**Ren Zhengfei's Arabic Media Roundtable**

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Media and journalists:

1. Alaa Thabet, Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Ahram* newspaper, Egypt
2. Shagran Al Rashidi, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *Sabq Online* newspaper, Saudi Arabia
3. Wael Al Lababidi, Chief Business and Technical Editor of *Al Bayan* newspaper, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
4. Hassan Ali, News Chief of *Al Raya* newspaper, Qatar
5. Mohammed Haitami, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of *Le Matin* newspaper, Morocco
6. Taoufik Habaieb, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of *Leaders* magazine, Tunisia
7. Mohammad Al-Bahr, China Bureau Chief of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Kuwait
8. Hamed Ruaab, Business Chief Editor of ADTV, the UAE

**Ren:** It's a great honor to have an interview with world-class media like everyone here today. I've been to many Arab countries and regions, traveling across almost all of the countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa. I have great admiration for the splendid culture and long history of the Arab world.

I have a good friend Wang Hanjiang who once served as Director of the West Asia and Africa Division of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of China, the predecessor of China's Ministry of Commerce. He majored in Arabic. Over the 20 years of knowing each other, he has constantly told me about the profoundness of Arab culture. Though I can't read the parchment scrolls, his explanation has helped me understand and appreciate the beauty of the Arabic script, and it has ignited my heartfelt admiration for the splendor of the culture.

The Arab world has so much more than just the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and majestic pyramids. I felt shocked when I first saw the Baalbek temple complex. I was speechless for several hours. The guide was saying a lot, but I was awestruck by this civilization that could be traced back to four or five millennia ago, to the extent that I couldn't say a word. Even for today's master architects, building this huge complex would still be very difficult and challenging. We just don't know how these ancestors living four to five thousand years ago did floor planning, three-dimensional design, and construction coordination to get this huge project done.

We have no answers to any of these questions. The stone columns are so big that you need several people holding hands to wrap around the base, but how did they make them so round? What geometry theories did they apply? How did they make the hundreds of columns so even? How did they measure them and what dimension did they use? How did they do the calculations? The columns are about 22 meters high, so how did they even stand them up? The roof is made up of a single piece of stone weighing about 900 tons. How could they put the stone on top of the columns? There are several hundred of these 900-ton stone roof slabs. How could they pile them up and transport them here? The design of the whole complex is so harmonious and perfect. But it was built four or five millennia ago. So I was deeply touched and impressed by the ingenuity and greatness of our ancestors.

I had the same kind of feeling at many other Arab tourist destinations, like the Luxor Temple, the ancient city Petra, and the Egyptian Museum. In the Egyptian Museum, you can see that the bright piercing eyes on statues made 4,500 years ago are still so vivid and lifelike. The civilization there must have been 1,000 years ahead of the Chinese civilization. The Middle East built these unparalleled architectures over four or five thousand years ago. I have so much respect for the Middle East civilization. Even today's top architects would feel it a huge challenge to design such buildings.

It would have been impossible to make these temples a reality without a very good mastery of mathematics, geometry, and engineering design. From history of the world, the splendid Arab civilization emerged even earlier than Greek civilization, which discovered Euclidean geometry and the Archimedes' principle. Things like spices, carrots, green onions, and garlic weren't the only things the Silk Road brought from the Arab world to China; there was also geometry, algebra, engineering design, and Arabic numerals.

Today, we are all aware that Arabic numerals laid a great foundation for mathematics. In particular, the addition of the numeral "0" triggered an epoch-making technological revolution and innovation for the world, though it entailed a bit of controversy for a few hundred years. Overall though, the addition of "0"to the Arabic numerals gave a strong impetus to the progress of human civilization.

As we stand on the Great Wall and look in the direction of the pyramids, we can imagine how our ancestors used camels to transport our silk and tea to the Arab world, and then transport spices, carrots, and garlic to China. This was a tough but great journey. The Silk Road established by our ancestors connected the cultures of China and Central Asia, and we have great admiration for it. I believe we should continue in the spirit of the Silk Road today. In the past, camels passed along the Silk Road, and today 5G and high-speed rail should be allowed to do the same. This will drive the economic growth of Africa and Asia.

Thank you! I am ready to take your questions now.

**01 *Al-Ahram*, Egypt: First of all, thank you, Mr. Ren, for giving us this opportunity. We all know that Huawei has been investing heavily in scientific research, and is a world leader in 5G. What future-proof 5G technologies will Huawei bring us over the next five years?**

**Ren:** First, Egypt is a great country, and I really admire it. Around 2,000 years ago, Egypt had the Great Library of Alexandria, the world's largest at the time. You also have the ancient pyramids and the more modern Suez Canal. These all represent great things in human civilization. I believe Egyptian society is stable, and Egyptian people are friendly, which has nurtured a booming tourism industry. When I took a boat and traveled along the Nile, I wondered why we can't sing on the Huangpu River in China like they do on the Nile. We really have a lot to learn from Egypt.

The key to rejuvenating a country and a nation lies in education. I hope Huawei can help rejuvenate Egypt, a great country that is home to the pyramids, the Great Library of Alexandria, and the Suez Canal. We will use 5G and other cutting-edge technologies to help Egypt bridge the digital divide, contributing to the country's cultural and educational development.

**02 *Al Bayan*, the UAE: First of all, I'd like to thank Huawei for giving me this opportunity. My question is about the recent conflict between China and the US. It focuses on economy and technology. You have often distanced Huawei from this conflict. However, during an interview with the *Economist*, you said Huawei is willing to share technology with the West. Wouldn't such an offer put Huawei at the center of the storm between China and the US?**

**Ren:** In 1996, the UN implemented an Oil-for-Food Program in Iraq, which was also when I visited Dubai for the very first time. At that time, Dubai was tearing down houses to begin mass construction. I was impressed by Dubai's open culture. It does not actually have that many resources, but is open and has an unshakeable "can-do" spirit. I admire it greatly. I also read a book by Sheikh Zayed, and greatly respect his views.

After returning to China from Dubai, I wrote an article titled *Resources Can Be Exhausted and Only Culture Endures*. Huawei also has few resources to depend upon. What we do have is the brainpower of our employees. This is our oil, our forests, and our coal. So we strive to promote an open culture of dedication.

During the same period in 1996, I also visited Tunisia. At the time, the per capita GDP there was 1,400 US dollars, and people lived happy lives. Neither Dubai nor Tunisia have a lot of resources. Religious reforms in these two countries have brought new life to their cultures, making Tunisia and Dubai role models for reformation across the Arab world.

The UAE is now one of the world's prominent business centers, and has become a country full of immigrants. It has managed to build a world-class business center amidst desert, and I have every reason to believe that it is also capable of making itself a global center of scientific and technological innovation. I believe that the UAE should learn from the US, which attracted a great number of outstanding talent from other countries, and made itself the world's most powerful nation in just 200 years.

Is it possible for the UAE to also become the global center of scientific and technological innovation? Your UAE Centennial 2071 Plan means you are well positioned to achieve that. Many great Americans originally came from Eastern Europe, and fully leveraged their potential to make the US the most powerful country in the world. The UAE has a wonderful business environment, and I think you have the tools to build the world's best center of scientific and technological innovation by attracting immigrants like the US did in the past.

In the past, Arabic civilization was ahead of some parts of the world for around 3,000 years. Why did it lag behind Europe later on? The Europeans invented trains and steam-powered ships, which allowed them to transport more goods far more efficiently that camels. That's why the Industrial Revolution took place in Europe first. From this we can see that speed and bandwidth determine how strong and prosperous a country is. In the past, speed was about how fast physical goods were shipped. Today, speed is about how fast data can be transmitted, and this will be powered by 5G. I believe the UAE should take this opportunity to surpass other countries.

We think that many countries in the Middle East may become the world's highest ground when it comes to 5G deployment, where a new splendid Arabic civilization may emerge with 5G's high speed, low latency, and high bandwidth. Saudi Arabia boasts the largest number of YouTube visitors every day, and the per-capita per-month data traffic consumed in Kuwait was among the world's highest, at 60 gigabytes. 5G from these countries will spread to other Arabic countries and then to the rest of the world. In the 4G era, Japan and South Korea led the world; while in the 5G era, the Middle East is taking the lead. Therefore, a new splendid civilization will emerge in the Middle East. I strongly support the UAE Centennial 2071 Plan and its national strategy to develop 5G, AI, and cloud.

**03 *Al Bayan*, the UAE: You just mentioned that Huawei is willing to share its technologies with Western companies, such as US and European companies. What are your thoughts on that?**

**Ren:** Europe does not need our technologies, because they have their own communications technologies. We have signed cross-licensing agreements with European companies, so we are open to each other. The US lacks the most advanced communications technologies, so we hope to strength our cooperation with US companies. If we could help them catch up in terms of communications, it would be helpful to strike a balance around the world and resolve the conflicts we face.

The Middle East tends to remain politically neutral. The US has sanctioned only Huawei, and Huawei is only ahead of US companies in the communications sector, not in all sectors. We are ahead of the US only in 5G, and still lag behind them in AI, cloud, and intelligent computing. The Middle East can select the best technologies from the US, Europe, Japan, South Korea, and China to build a technology high ground in the region. Just like its culture, Dubai's ICT infrastructure can also be diversified in the future. A platform that is made up of various technologies from various countries will be the strongest platform.

**04 *Sabq Online*, Saudi Arabia: I'd like to know if the US sanctioned Huawei based more on political grounds than on security grounds.**

**Ren:** Of course. Huawei hasn't done anything wrong, so the US sanction should be politically motivated. Saudi Arabia has a culture of wisdom, and it is clear to see the country's greatness today. I admired the government for remaining poised when its oil facilities were attacked. This allowed the country to quickly restore its global oil supply, helping the world avoid a huge crisis. I also admire Ahmed Zaki Yamani, former Minister of Oil of Saudi Arabia. When oil prices skyrocketed to 140 US dollars per barrel, he said, "The Stone Age ended not because of a shortage of stones." These words really impressed me, and showed the amazing foresight that the Arab world has developed over its thousands of years of civilization.

The minister has discussed how the oil reserves will dry up one day, and how Saudi Arabia is worried about the rise of non-fossil energy. Saudi Arabia can use some of its oil wealth to research technology for non-fossil energy. When the oil reserves dry up, Saudi Arabia will then continue to be the greatest country in non-fossil energy. Saudi Arabia can take the lead to use non-fossil energy, and supply the oil and natural gas it would have otherwise consumed to the rest of the world. This will facilitate the development of technologies for non-fossil energy. The most critical technology for non-fossil energy is storage, and Japan has the most advanced technology regarding large-scale storage. If these strengths are brought together, a powerful non-fossil energy belt can form, ranging from the Sahara, to the Tibetan Plateau, to China and Japan, and finally to the Amazon and Latin America. When oil reserves dry up, Saudi Arabia will emerge as a key provider of energy machinery and non-fossil energy, and your wealth from oil can be transformed into cultural and digital wealth, meaning AI and other new technologies.

Oil will dry up and currency will depreciate. The way forward is to use the money earned from oil to improve education, enhance innovation in science and technology, and invest in digital technologies, keeping the country young forever.

Huawei can survive only in 5G without relying on the US. Saudi Arabia can consider using other technologies of the US.

**How can Saudi Arabia benefit from the technologies of China and the US?**

**Ren:** Introducing AI to energy technologies will generate huge wealth. I worked in petrochemicals over 40 years ago, and then later, about 20 years ago, I visited an oil refinery that China helped build, which could produce ten million tons of oil. When I got a glimpse of its control room, I was shocked by how much progress the industry had made. I haven't been to a plant or refinery again over the latest 20 years, so I can't imagine how advanced they must be now. The progress to be made in the future will be unimaginable.

Saudi Arabia is great because it invests heavily in education, such as its huge investment in Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University, the world's largest university for women. Saudi Arabia has been opening up and constantly adapting itself to changes in society. With the huge wealth it has, the country will certainly witness the rise of other industries in addition to the oil industry. Like highways, 5G is a sort of infrastructure that provides high bandwidth and low latency. 5G itself does not create wealth, but it enables new technologies that can create wealth.

**05 *Leaders*,Tunisia: Thank you, Mr. Ren. I represent the Tunisian magazine *Leaders*. You said that Tunisia left a deep impression on you. Tunisia's experience shows that reforms and technological innovation can help rejuvenate our civilization. Based on your experience visiting Tunisia, how can Tunisian young people truly benefit from and contribute to Huawei's development and technological innovation?**

**Ren:** Let me tell you a story which happened during my first visit to Tunisia. My colleague Lv Xiaofeng was accompanying me there but left one day earlier than me. Unfortunately, his plane crashed before landing in Tunisia. He was among the 40 people who survived the crash. I was supposed to be on that plane too, but I was delayed by other matters. It was raining heavily on the day of the plane crash. Lv called the police amidst the rain and saved a little girl from the plane. Seeing the girl shivering, he took off his coat and gave it to her. When I arrived the next day, I bought a suit for him. It was 2002.

At that time, per-capita GDP in Tunisia was over 2,000 US dollars, compared to about 1,000 US dollars in China. I felt like the Tunisian society was harmonious and pleasant, and the Mediterranean coastal regions were very beautiful. I was quite impressed by Tunisia the first time I was there and was even more impressed during my later visits there.

The development of Tunisia will require further religious reforms. I think they should be more open. Tunisia is situated across the sea from Europe and labor costs are lower than in Europe. Europe should undertake a large-scale relocation of its manufacturing centers. So how can you make sure you are prepared for such a relocation? First, you need to cultivate talent. Second, you need to improve your infrastructure, which of course includes communications networks. Networks can greatly improve access to education.

South Korea was among the earliest to invest heavily in 4G. This investment didn't bring high returns to telecom carriers, but it did greatly boost the country's GDP. Every dollar invested in ICT will generate multiple dollars in GDP. That's why AI and 5G are crucial to Tunisia. If you are to embrace Europe' relocation of its manufacturing centers here, you will need to adapt to their system and meet their standards and requirements.

Yesterday, you visited our production lines. From design to manufacturing and supply, we use management software from Germany's Siemens and Bosch, and from Dassault of France. A lot of equipment on our production lines is from Japan and Germany, though our AI software was developed in-house. Our production lines can now turn out a mobile phone every 20 plus seconds with basically no manual operations. Therefore, I believe the industrial relocation will take place tier by tier. We all need to prepare ourselves for the relocation and unwaveringly embrace globalization.

**06 *Al Raya*, Qatar: Thank you, Mr. Ren, especially for your remarks on the exchange between the Arabian civilization and the Chinese civilization. As an Arabian, I will never forget the huge contributions that the Chinese civilization has made to the world's development, for example, papermaking and other advanced science and technology. Now Huawei is providing advanced 5G technologies to the world, which, I believe, will greatly fuel the development of the world's civilization. What role will Huawei's four sustainability strategies play in environmental protection?**

**Ren:** I think Qatar is a great country. I'm especially impressed by the importance that Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser attaches to education.

The UAE constantly sends its natives to the UK and other parts of the world to receive training. If grandfathers cannot make it, their sons will; if their sons cannot make it, their grandchildren will. By doing so, they want to make sure that their future generations can effectively manage their huge economy and maintain their high ground in the world.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser greatly values education, which, I think, is wonderful. She has introduced advanced elements of education from around the world and integrated them into Arabian culture. She has also established lots of museums, allowing Qatari children to have access to the world's civilization from childhood. I really admire her on this.

One year I went to Qatar for a meeting. Before the meeting, I was told that Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser wanted to meet with me, but later I was told she wouldn't, so I didn't take my suit there. After I arrived, her secretary visited me and said the prime minister wanted to meet with me. I hadn't taken my suit, and felt it would be impolite to meet with the prime minster in casual wear, so I asked the board chair of the company to meet with the prime minister. The meeting focused on how to ensure smooth and secure communications during the 2022 World Cup. Now, with 5G, I'm sure that the 2022 World Cup will be a great success.

During that meeting, we briefed the prime minister on Huawei's contributions to the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. For 15 straight years, there has not been a single network interruption, accident, or complaint throughout the event. Each year, 3 to 4 million Muslims gather in an area of just 10 square kilometers. They turn off their mobile phones before praying, and when they turn their phones on again, they need to get all of their phones authenticated almost immediately. This puts great pressure on networks, but we have managed to guarantee secure communications during the event for 15 years running.

We also worked together on the safe city project. The goal is to prevent terrorist attacks. This project was also developed from our experience in Hajj. The day after the meeting, the prime minister sent people to Mecca to examine our work. Here I'd like to wish Qatar a great success as the host of the 2022 World Cup. If you choose our equipment, we will do everything we can to provide communications assurance.

I will give each of you a CD, which shows a performance marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The video was shot over 5G networks. Although there were tens of thousands of people performing, the video flowed smoothly and there was no buffering. You are all media insiders, so I'm sure you see the value 5G brought to this event.

Since our safe city project at Mecca, safety management has already come a long way. We can help ensure safety in Qatar during the 2022 World Cup. Of course, Huawei only provides equipment, and the police officers of Qatar will be responsible for the specific operations.

**Has Huawei reached any agreement with the Qatari government on the 2022 World Cup?**

**Ren:** We are currently building communications networks for the 2022 World Cup stadiums in Qatar. We are still in talks with our local customers on some other projects.

**07 *KUNA*,Kuwait: China and the US seemed to have sent positive signals about the trade negotiations. Will this affect Huawei? Will the US's sanctions against Huawei affect Huawei's overseas business and future development?**

**Ren:** The US's sanctions against Huawei have little to do with the trade negotiations between China and the US. Currently, we haven't seen any improvement in our overall environment. Regardless, this will not affect our innovations and advancement. It does slightly affect our overseas markets by making some customers hesitant to do business with us, but we will be patient with them.

**08 *KUNA*,Kuwait: Kuwait is moving forward with smart city development in the Silk City and five northern islands. Could you explain to me what Huawei can do for Kuwait in this area? What are the two parties' future cooperation plans?**

**Ren:** The per-capita per-month data traffic consumed in Kuwait was among the world's highest, at 60 gigabytes. With the most advanced 5G technologies, we want to help all the countries in the Middle East become the world's highest ground when it comes to the volumes of data traffic. With the support of 5G, the region will continue to create innovative new technologies and inventions.

The Middle East has chosen to use the 2.6 GHz to 3.5 GHz band for 5G, which is also used commonly around the world. By doing this, the Middle East can share in the value of the global 5G value chain, as they are the most suitable bands for 5G networks. China has also chosen to use these bands for 5G. In addition, the telecom regulator in Kuwait has allocated over 100 MHz of spectrum to every carrier and thus provided sufficient support to 5G's development. This means they can make full use of 5G. Why have I said that the Silk Road of camels could evolve to a 5G road? We think that the Middle East will become the world's highest ground for 5G. How to rejuvenate the culture of the Arab world is a topic we need to discuss together. 5G will be the infrastructure of this new, rejuvenated civilization. Similarly, China will also become one of the world's high grounds for 5G.

Huawei is now participating in the planning and designing of Kuwait's five northern islands. When the Emir of Kuwait visited China in 2018, we signed a smart city cooperation agreement with Citra on the five northern islands. Huawei is now one of the consulting companies for this project. Huawei provides Kuwaiti carriers with 5G solutions, and works with the Kuwaiti telecom regulator to develop 5G use cases. In addition, we will also support the rollout of the New Kuwait Vision 2035.

**09 *Le Matin,* Morocco: I have learned a lot from your wisdom. You have spoken a lot about education and how important elementary education is, particularly how education is crucial to enhancing national competitiveness, in your media interviews. Your views have a lot in common with those we have in Morocco. Our country is committed to improving education. How can Huawei's technologies be used to transfer knowledge and skills in the future? How can the younger generations in Morocco contribute in this regard?**

**Ren:** Morocco is a very beautiful country. I have visited several times, and Casablanca has left a vivid impression in my mind. I have known the name Casablanca since I was very young, because it was famous for being a "nest of spies" in World War II. I used to hear a lot about Rick's Café, but I didn't get a chance to have a cup of coffee there, even though I had been to Morocco many times. Later, I asked someone to make a reservation several days in advance, and took my wife there. I finally managed to have a cup of coffee there, and enjoyed what I had seen in the movie *Casablanca* – the beauty of Casablanca's coasts and the vastness of the sea.

We are aware that Morocco takes education very seriously. Morocco's University of al-Qarawiyyin is the oldest university in the world. Teachers and students used to sit in the corridors or the gardens reading scripture, exchanging ideas, and cultivating morality. That's how the term "academy" was coined. Universities evolve from academies, but are larger academies.

I think to rejuvenate a country, we need both hard and soft infrastructure. Hard infrastructure includes roads and networks, while soft infrastructure includes education, regulations, and institutions. Since ancient times, government officials have said that building bridges, roads, and schools are their primary responsibilities.

Morocco should leverage advanced networks to make basic education easily accessible to children. You need to give quality elementary education to children on a large scale, ensuring no one is left behind. In fact, I believe the educational model in Northern Europe would be a good fit for Morocco. I think the elementary education in both Finland and the UK is very good.

It would be beneficial if Morocco could make basic education more accessible, vigorously promote vocational and technical education, and provide the best students with elite education. In terms of elite education, the US has set a good example. Only a few US universities advocate elite education, which is not just about full marks in college entrance exams.

US elite education focuses not only on students' academic performance, but also morality. When admitting excellent students, these top US universities follow 10 standards, two of which are the most important: Have you ever taken care of the elderly? Have you ever volunteered to help orphans?

If a student fails to meet either of these two standards, their scores for entering these universities see a huge decrease.

What is elite education for? To cultivate leaders. What are the responsibilities of leaders? Caring about all of society, including those who don't have the ability to take care of themselves. Top universities should not cultivate people who are too calculating or self-interested. Instead, elite universities should cultivate people who care about society.

If Morocco is able to classify education into these three levels, I believe you will have a huge number of engineers who can combine the industrial culture of Europe with your own culture. This way, you will see amazing new developments.

The only thing that separates you from Europe is the Mediterranean. If you have a large number of excellent engineers, you will definitely develop into a technological power.

**10 *ADTV*, the UAE: First of all, thank you, Mr. Ren. You mentioned the UAE's diversified environment. Because of this, the UAE has achieved rapid economic growth in a short period of time without relying on oil. Now the UAE's economy ranks 29th in the world and second in the Arab world, next only to Saudi Arabia. The oil industry accounts for only about 30% of the UAE's economy, and the other 70% are non-oil industries. The UAE government has appointed a Minister for Happiness and Wellbeing and a Minister of Tolerance. The government also has a diversified workforce with talent from nearly 200 countries. Not long ago, we saw the first UAE astronaut board the International Space Station. The friendly partnership between China and the UAE is also developing rapidly. The UAE has been an early adopter of 5G, along with a number of other countries in the Middle East. However, some people claim that Huawei's 5G technologies pose information security risks. How do you respond to such claims?**

**Ren:** First, Abu Dhabi is one of the richest places in the world. I fully understand and firmly support the UAE's Centennial Plan, and the plan to convert your oil wealth into scientific, technological, and digital wealth. Because one day, oilfields will be exhausted and the value of money will change, but digital science and technology will keep creating value through continuous innovation. The UAE has freed its reliance on oil. In the current historical moment, it is absolutely correct for the UAE to make this strategic decision.

When countries regard physical resources as wealth, geographical boundaries are very important. However, the wealth of digital technologies is global and transcends boundaries. We must respect the UAE's digital sovereignty as it can guarantee national information security. Huawei is currently in discussions with countries around the world about signing a "no backdoor" agreement. We can also sign this kind of agreement with the UAE.

***ADTV*, the UAE: Could you talk more specifically about the concept of a "backdoor"?**

**Ren:** The term "backdoor" comes from the US. Through backdoors, data could be stolen from your networks.

***ADTV*, the UAE: Does signing a "no backdoor" agreement mean Huawei will not acquire data from the networks of its customers?**

**Ren:** Yes.

**11 *Al-Ahram*, Egypt: Unemployment is a serious, global issue. Can new technologies help fix this issue?**

**Ren:** AI can create more wealth than ever for a society, but of course, people who can't find a place in this new society may have a hard time getting a job. In a traditional, industrial society, getting a job is not a problem for anyone who finished high school, vocational school, or higher-level education. In the new era, when AI and IT become the main drivers of productivity, people who don't have an advanced skillset might not be able to find a job. That said, society will keep growing its wealth, and with more money at its disposal, it will need to consider how to put it to good use. The more money a country has, the easier it can solve its problems. The money can be used to provide support for people or to give them training.

As AI is becoming more widely adopted, employees who have been let go during this transformation can shift to sectors that focus on work related to user experience. People won't ever quite get used to having coffee with robots. I watched the movie *Star Trek* the other day, and I felt really down when I left the theater. In the spaceship, there were no human attendants at all, and all of the services were done by robots. This movie shows how lonely and horrifying life could be in the AI era. While AI is able to meet some human needs, people will still need a human touch. In the AI era, more people will work in sectors related to user experience.

Employment is a topic of sociology. I'm not a sociologist or a government official, so I'm not in a position to answer your question. What I can say is that AI can increase productivity. Take AI in agriculture as an example. AI-powered tractors can work 24 hours a day, no matter how scorching or cold the weather is, or how annoying the bugs are. These tractors can work around the clock to plough the land along rivers like the Nile. They can turn stony ground into arable land by taking out the pebbles and rocks, and channel water from the Nile to irrigate the crops. Life may be a little less fun for people because they no longer need to do these things, but material wealth will increase.

**12 *Le Matin*, Morocco: Shenzhen has a beautiful environment. What is Huawei's social responsibility in terms of developing the green economy? Do you have any policies that require you to take greater social responsibility for environmental protection and green development? What are your contributions in these areas?**

**Ren:** Our main direction is to move forward with new technology and explore what's next. The exploration itself is a contribution to society. During this process, our tax payments and consumption are also part of our contributions.

In terms of environmental protection and the green economy, there are two types of contributions: direct and indirect. Huawei makes indirect contributions. For example, our AI-powered base stations can reduce two tons of CO2 emissions every year per site.

**13 *Al Bayan,* the UAE: I have two questions. First, will the US sanctions affect the future cooperation between Huawei and the UAE on 5G? Will Huawei launch 5G services and applications in the UAE? Second, will Huawei sign a "no backdoor" agreement with the UAE in the future?**

**Ren:** For 5G base stations, transmission networks, and core networks, we don't rely on US parts or components at all, so we won't be affected by US sanctions. We will have no problem supplying the UAE with 5G products, and we will continue to make progress and innovate. We are willing to sign a "no backdoor" agreement with the UAE government whenever they want.

**14 *Al Raya*,Qatar: Huawei's sales increased by 24.4% in the first three quarters of 2019. What's the key reason for Huawei's continued growth? Considering the current pressures and challenges, will Huawei be able to sustain this growth in the future?**

**Ren:** Before the US's May 16 sanctions against Huawei, we saw high levels of uninterrupted growth. After May 16, our growth was somewhat affected. We have to switch some versions of our products, and the production process and network quality testing of these new versions have to be certified. We are affected in this regard, but we have managed to complete this shift. We had expected the sales for products affected by the US sanctions to decline at the end of this year, but now we estimate sales to increase slightly.

The overall growth rate of 24.4% we saw in the first three quarters of 2019 was the result of the hard work from all Huawei employees. Sales for some products ended up not being affected at all. Our employees have been working even harder because of the pressure we are facing, so the growth turned out to be higher. We are confident that we will continue to see growth through the end of the year. We believe we'll be able to maintain this same level of growth next year as well. Any growth we see next year will have been achieved under the US sanctions. By the end of next year you'll see that Huawei has been able to survive. By 2021 or 2022 when these new versions of our products have matured, we may witness massive growth.

**15 *Sabq Online*, Saudi Arabia: When you founded Huawei, did you expect Huawei to grow into what it is today?**

**Ren:** We founded the company when we were at the edge of starving. Despite that, we didn't just focus on earning money; we focused on our vision. That vision has changed as the world around us changes. I'd never thought about whether we would grow to this size. It's just happened naturally.

**16 *Leaders*, Tunisia: Last September, China-Africa cooperation reached a new level, and China agreed to invest more in Africa to boost its development. What role will Huawei play in this process?**

**Ren:** China is investing heavily in infrastructure in Africa. Overall, the value of telecom contracts is small, so we can develop on our own, with our own money.

**17 *KUNA*, Kuwait: It is being said that Huawei has begun its research on 6G. What is your progress in 6G?**

**Ren:** We are actually researching 5G and 6G simultaneously. 6G provides higher bandwidth, but its scope of coverage is limited, as it uses millimeter waves. If we want to apply 6G in real-world scenarios, we need to make both theoretical and technological breakthroughs in communications. I estimate it may be 10 years before we see its application.

**18 *Al-Ahram*, Egypt: I am from Egypt, from Africa. How do you think Africa can catch up in terms of the development of information science and technology?**

**Ren:** How can Africa catch up? I think the key lies in reducing taxes, adopting technology neutrality policies on spectrums, and sharing infrastructure. In large cities like Cairo, every carrier can build their own network. However, in small cities, they don't need to build their own network, because costs will be too high. Instead, all carriers can just build one shared network, where they pay when they use it. Therefore, Africa needs to strengthen its communications infrastructure, including fiber and broadband networks.