD, DCDC, ATD



Shaimaa Hashem, PMP, RCDD, DCDC, ATD
Senior Telecommunication Engineer,
Dar Al-Handasah

- In your opinion, was the resultant surge in demand for greater bandwidth for video conferencing, etc. ever considered by Infrastructure Design Consultants like yourselves, especially for residential networks?
- Since you work across the MEA region, how would you rate the “digital readiness” of the UAE as compared to other neighboring countries?



Panelist: Mr. Abdulla Al Wahedi



Abdulla Al Wahedi
Leading FM Expert

- What technology enablers have helped you in managing day-to-day norms of occupant capacity, office density, and percentage circulation areas?



Panelist: **Mr. Miodrag Kavanovic**



Miodrag Kavanovic
Business Development Manager, TR Services
BICSI Mainland Europe Vice Chair

- What's the greatest importance & future of Wi-Fi6 for its role in Digital Transformation?



Panelist: Mr. Abdulla Al Wahedi



Abdulla Al Wahedi
Leading FM Expert

- In your experience of executing FM projects do you see there to be a disconnect between maintenance and design and does this disconnect have an impact on O&M costs?



Panelist: Mr. Chris Frazer, RCDD



Chris Frazer, RCDD
Owner, Layer Zero Services

- What will be the other longer-term impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on delivery models? Especially when delivery locations are not accessible and secure corporate VPN access is many a times against corporate policy in many secure facilities?



Panelist: **Mr. Edmond Ayvazian**



Edmond Ayvazian
MEA Region Manager, Furukawa Electric

- This pandemic has made manufacturers rethink and transform their global supply chain models, have you been able to leverage advanced technologies such as the IOT, AI, robotics, and 5G, to anticipate and meet these challenges?



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