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## Muscat conference backs Arab working team under Maqbool

**MUSCAT** — The International Arab Conference on e-commerce declared at the conclusion of its activities yesterday, its full support to the initiative to form an international Arab working team under the chairmanship of Maqbool bin Ali Sultan, commerce and industry minister, with the aim to back the formation of an Arab economic environment and develop creativity to improve Arab productivity and competition in a global economy based on knowledge.

This was mentioned in the Muscat Declaration issued at the end of the conference. The working team will be chaired by Maqbool along with experts and

representatives of the industry and commerce and telecommunications ministries in the Arab countries, in addition to representatives of international organisations and non-government institutions.

The two-day conference held at Al Bustan Palace Hotel arrived at important recommendations such as the Arab countries' initiative to support a strategic initiative to develop Arab capabilities to enter the wired revolution and encounter the challenges facing e-commerce.

The conference stressed the importance of following up the activities of the World Trade Organisation in e-commerce

field, particularly, the on-going negotiations to liberalise trade in services.

The meeting commended the Arab management society's efforts to develop the knowledge management diploma programme.

It also recommended the establishment of a collective management authority for author's rights, collective management to regulate intellectual property rights on the Internet, in particular. The conference discussed in its yesterday's sessions, adaptation with marketing on the Internet, management and regulation of the Internet and intellectual property rights.

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