



**Al Qutami:**  
Education  
Witnesses  
Quantum Leap  
under the Political  
Leadership



## Arbitration Forum Paves the Way for Assessors of Cycle 14

## Best Practices Seminar Illustrates Excellence

The Seminar Gave Chance  
to Exchange Expertise and to  
Present Unique Experiences

21 Countries Participate  
in UNESCO-Hamdan Prize





# November 2011

Issue 67

## Issue and Correspondence:

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance

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## OUR VISION

To be pioneers in the management of excellence in educational performance and fostering talent

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# Introduction



## UAE .. Wisdom and Capability

\* The UAE winning of a seat in the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was the logical result of the high rank that UAE achieved by virtue of the wise and responsible approach of the leadership in mapping out foreign relations. These relations are based on peace, mutual respect and contribution to building human civilization through supporting various humanitarian activities; especially education, culture and health. This wise policy was strengthened by loyal national efforts of formal and informal institutions, and eventually gained the proper appreciation accompanied by paying tribute and admiration.

\* This achievement complements the positive role played honestly and impartially by the UAE towards UNESCO which bears the burden of its great global mission in the progress of humanity. The UAE has always been present to reinforce the message of education, culture and science, not only by the official support, but also by personal initiatives of a group of national symbols which boosted UNESCO major programs. This reinforcement contributed to the rise of UAE as one of the supporting pillars of global issues and one of the interested countries in human affairs.

\* As a result, UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers was one of the UAE prominent contributions of dealing with the educational aspect and serving the sacrosanct teaching profession. The Prize has achieved an excellent international reputation by virtue of collective hard work and has added an additional degree for the UAE reverence.

\* This outstanding achievement is gratitude for 40 year effort since the establishment of our beloved country; an effort which the first generation and successive generations made with sincerity and devotion to serve brothers, friends and humanity in general, and to further our country. To all of them, we express our appreciation and highest gratitude. We express our thanks for 144 countries which voted in favor of the UAE membership in the Executive Board of UNESCO, as well. Greetings to the loyal people of wisdom and competence in the UAE, and congratulations to the nation's leadership and people

**Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi**  
Chief Editor

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Kindly address the letters or emails to the Chief Editor



Announcing the Award Hosting of 'Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness' on July 14<sup>th</sup>,

## Al Qutami: Education Witnesses Quantum Leap under the Political Leadership

Dubai . (Attamauz News):



His Excellency Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami, UAE Minister of Education and the Chairman of Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, emphasized that “Education has witnessed quantum leap under the patronage and attention of political leadership of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President & Ruler; and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai; their Highnesses Members of Supreme Council, the Rulers of the Emirates; and His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. This patronage urged educational institutions to carry out their national, regional and international commitments.”



**Abdulnoor Al Hashimi**



**Dr. Mohammed Al Baili**



**Dawood Al Shezawi**



**Mariam Al Ghawi**

The statement was made over His Highness's announcement of hosting 'the 12th Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness 2012' from July 14 to July 18, 2012 at the Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Center (DICEC) under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance, and Patron of the award. H.E. Al Qutami added that the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance sponsorship of the event is testament to the great value given to modern education in the country and also reflects the absolute faith of the UAE community in the role of education in the development of human civilization and to achieve worldwide peace and prosperity.

At a press conference held on 18th October at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dubai, H.E. Al Qutami, who is also the Honorary President of the forthcoming event, lauded the support given by H. H. Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid to gifted and distinguished education through a series of awards directed to all the elements of

the educational system, which also includes the UNESCO-Hamdan Award and Educational Research Award for the Arab Nation.

This first-of-its-kind event in the Middle East, which complements the objective of the award, is being held under the theme of 'Nurturing Talent, Growing Potential'. The conference also demonstrates the region's commitment to consolidate the development of world-class standards and best practices of gifted and distinguished students.

The Conference aims at achieving four core objectives, which include the move to raise awareness on gifted education in the Middle East and beyond the region; to organize a knowledge centre and reinforce community engagement in gifted education; to establish principles and general policies for global gifted education systems; and to create an action plan to accelerate gifted education programs within and outside the Middle East.

The press conference of H.E. Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami included Dr. Mohammed Al Baili, Vice President of the Asian Talent Council and Chair-

man of the Organizing Scientific Committee of Giftedness 2012; Abdulnoor Al Hashimi, Chairman of the Organizing Media Committee and the Conference Presenter; Mariam Al Ghawi, Head of the Children and Youth Committee; and Dawood Al Shezawi, Managing Director of the Organizing Company of 'Giftedness 2012'.

Dr. Mohammed Al Baili thanked the UAE and the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for the Distinguished Academic Performance for hosting 'Giftedness 2012' saying: "we are confident that this event will be distinguished and successful as the UAE in general and Dubai in particular, is widely known for planning and organizing important events." In addition, Dr. Al Baili thanked H.E. Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami for his show of support and patronage for 'Giftedness 2012' stating: "his presence as President of the conference allows us to move forward in our objective of championing the promotion of gifted education in the region since the conference looks towards positioning itself as a timely and strategic stage in as-

**500 Gifted Students from the Participating Countries are Expected to Attend the Conference**

**Highlighting the Region's Commitment to Consolidate Best Practices for Gifted Education**

**Pursuing Raising Awareness on Gifted Education within and outside ME and Establishing a Knowledge Center**



sessing the readiness and ability to implement a long term strategy for the education of gifted and talented students in the Middle East in general and the UAE in particular.”

“We are confident that we will receive a record number of participants for ‘Giftedness 2012’, which also sets out to honor outstanding students who have excelled in their respective educational endeavors.” Concluded Dr. Al Baili.

On the other hand, according to Mariam Al Ghawi, Head of the Children and Youth Committee, a student forum will also be held on the sidelines of ‘Giftedness 2012’. She said: “The Children and Young Summit (CYS) will be attended by 9 to 18 year old gifted students from the state members of the Asian Council and Arab countries. The CYS aims to develop the creative, scientific and social abilities of the participants. The event will also run for five days in conjunction with the conference and is expected to be attended by 500 students from the participating countries, as well as students of the UAE who meet the enrollment criteria for the congress.” Al Ghawi also revealed that the

Children and Youth Summit will cover several themes and will include a wide range of activities like programs for enrichment, creative thinking, problem-solving, Arabic lessons, personal skills development, a cultural program, an athletic program, and practical workshops. The forum will also host a series of field trips and educational camps across various scientific and cultural centers and technical institutes in order to help develop and nurture the skills of children and young people. In August 2010, during its 11th session in Sydney, Australia, the Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness nominated Dubai to hold the Conference 12th edition. Among a competition with hosting files presented by countries like China and Hong Kong, Dubai was chosen to host the Conference on the basis of the hosting file which was presented by the delegation of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for the Distinguished Academic Performance. Hamdan Award succeeded in convincing the Council that UAE possesses logistic potential, experience, and capacity that guarantee the Conference success to the utmost.

## The National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted (NPNG)

The Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness is biennial event (happens once every two years) and is held in a Member State that is elected to host the event depending on winning of its hosting file. The conference complements the UAE’s National Plan for Giftedness and Creativity, which was launched under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance and Patron of the award.



## Hamdan Award Welcomes Fujairah Welfare Association “FWA” Delegation

**Dubai . (Attamauz News):**

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance welcomed the delegation of Fujairah Welfare Association (FWA) on October 10th. The delegation was composed of Obaid Ali Al Hafiti Director of FWA, Hamdan Karam Jalal, Member of FWA Administrative Council, and Dr. Rashid

Ahmed Al Dhanhani, Chairman of Students Aid Fund Committee. The visit was arranged within the context of the Award adopted program of partnership with community institutions. The purpose of the visit was to inspect the experience of Hamdan Bin Rashid Award in educational excellence and to discuss aspects of the partnership between the two institutions in nurturing gifted people.



## Hamdan Award Organizes a Workshop for Khalifa University Students

**Dubai . (Attamauz News):**

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance organized a workshop on the Award criteria for Khalifa University students on October 16th. Students had been introduced to the Award, its philosophy and standards, and competitions of Higher Education categories. Students' remarkable interest in the Award and its criteria was obvious through their precise notes, questions and inquiries.

Arif Sultan Al Hammadi, Khalifa University's Executive Vice President welcomed members of Award delegation who expressed their happiness for the care and well-organization obtained by the Award in an institution such Khalifa University. Another workshop was held for students willing to participate in the Award this year, as well.

The Award praised all efforts made by the University and its officials for holding such distinctive meetings, meetings that are fruitful for both parties.



## Answered Inquiries and Gave Notes on Application Forms, Arbitration Forum Paves the Way for Assessors of Cycle 14



By: Samer Salah

**The Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance had held the Sixth Annual Arbitration Forum for the Award 14th Cycle at Al Bustan Rotana, Dubai on 26th October. Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Member of the Board of Trustees and Head of Arbitration Committees, inaugurated the Forum, and thanked the central arbitrators both locally and across the GCC, especially those of Distinguished Student category for their efforts throughout and after the period of arbitration and for their continual cooperation with the Award.**

Dr. Al-Suwaidi discussed the updates of the 14th Cycle as there have been some changes in the application form of the Best Project in National Competitions: only applied research will be accepted. At the same time, this 'applied' condition has been deleted from the application form of 'Best Applied Research in the Arab Nation' to become Educational Research Award for the Arab Nation. "There is also a new addition

in participating conditions of (Education Supporting Organizations Award). The winner organization has the right of candidacy once more after two cycles of the Award with new project." He added. He referred to the limitation of number and size of attachments in each Award category as follows: Distinguished Student and Distinguished University Student, 100 pages; Distinguished Teacher and Highly

Distinguished Teacher, 250 pages; Distinguished School & School Administration, 500 pages; Best Applied Project and Best Scientific Innovation, 100 pages; Distinguished Social / Psychological Worker 250 pages; Distinguished Supervisor, 200 pages; Distinguished Family, 300 pages; and Education Supporting Organizations, 50 pages. Dr. Al-Suwaidi focused on Electronic documentation in

the sense that number of pages does not exceed the specified number of paper documentation, and that the applicant uses common and easy to use software. Moreover, He referred to the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance page on (Facebook), which is created for the purpose of increasing communication with targeted and interested people.



Dr. Al Suwaidi drew the attention that all presented works are deemed to be owned by the Hamdan Award and will not be returned to participants. Thus, participants should make sure that they submit copies, not originals of their works. The Award shall keep all presented works; members of executive committee shall take procedures to clarify this point to the targeted groups.

### Objectives of the Forum

Maryam Al-Shehhi, Head of Competitions & Adjudication Section the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance said: "Arbitration Forum aims at raising the level of arbitration and improving the arbitrators' performance regionally and centrally, both locally and across GCC States. It is also intended to bring members of arbitration committees' perspectives close to one another, to unify the practices, to explain the trends and policy of the Award in relation to regulations and lists of arbitration, and to introduce the updates of 14th Session."

"In addition, the Forum aims at listening to varieties of arbitrators' viewpoints of arbitration issues on the local and Gulf levels, the prevailing practices on both levels, consideration of the most important remarks and improving suggestions resulted as feedback of arbitration processes from the point of view of the targeted in the academic field, and direct contact along with establishment of appropriate environment to strengthen the relationship between the Award and arbitrators at all levels." Al Shehhi added.

She also noted that the Forum is directed to arbitrators of 12th and 13th Sessions, UAE education zones and GCC states coordinators, and the national and GCC arbitrators of the Award competitions.

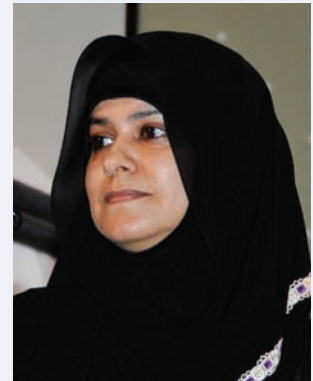
"This year, there is a good number of attendants. We have seen interaction among the participants, especially in the paper of Yosef Al Khalfan from Saudi Arabia, in which he briefed arbitration practices in KSA." Al Shehhi stated.



Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi



Yosef bin Saad Al Khalfan



Dr. Ousha Al Muhairi



She added that the forum had answered many questions, and provided many remarks about the application forms of the categories of Teacher, Student, Family, School, and Best Applied Project.

### Self-Assessment

Majdi Ammar Abdul Tawab Huwail, Member of the Arbitration Committee in Abu Dhabi Education Zone, who presented a paper on his experience of winning Distinguished Teacher Award, on some observations about the Distinguished Teacher form, and on field visits, said: "The Forum is self-assessment and can be considered as an objective look at the arbitration process through which performance is evaluated in order to achieve the best. It is a self-critical action that lives

up to highest grades of the arbitral process."

Mr. Huwail demanded establishment of a forum or association to embrace distinguished people so that they can communicate with each other to share expertise and experiences in the same field; be it excellent student, teacher or family. He pointed out that this will fulfill the Award vision and message in spreading a culture of excellence in the educational field, locally, regionally and internationally since Hamdan Award brought unprecedented initiatives in the field.

"If only the halls are closed so that the questions that roam in the minds of the participants are answered, especially in the category of Distinguished Student," he cited referring to the interpretative guide

### Limitations on Number and Size of Attachments for Each Category

### Submitted Works are Owned by the Award, not to be Returned to Participants

of the Award which should be characterized by precision and clarity to achieve its goal, pointing out that the best evidence of the practice is video as it reveals vivid image of practicing the activity. He mentioned that planning is the cornerstone of success of teachers' work, and eventually the success of the educational process as a whole. Thus, teachers must have a clear vision stemming from the vision of the ministry and region to which they belong, with a focus on professional development.

#### Operational Plan

Operational Plan Yosef bin Saad Al Khalfan, Member of the Arbitration Committees in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, presented a paper which included the operational plan to activate the Award by spreading culture of the Award, counting distinguished and applicants to compete, and implementation of training courses for candidates of the Award competitions.

Mr. Khalfan also talked about all stages of the arbitration process, which include the declaration of the operational plan, scheduling the arbitration, receiving applications, checking participation forms and examination of documents, the arbitration of participations, and submission of results, areas of work, guidance, and providing aspects of technical support to participants in the award competitions for all categories.

Concerning the tasks of arbitration team of the Central Committee, he said that they include arbitration of all applications received from all educational zones for the following categories of competition: (Distinguished Student, Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished School & School Administration), reporting feedback to the participants who did not exceed the minimum number of points, listing participations that exceeded a total of more than 75 % of the points, and submit them to the Award administration in Dubai, and preparing a report on the pros of the Award and the difficulties facing its application.

Mr. Khalfan concentrated on the difficulties such as lack of



Dr. Ali Al Kaabi



Abdul Wahid Al Kamali



Dr. Ibrahim Al Mujaini



Majdi Ammar Abdul Tawab

time allocated for arbitration which constitutes a great difficulty facing the arbitrator due to the large number of participations presented by arbitration departments, and the poor quality of some of submitted participations along with lack of logical order in the application form. He noted to that some candidates' failure of clearly understanding the Award standard leads to attach considerable momentum of not required documents, and thus confusion between one standard and another; and the wrong target for some participants of dealing with the standards for the same award without real practice, which requires the arbitrator to distinguish between them.

Al Khalfan suggested that the Award adopts skillful arbitration models that cover the key facets of operational aspects and the methodology of arbitration, pointing out that some standards need ready-made templates that are designed to

help the candidate to follow the best way of dealing with the standard as is the case in the application form of the student. In addition, he suggested holding specialized courses for arbitrators in GCC States as approved arbitrators by the Award, implementation of twinning program designed for participating the winners with their willing to excellence colleagues for the sake of spreading distinguished educational expertise, and the establishment of the Award Association of Educational Excellence similar to other associations like (Quality & Science), which provides membership to the winners, participants and interested people, and making use of the output of this association. As for the positive effect of the award in the educational and academic community, Al Khalfan said: "Growth of institutional excellence concept in the educational and academic community has been monitored by arbitration processes. As

### The Forum: Self-Assessment Process and Objective Look at Arbitration to Achieve the Best

### Demand for Establishing a Forum or Association to Embrace Distinguished People

### The Award Interpretative Guide is Precise, Clear and to the Point

well, the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award has created a dynamic competitive move towards excellence in the educational arena. Education has been providing practices and models of innovative educational ideas that contribute to the upgrading of educational performance. Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award lighted the path of excellence. Thus, Competitors started to look for their shortcomings and do their best to correct them according to the award criteria."

#### Arbitration Notes

Heads of Arbitration Committees, Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz, Dr. Ibrahim Al Mujaini, Dr. Ousha Al Muhairi and Abdul Wahid Al Kamali, reviewed the most prominent notes in the arbitration period of the categories of Distinguished Student, Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished Family, Distinguished School & School Administration and Best Applied Project.

## Participants: the Forum is Annual Harvest of all Arbitration Work

Participants of the Sixth Arbitration Forum mentioned that education field awaits the Forum from year to year because it represents the annual harvest of all the arbitrary actions. It makes arbitrators familiar with rules and frameworks by which they can develop arbitration forms in educational zones to contribute significantly to the unification of visions and practices, as well as achieving the greatest degree of justice.

Mohammed Khalil Mohammed, Supervisor of English and Arbitrator in Sharjah Education Zone, said: "The Forum answered to many inquiries about the acceptance of the categories, the guides and documentations. The Forum concentrated on how to differentiate between hobby and talent, on adopting unified standard for arbitrators, on raising the efficiencies of the arbitrators, and on the exchange of experiences and cross-fertilization of ideas."

Adel Mohammed Waheeb, Head of Arbitrary Committees and Training Officer at



**Faris Jabour**

Dubai Education Zone, said: "The educational field is looking forward to this outstanding work yearly, whether the Arbitration Forum or Best Practices Seminar. We inspect many presentations and working papers at the Arbitration Forum, which represent the annual outcome of all acts of arbitration, and which are dealt with through presentations and papers. There is transparency in presentations and observations that enrich and activate the role of arbitration at all levels. Besides, it unifies vi-



**Adel Mohammed Waheeb**

sions and practices among all the arbitrators and committees at the level of areas and Central Committee. This leads to a convergence and compatibility of views on the results between regions and the central committees. Thus, all presented papers and notes on all categories were regulators and frameworks from which we can develop arbitration forms for all education zones in order to contribute significantly to the unification of visions and practices as well as achievement of the greatest

measure of justice.

On the hand, Faris Jabour, Science Supervisor and Arbitrator at Sharjah Education Zone, clarified that the Award has become global one and that the great participation of GCC States this year, especially Saudi Arabia, is worth mentioning. Participations have focused on quality rather than quantity. He noted that the forum answered many questions that may face the arbitrators during the conduct of arbitration, particularly with regard to the limitation of number of pages in each category, which can contribute to the organization of the content of the file so that it will not distract the arbitrator. Focus on the clarity of guides and non-repetition also help the arbitrator not to be distracted; instead, he depends on strong evidence and proofs and focuses on the documentation, attached certificates and the continuation of excellence.

The Central Arbitration Committees meeting had a lot to add since many arbitration cases had been dealt with.





## During Opening the Sixth Best Practices Seminar, **Dr. Al Muhairi: Excellence in UAE is Guided by Educational Awards**



**By: Samer Salah**

In the presence of Sulaiman Al Ansari, Chief Executive Officer of the Hamdan Award; the Coordinators of the Award in the UAE and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); and a number of academic officials, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, the Secretary General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance attended the Sixth Seminar of Best Practices of distinguished academic performance that was organized by Hamdan Award on 27th October at Al Bustan Rotana Hotel, Dubai.



The Seminar was joined by school principals, teachers, supervisors, students and students' parents; where UAE winners of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance reviewed their best practices in standards of excellence at the categories of (Distinguished Student, Distinguished University Student, Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished School & School Administration and Best Applied Project). In his speech during the opening of the seminar, the Secretary General of Hamdan Award stressed that excellence in education in the UAE is guided by educational awards and that educational awards have a great impression among the great achievements realized by the State in all domains year after year.

"13 years ago, the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance was initiated targeting innovative and creative education which meets the ambition of political leadership and community of UAE within the framework of excellence in educational performance, and depending on the latest scientific trends in the field of quality. In building up its standards, the Award resorted to a combination international academic criteria as well as a set of administrative, scientific and educational values which adapt to the characteristics of the local educational environment, the nature of society and its cultural and intellectual heritage. In addition, these standards were resilient with continual evolution according to the requirements and variables." Al Muhairi said.

H. E. Dr. Muhairi added "with the continuation of Hamdan Award competitions, a cumulative effect was developed. The effect was invested in spreading the culture of excellence, training the targeted groups to the optimal models of participations, and stimulating the Award categories to defy failure and occasionally overcome frustration." Moreover, Al Muhairi said that by the Award 14th Cycle, the Best Practices Seminar of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance enters its 6th year, capped with maturity of the experiment initiated by the patron of the award, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance. The real heroes were the last cycle winners with

**Continuation of HA Competitions Develops Cumulative Effect that can be Invested in Spreading the Culture of Excellence**

**The most Important Motive of 'E- Documentation' is to Facilitate Participation Process of the Targeted**

their achievements that form an abundant tributary of spreading and transfer of distinction culture among those interested in it.

“This annual event not only gives us an opportunity to recognize the achievements of winners, their experiences and best practices, but also it provides a suitable environment in which a group distinguished educators meet to exchange their views and new experiences and share the expectations and aspirations towards education in all fields. Today, and out of belief in the importance of integration of educational excellence among educational awards, Best Practices Program extends its presentation. Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance was hosted to participate in the seminar to present its distinguished ideas and experiences with its faith in the common goal sought by excellence awards regardless of their various fields and activities.” He stated.

His Excellency, the Award Secretary General, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the sponsor of the award His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum for the unlimited support which H. H. gives to the Award, and to other participated Awards (Khalifa



Dr. Mariam Lootah

Award for Education, Shamsa bint Suhail Award for Creative Women, Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education, and the Ras Al Khaimah Award for Creativity and Excellence) for their contributions in support of education.

Dr. Mariam Lootah, Board Member of Dubai Economic Council (DEC), presented a paper on the role of social upbringing in formation of excellence. Whereas Eng. Mohammed Sharhan, a researcher in the scholarship program (Irena) at ‘Masdar’ Institute of Science and Technology, reviewed his personal experience with excellence since he was one of the participants and winners the Award.

Guest Speakers and partici-



Mohammed Sharhan

pants in the exhibition were honored, too.

#### Electronic documentation

Marwa Sahrawi, a member of Department of Educational Excellence of Hamdan Award, reviewed a paper on electronic documentation of application forms and the reasons of adopting it of which she mentioned: (keeping up with technical development and modern technology, facilitating participation for targeted groups, access to the candidacy application for filling and amendment at any time, encouraging and developing the faculty of the targeted to use computers, internet and new technologies, shifting toward electronic arbitration, and reducing the size of attachments

### HA Targets Innovative and Creative Education which Meets the Aspirations of Political Leadership and Community

#### Stimulating the Award Categories to Defy Failure and Occasionally Overcome Frustration

and limiting their number). Sahrawi also noted that electronic documentation comprises all groups, referring to the mechanism, namely, that the candidate logs in to the application form through the award website according to the category he/ she wants to apply for, fill all information online, and save and print the application form to complete it with signatures, attachments and, and interpretative guides in order to present them. Concerning attachments and interpretative guides, e-documentation is preferred provided that number of pages does not exceed the specified number in paper-based documentation, and that the applicant uses common and easy to use software.



Furthermore, the best practices of (Distinguished Student, Distinguished University Student, Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished School & School Administration and Best Applied Project) categories were reviewed. Khaled Jamal Ahmad Ibrahim Al Zaabi, the distinguished student in the 11th scientific class at Tunb Secondary School presented his best practices, highlighting the factors which helped him to win, focusing on the leading attributes, attitudes, and the importance of affecting others and developing faculties and skills. He said that his project adopted smoking problem and promotion of tourism to the Ras Al Khaimah.

Then Azza Khalfan Al Swafi, winning teacher of the Family Development Foundation in Al Ain, discussed the factors that helped her win, of which she mentioned early collection of the material, assigning and arranging special time for work, and encouragement and support of colleagues. She also explained educational techniques she used, including radio programs, numbers' houses district, circle of excellence game, and transforming the lesson into radio program.

The best practices in the category of Distinguished School & School Administration were also presented by Family Development Foundation – Al Ain Adult Education Center. This presentation introduced the Center, its objectives, and the factors that helped to win, including: (having in mind to participate in the Award, advanced planning, selection of distinctive elements, and the formation of staff which will participate in the award). Some projects were mentioned including the project 'Let's Learn Together', 'Excellence Spray', 'Urge me to Success' and 'My Center is Scientific Oasis'.

In the category of Best Applied Project, the best practices of 'Tchoukball', the winner project, were highlighted. Tchoukball was introduced along with the project idea, its objectives, targeted group, the project budget, stages of implementation and results achieved. The best practices in the category of Distinguished University Student were reviewed as well.



### Al Obaidali: Special Participation of Educational Awards of UAE

Alia Al Obaidali, Head of Excellence Program Section in the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, stated that the Sixth Seminar of Best Practices aims at increasing the awareness of the academic community towards the distinguished academic practices; spreading and transmitting knowledge, expertise, and distinguished experience and deepening distinction culture by means of displaying and documenting the best experiences according to the standards of the academic performance; and honoring distinguished academic achievements besides their authors. It also aims at documentation and calculation of distinguished academic practices; spreading and popularizing the culture of distinction in academic performance and defining the winners' effort and distinguished innovation; crowning of winners' effort and motivating them to proceed in the distinction way; encouraging distinguished people to join the Award; widening the Convention targeted scope by allowing foreign private schools to participate; and informing the world of competitions and criteria of Higher Education in United Arab Emirates.

She added that this year the Seminar witnessed a special participation of educational awards in the state such as (Khalifa Award for Education, Shamsa bint Suhail Award for Creative Women, Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education, and the Ras Al Khaimah Award for Creativity and Excellence). She thanked these awards for meeting the invitation of Award Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. The Seminar was attended by Dubai Municipality, Dubai Police General H. Q., and the Department of Gifted Welfare in the Hamdan Award.

Al Obaidali referred that the Sixth Seminar of Best Practices have witnessed a massive turnout, especially from parents, which indicates their awareness of the importance of these gatherings in which they are introduced to the best educational practices. She emphasized that the Seminar has achieved its goals in presenting distinguished models that can be imitated.

The Award will provide participants with certificates of attendance.





Participants in the Exhibition:  
**The Seminar Gave  
Chance to Exchange  
Expertise and to Present  
Unique Experiences**

Participants in the Exhibition of Sixth Seminar of Best Practices in Distinguished Academic Performance mentioned that the exhibition allowed them to share expertise and experiences with each other via access to the most outstanding files. Her Excellency Aisha Saif, Secretary General of the Sharjah Education Council and Secretary General of the Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education, said that despite the short life of UAE in comparison to major countries, but UAE enjoys a set of cultural, economic, educational and social awards which reflects the interest of the wise leadership in excellence and distinguished people.





Her Excellency Secretary General of the Sharjah Education Council and Secretary General of the Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education requested organization of a forum for best practices at the level of educational awards in the state so that everyone can make use of. She lauded Sixth Seminar of Best Practices organized by Hamdan Award and participation of educational awards, which she found all of them adopt the same objectives in achieving the high quality among elements of the educational work.

H. E. Aisha Saif mentioned that the Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education is one of the oldest and the foster parent of all awards. It is designed to confirm the government's attention and patronage of knowledge and its distinguished learners for the purpose of modernization, development and excellence. Sharjah Award aim at creating stimulus environment that rises performance and maximize the output of education, enrichment of education by research, ideas and studies that serve the educational process and duplicate its output, honoring all active educators to motivate them for more of proficiency, and rewarding outstanding students and urging their latent excellence in all study stages at the level of public education. She noted that the award mes-

sage is to contribute to the achievement of good quality among educators by means of the comprehensive stimulus environment to achieve distinguished performance implying that the Board of Trustees of the Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education recently adopted converting participating files into e-forms for all categories but Distinguished Student. This move was taken to renew the traditional style, and motivate Sharjah Award categories to more competition and creativity which serve the educational process, to save time and effort, as well as to keep up with the development steps pursued by the award. She also pointed out that the e-forms will reduce the burden on arbitrators and participants who will replace paper files with CD's.

#### Adherence to Development

Saif stated that the development in using modern technologies prompts Sharjah Award to improve its performance and excellence, affirming keenness on developing the Award in each of its sessions in order to achieve the goals set by its founder and patron, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah.

Moreover, she stressed that the award, which has the follow-up of HH Sheikh Sultan bin Mo-





ammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, helped create the state of competition among various educators of educational field, to achieve the best international standards in the field of excellence.

#### Arab Chemistry Olympiad

Moza Saif Matar, Member of the Board of Trustees of Ras Al Khaimah Award for Creativity and Excellence, thanked Hamdan Award for the opportunity to introduce Ras Al Khaimah Award to the participants in the Sixth Seminar, and for paving the way for its achievements to be displayed where its sponsorship of Arab Chemistry Olympiad was presented.

Matar mentioned that participation in the Seminar is the best evidence that educational awards in the state are twins since they share the same goal which is distinction in education with all categories and sponsorship of winning categories citing: "The Award vision was introduced- that is to stimulate outstanding people and sponsor the creative, along with its mission of seeking to encourage, motivate and de-

velop distinguished and innovative students in order to grow the value of being excellent and perfect at work, and raise the efficiency of the workforce to achieve the objectives of society through effective partnership between the award and community institutions."

Furthermore, she noted that Ras Al Khaimah Award for Creativity and Excellence aims at sponsoring talented, creative and distinguished students to ensure better investment for the citizen competencies, stimulating and developing students, teachers and alumni to deepen the value of excellence and master in work, contributing to the qualitative development of human resources to meet the requirements of sustainable development, and encouraging excellent, creative and distinguished students, teachers and alumni to achieve real and effective partnership between the award and community institutions.

Saif said that the virtual laboratory of innovative ideas, which Ras Al Khaimah Award is planning to carry out, was introduced. The virtual laboratory serves Ras Al Khaimah third stage students in deepening and

devoting their concepts of creativity, discovery and scientific research both in literary and applied subjects. She explained that the laboratory constitutes intellectual retreat of the gifted and excellence seekers, with which they can reveal what is on their minds for a group of specialists to transform the idea into practice.

She stated that the purpose of participating in the Seminar is to respond to the invitation of Hamdan Award, which is a model for educational awards in the UAE, to transfer new ideas and share with other awards, to exchange views and ideas with all groups, to communicate in the field of sponsoring different groups, parents and university professors in order to bridge the gap between secondary and university education, and to deliver the Ras Al Khaimah vision to the community as much as possible. Saif confirmed that the large number of educational awards in the State is considered a positive phenomenon since standards among them are similar. Differences are in assessment tools, talents, hobbies, activities and prizes.

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**Large Number of Educational Awards in UAE is Positive Phenomenon, and Standards are Similar**

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**Joining the Seminar Proves that Educational Awards in the State are Twins**

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**Presenting Distinctive Papers, Participants' Vital and Useful Experiences, and Distinct Models Converting Participation Files in the Sharjah Award to E-Forms**

### Dubai Police Participation

Khalil Mirza Ahli, the Warrant Officer from the Department of International Training in General Administration of Community Service of Dubai Police General H. Q., cited: "The administration is working to educate school students with some scientific, security and awareness subjects such as drugs, smoking and Traffic Week. The aim of participating in the Seminar is mainly to highlight the role of Dubai Police General H. Q in supporting of education. Dubai Police visits schools; its staff of lecturers in coordination with the Dubai Education Zone offer lectures for 80 government schools, 10 private schools and 6 English-Speaking private schools." Fatima Al Maamari, coordinator of private schools in the Department of International Training in Dubai Police, pointed out that the training program which began in 2009 with five private schools now includes 10 Arabic schools and is scheduled to be generalized to all private schools with either Arabic or English curriculum. "There are brochures distributed in the language spoken by students, lectures are given, and field visits to Dubai Police General H. Q. are organized. In addition to lectures in other emirates, there are excursions of awareness in collaboration with other competent authorities such as visit of the traffic

village at Creek Park, visit of Heritage Village and school exhibitions." Al Maamari cited.

### Meeting Hamdan Award Invitation

Moza Mubarak Al Qubaisi, Director of Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan Cultural Center- winner of Hamdan Award for Education Supporting Organizations, stated: "The aim of participating in the Seminar of Best Practices is to meet the invitation of Hamdan Award, representing organization sector, and introducing our center which provides educational services, prizes and a variety of events to serve the educational groups of students and teachers." She noted that the participation was excellent, citing "we were able to communicate with people of education and the target groups." She called for repetition of such meetings as they gather interested people with each other, specifically in excellence field. She also referred to the large turnout, especially from the Gulf States, which is an opportunity to inform people outside the UAE with the most important social initiatives, and to show the magnificent image of the UAE. In relation to her evaluation of the Seminar Al Qubaisi said: "There have been distinguished papers, and exchange of expertise that tends to excellence. There were vital and useful experiences from participants and



### PC Refurbishment

Qassim Mohammed Qasim, Acting Head of Dubai Municipality PC Refurbishment Center said: "We introduced the idea of our project which is the donation of unwanted computers and accessories by individuals, official or private institutions or any other society groups to the municipality approved centers, in order to re-qualify them for work again."

He stated the Centre which was established in 2007 has raised 100 thousand hardware pieces and 25 thousand computers. This program aims to protect and improve the quality of the environment in Dubai, through the reduction of negative impacts resulting from the improper disposal of computers and accessories which individuals and institutions throw away as waste. Other purposes include complying with the society commitment to charitable work by stimulating different segments of society to donate reusable computers and accessories, achieving real partnership in the areas of charity and environmental work between Dubai Municipality and various supporters of the project as Mohammed bin Rashid Humanitarian and Charity Foundation and Microsoft, and enhancing opportunities of technical education in Dubai by providing the necessary technical resources of computers and accessories to the beneficiaries such as educational, social and charitable institutions.

He noted that Dubai Municipality refurbishes computers and accessories that have been received from individuals and institutions by specialized and qualified staff, and in coordination with relevant institutions such as Microsoft. Then it donates these devices to educational, social and charitable institutions in order to take advantage of them in the implementation of technical education programs run by these institutions. "There are field trips for students to the Center. Students of Institutes of Applied Technology and the Higher College of Technology are being trained there as well." He added.





## Initial Screening Panel Concludes its Work in Preparation of Second Stage **33 Candidates from 21 Countries** **in UNESCO-Hamdan Prize**

Samer Salah . (Attamauz News):

**Screening Panel has completed the adjudication first stage of UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers, eliminating non-eligible applications.**

Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, Chairman of the Jury in UNESCO-Hamdan Prize, said: “The number of candidates in the second cycle of the Prize has reached 33 from 21 countries at world

level: 7 from Europe and North America, 4 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 4 from Africa, 17 from Asia, and 1 from Jordan.

He added that screening panel is a group of persons possessing experience and knowledge in the field of education. Members of screening panel belong to different countries such as Yemen, Turkey, Jordan and the UAE. It included Dr. Ibrahim Al Mujaini, Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz Balfakih, Dr. Mohammed Shaaban, and Dr. Ismail Asqar Zimban.

“UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Ef-

fectiveness of Teachers aims to support, encourage and benefit those working to enhance the performance and effectiveness of teachers towards Education for All. It also aims to facilitate the global sharing and dissemination of outstanding practices regarding teachers.” Dr. Al Kaabi stated.

He cited that candidates must meet the following conditions in order to receive the Prize: “they must be legally established or attach a letter from an official body stating that nothing prevents their participation; they must have been established for no less than five years; they must have no political, religious or

ethnic affiliation; they must be independent in terms of administration and finance; they must not be entirely supported (fully funded or directly managed) by either the Hamdan Award or by UNESCO; and they must be wholly or partly concerned with educational matters.”

He said that the Prize will be given to those who met a set of conditions which are: “Practices must be based on actual needs, supported with evidence; they must involve the principle of justice and equality; they must meet the needs of local, national or regional communities applying for; they must be based on

scientific methods, including the involvement of concerned people, and financial and human resources; their assessment and observation systems must be appropriate for applicants and the context in which they work; and they must have an impact of efficiency and effectiveness.”

Dr. Al Kaabi added that the Jury members are excellent international experts from different parts of the world. They are 5 Non-Permanent Members and validated by 3 Permanent Members who shall be: the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, a representative of the Board of Trustees of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and a General Coordinator.

He also pointed out that participations of this year are of high quality, and there is greater comprehension of the Prize criteria. Presented projects and participations are various, and from all continents which indicates that the Prize is widespread and has acquired a worldwide reputation due to its clear standards and goals; this in turn urged different states to participation. He hinted at that Hamdan Prize is the only UNESCO prize that is arbitrated outside the international organization, which is evidence of confidence in it.

Al Kaabi praised the support of His Excellency Dr. Humaid Al Qutami, UAE Minister of Education and the Chairman of Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, and his continual observation of the Award activities.

He said that the Prize has cooperated with national institutions and formed partnerships to deliver services to the right destination and winners. It was in cooperation with UAE Red Crescent, Al Maktoum Charity Foundation, Dubai Cares and the offices of delegations at UNESCO. The Prize was supported by UAE Office of Permanent Delegation at UNESCO, which

formed a link between the international organization and the Prize along with the support of UAE embassies in the countries where it has gone for field visits to interview candidates of the prize, and that of the Prize executive committees in UAE and abroad.

According to Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz Balfakih, Member of the Screening Panel of the UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers, “The role of the Hamdan Prize is to stimulate the supporting education institutions in the world, especially in developing countries and help them to adopt educational projects that could serve groups disadvantaged of education. This is the lofty goal by which the Prize seeks to extend its services to the world, and thus carries out its mission of achieving superiority in education.”

Dr. Mahfouz added that the Prize will directly contribute to building knowledge society, and provide logistic services through which supporting institutions, which are already distinguished, can provide better quality services.

He also referred that the Prize, in its criteria, has adopted consideration of the quality of services provided by supporting institutions, regardless of religion, cultural or social background of the candidates. This highlights the humanitarian aspect of the Prize, which, certainly, will encourage institutions with, or even without, educational services to keep going in this human aspect because nations develop and get rid of the problems of ignorance and poverty by means of education.

He added that based on this year and last cycle presented forms, we can claim that: “The Prize became global as we have participants from all continents; including institutions of rich countries like the United States of America. All these institutions supply disadvantaged groups with logistic support in order to improve and extend their services.”

#### Europe and North America 7 Candidates

State	No. of Candidates
Spain	2
Portugal	1
Macedonia	1
France	1
Romania	1
United States of America	1

#### Latin America and the Caribbean 4 Candidates

State	No. of Candidates
Venezuela	2
Colombia	1
Brazil	1

#### Africa 4 Candidates

State	No. of Candidates
South Africa	2
Congo	1
Chad	1

#### Arab States 1 Candidate

State	No. of candidates
Jordan	1

#### Asia and the Pacific 17 Candidates

State	No. of Candidates
India	4
Bangladesh	2
Pakistan	5
Indonesia	2
Nepal	1
Republic of Korea	1
Malaysia	1
Tajikistan	1