Leveraging Blockchain Technology to Facilitate Government Efficiency

Iqbal Alikhan
Program Director, Blockchains & Innovations
IBM Corporation in Dubai
alikhan@ae.ibm.com

ABSTRACT

In Dubai, **Smart Dubai** and IBM have held a long and strategic relationship which includes several key initiatives.

- In 2017, Smart Dubai selected IBM as their lead strategic partner in a city wide-effort to implement blockchain technology in city services. The objective was to transform and enhance the citizens' experiences in the UAE.
    - In Saudi Arabia, **Riyadh Municipality and Elm** appointed IBM as the Strategic Blockchain Partner for the city of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to define a blockchain roadmap for the municipality and to help digitise citizen, resident and government experiences, supporting the transformational objectives of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. We are looking at how blockchain can be used to transform municipal services such as regulating different forms of business.
    - In Saudi Arabia, **Saudi Customs** joined our blockchain-based TradeLens network. This will give the customs authority visibility into the container supply chain for ships coming to Saudi ports, allowing the digitisation of paperwork and improved targeting and risk assessment.
- IBM and Maersk just announced the TradeLens global shipping digitisation platform, a trade digitisation solution built for the entire global shipping industry to transparently and efficiently share data in a way that could not be done before.
- More than 90 participants from around the world and from multiple points in the supply chain have agreed to pilot the platform.

- TradeLens is an open solution built with feedback from the network participants and designed to modernise the industry for the better – benefitting participants across the global trade ecosystem.

- Industry players, including port operators, customs authorities, carriers and freight forwarders around the world see the value TradeLens provides and are already piloting or have agreed to pilot the solution.

- TradeLens has the potential to add billions of dollars of value back into the global shipping industry by building efficiencies and reducing barriers.

- **Dubai Airport Free-zone Authority (DAFZA)** selected IBM Blockchain to transform and automate the commercial licensing of new businesses and the renewal process of existing business in the free-zone.

  - In Dubai, **Department of Economic Development** developed its unified corporate registry on the IBM Blockchain by digitising the process of issuing business licenses and exchanging commerce information for business owners, investors, entrepreneurs and start-ups contributing to the Ease of Doing business in the UAE.

- Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority (DSOA) is the first free-zone to implement this by transferring over 400,000 licenses to the registry which is the first blockchain-enabled trade license repository to store and update company registration information issued by DED as well as the free zone authorities in Dubai.