

Potential of Qatar-Korea tech ties 'Spotted'



Spot's capabilities cover the acquisition of crucial digital data essential for managing construction sites effectively.

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Robot dog "Spot" took centre stage at the recent ConteQ Expo24 at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), showcasing cutting-edge technology that South Korea seeks to co-operate with partners including Qatar.

Developed by Hyundai Engineering and Construction of South Korea, Spot represents the forefront of technological innovation and its presence at the event underscored South Korea's strategic interest in collaborating with partners like Qatar in pioneering advancements.

Hyundai E & C unveiled Spot at the expo as part of its ongoing testing phase, according to the Korean embassy.

Since 2021, Spot has been integral to various projects, including housing developments, tunnels, and building constructions, highlighting its skill in integrating advanced software and operating systems tailored for construction environments.

Spot's capabilities have been described as impressive, covering the acquisition of crucial digital data essential for managing construction sites effectively.

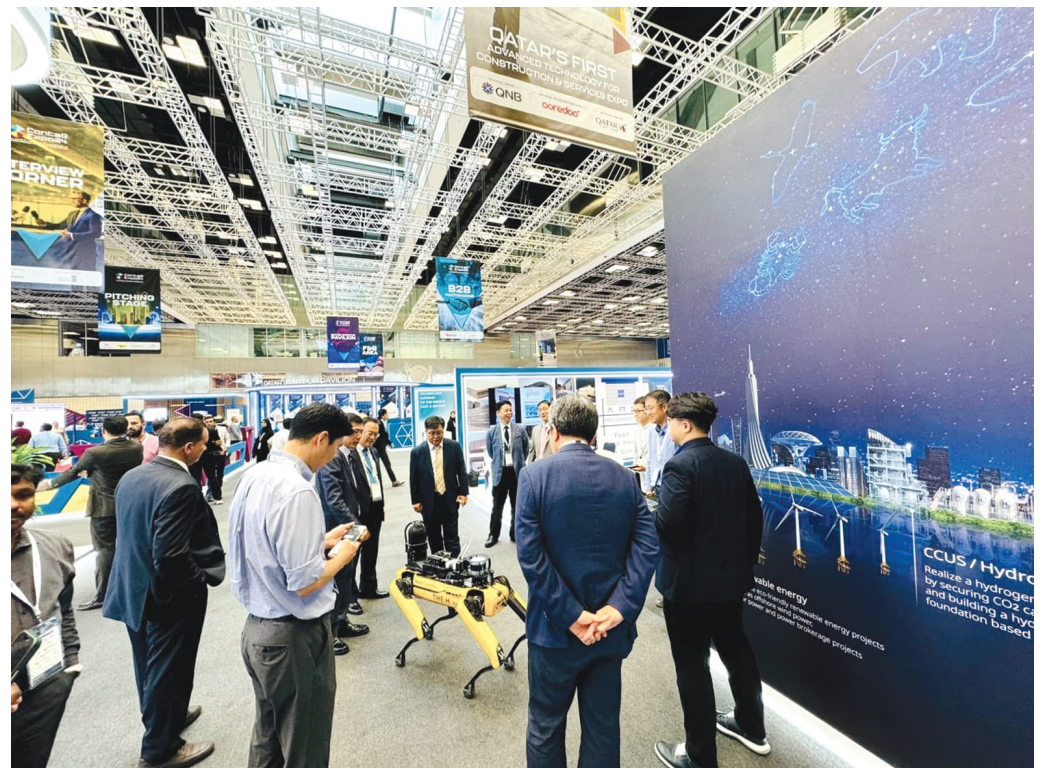
Equipped with 360° panoramic cameras, Spot monitors site safety and quality.

Laser scanners enable the capture of point cloud data, facilitating comparisons between as-built conditions and 3D design models.

In addition, environment sensors detect hazardous gases, low oxygen levels, and high carbon monoxide, enhancing safety measures, especially in confined spaces.

A highlight of Spot's functionality lies in its ability to autonomously record precise time, location co-ordinates, and metadata for every data point collected.

This capability lays the foundation for constructing a comprehensive digital twin environment, where Spot and other mobile robots contribute daily to the accumulation of digital data.



Hyundai E & C unveiled Spot at the expo as part of its ongoing testing phase (supplied pictures).

The deployment of Spot in Qatar is symbolic of the deepening co-operation between Qatar and South Korea in the field of technology, the embassy noted.

It added that during President Yoon Suk-yeol's visit in 2023, discussions between the leaders of both nations stressed expanding collaborative efforts, particularly in science and technology sectors.

The company announced that it is actively developing a spectrum of robot technologies tailored for future construction sites.

Apart from Spot, the company is pioneering patrol, working, and 3D printing robots, each designed to optimise operational efficiencies and enhance project outcomes.

Future plans include integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into Spot's operations.

Vision AI systems will analyse photos captured by Spot to identify and flag quality issues, while generative AI capabilities will autonomously generate construction reports on weekly basis, minimising human intervention.



C V Rappai's autobiography A Tale of Two Journeys - 'a celebration of hard work'

By Joey Aguilar
Staff Reporter

Prominent entrepreneur and Jumbo Electronics' director and chief executive CV Rappai launched his autobiography, *A Tale of Two Journeys* in Doha yesterday, offering readers an inspiring account of his life and success, marking a literary milestone for Qatar's expatriate community.

The event, graced by Indian ambassador Shri Vipul and key community leaders, as well as Rappai's family and friends, celebrated the first comprehensive autobiography of an Asian expatriate published by Katara Publishing House.

Jumbo Electronics vice-chairman and managing director Sajed Jassim Sulaiman, Birla Public School founder chairman and philanthropist Dr Mohan Thomas, and Al Jazeera English programme editor Joseph John were among the dignitaries present.

"When you read *A Tale of Two Journeys*, you will realise that it is not only my

story, it is the story of the many people mentioned above, directly or indirectly ... most of you are part of it," said Rappai, who is also a director of Norka-Roots, a non-resident Keralite expat body under the Kerala state government.

"I would also call this book a celebration of hard work; every individual ... carries with them many proud moments and unique experience which I think they have to share with others in the form of a book and this can inspire others in these tough times," he said.

The book offers readers a thorough exploration of Rappai's journey of struggle and success, his life experiences, personal insights and management philosophy, while also shedding light on Qatar's early stages of development.

Covering 253 pages and 23 chapters, *A Tale of Two Journeys* offers a compelling narrative of Rappai's early life, from his childhood and struggles to his arrival in Doha.

The book traces the origins of Video Home, set against a rapidly evolving Doha, and captures the city - and the

country's - extraordinary rise from budding city to global powerhouse.

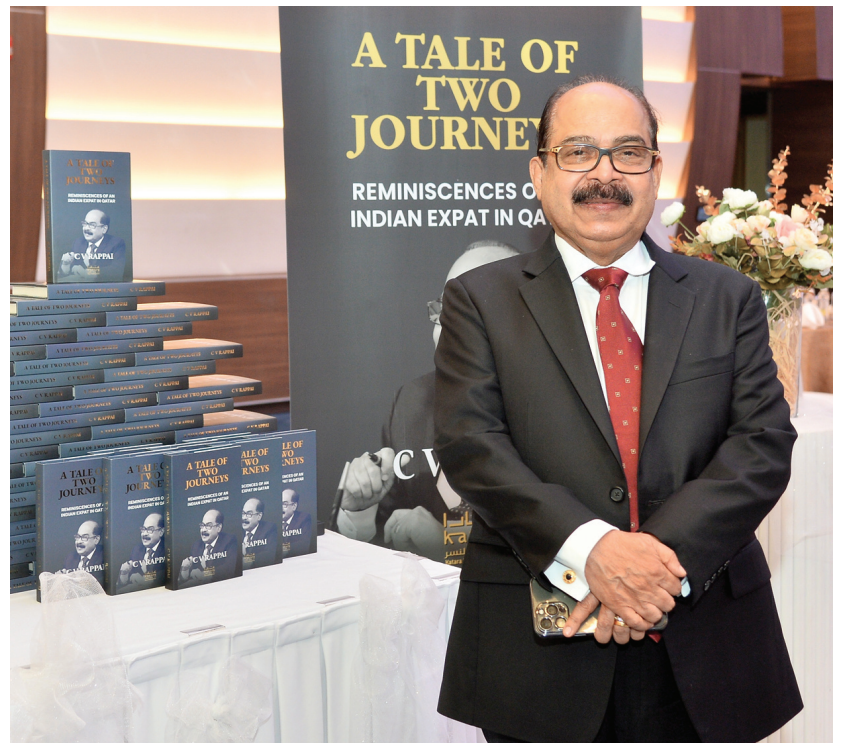
"The book, I think, shows in various parts both the courage and conviction of Mr Rappai," ambassador Vipul stated. "The book flows so seamlessly, it shows the calmness, that we all associate with Mr Rappai, who is always very calm."

"It covers many of the important facets of an expat's life in Qatar and also many of the important political and other happenings in Qatar," he added.

The book is edited by Hussain Ahmad, managing editor of News Trail, with a foreword by C P Ravindran, former senior editor of *Gulf Times*.

Ahmad said that *A Tale of Two Journeys* delivers key insights into business management and leadership philosophy, offering valuable guidance for emerging entrepreneurs and professionals.

In a press statement, Khalid al-Sayed, author, columnist and director of events and culture affairs at Katara - the Cultural Village, said: "Mr Rappai's story is a shining example of how expatriates work hard in Qatar and reach the pinnacle of



CV Rappai's autobiography, *A Tale of Two Journeys*, was launched yesterday in Doha. PICTURES: Shaji Kayamkulam

success in every field, making use of the opportunities our country provides under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and His Highness the Father Amir

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani." "I found the book interesting because his experiences, perspectives, and achievements are unique and inspiring and will motivate others," he said.

Ministry of Municipality keen to improve barns, says official



By Ayman Adly
Staff Reporter

Local barn owners have welcomed the decision of the Ministry of Municipality to permit the use of bricks for attachment buildings, including *majlis* (reception area), workers' accommodation and storehouses, in response to their demand.

Speaking to Qatar TV recently, Ahmed Ibrahim al-Haussni, head of the barns section at the ministry, stressed that the decision was taken in response to the repetitive demands of the barn owners and address their concerns that the materials that were allowed previously were deteriorating quickly due to the weather conditions.

Accordingly, the decision was taken to enhance safety, heat insulation and also reduce energy consumption.

However, the construction is allowed only on a space not more than 20% of each barn.

He stressed that building with bricks solved many issues such as overheating that resulted from using metal sheets, more energy efficient and resistant to

insects and rodents, especially when it comes to constructing fodder storehouses. Bricks are more durable than building materials used previously.

Al-Haussni stressed that the livestock department and its sections and units constantly seeks to improve the business environment of livestock owners and barn owners.

Using bricks in attachment buildings inside barns was among these demands.

The official said another common demand of the barn owners is to build and keep pigeon towers at their barns.

Currently, pigeon towers at barns are banned.

The ministry has launched various initiatives aimed at developing barn complexes in the country into comprehensive production units, equipped with all the necessary services to support the rearing of livestock within a safe and healthy environment for both the animals and the humans attending to them.

Some of the projects entail the introduction of sophisticated and integrated infrastructure around these complexes, creating marketing yards and service centres, and the introduction of shopping outlets and veterinary clinics.