Oman has a well planned ICT strategy

In his inaugural address, Dr T. R. Narayanan, dean of MECIT, said: "The Sultanate has a well planned and comprehensive strategy on ICT and the conference is in sync with the objectives of the government. The strategy addresses a range of subjects including infrastructure, capacity building, e-governance, use of ICT for sectoral and social development, improving organisational efficiency, encouraging ICT industry and entrepreneurship, etc.

The penetration of ICT is key to the on-going successful and integrated programme of e-governance aimed at both improving efficiency as well as public service."

"We plan to conduct biannual conferences on selected themes and to bring out a journal incorporating best papers of the conferences. This conference has evoked great interest worldwide and we have delegates participating from US, UK, GCC, Africa, South Asia, Far East and Australia," he added.

Prof. Ian Marshall, deputy vice-chancellor, Coventry University, UK, giving his keynote address said ICT is a medium of creativity and innovation, and outlined its immense potential in the field of education, healthcare and agriculture.

Speaking on the subject "What have serious games ever done? serious learning, serious fun or just seriously expensive?" he said serious games are used these days in education and training; marketing, advertising and public relations; staff recruitment; social and social policy messages and health improvement.

This was followed by the next keynote address titled "Cloud Computing: The Next Revolution in Information Technology" which was presented by Prof. Rajkumar Buyya, University of Melbourne, Australia. Paper presentations and workshops were held throughout the day on a variety of ICT-related topics.