

Al Qutami: 'Vocational Diploma' provides Nurturing the Gifted Plan with national expertise



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Hamdan bin Rashid receives AGU President and graduates of Gifted Education Diploma



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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



Distinguished Leader

* That priceless initiative of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai was not just a humanitarian scene, or fake image for advertising, or instantaneous emotional response. That moment when HH donated blood in response to the appeal launched by the Thalassaemia Center upon despair in the hearts of doctors and health officials where begging was not fruitful, and the community rarely does something to donate! So the leader rushed quickly to answer the distress call which was received by radio. Then, in the rescue campaign, he was followed by sons and daughters of his people and residents in his country.

* His Highness emphasizes again and again his uniqueness as a leader who is conscious of his responsibilities, and awareness of the importance of his person as an example in behavior and actions. Of course! We talk a lot about inspiration, motivation, encouragement, stimulating and motivation ...etc. We search in books and cultures for examples; sometimes we make artificial molds by imagination to educate, teach and train. We consume time and spare no effort for the sake of creating the model, as our leadership represents everything we need and want. This is the inspirational leadership that drives people by their own, activates them for their own interests, leads them to their own happiness, and stimulates them to the desired target.

* Looking at this scene, we are talking about leadership model; as we all undertake important leading roles on the basis of our various responsibilities, and in our positions as employees and parents, nationals and residents. We should learn that leadership is talent, knowledge and action; and that someone is waiting for our initiative, while others watching our approach and route, and waiting for the moment in which the leader and patron starts off production and creation. This is the leadership of Mohammed bin Rashid... Number 1 University in excellence.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

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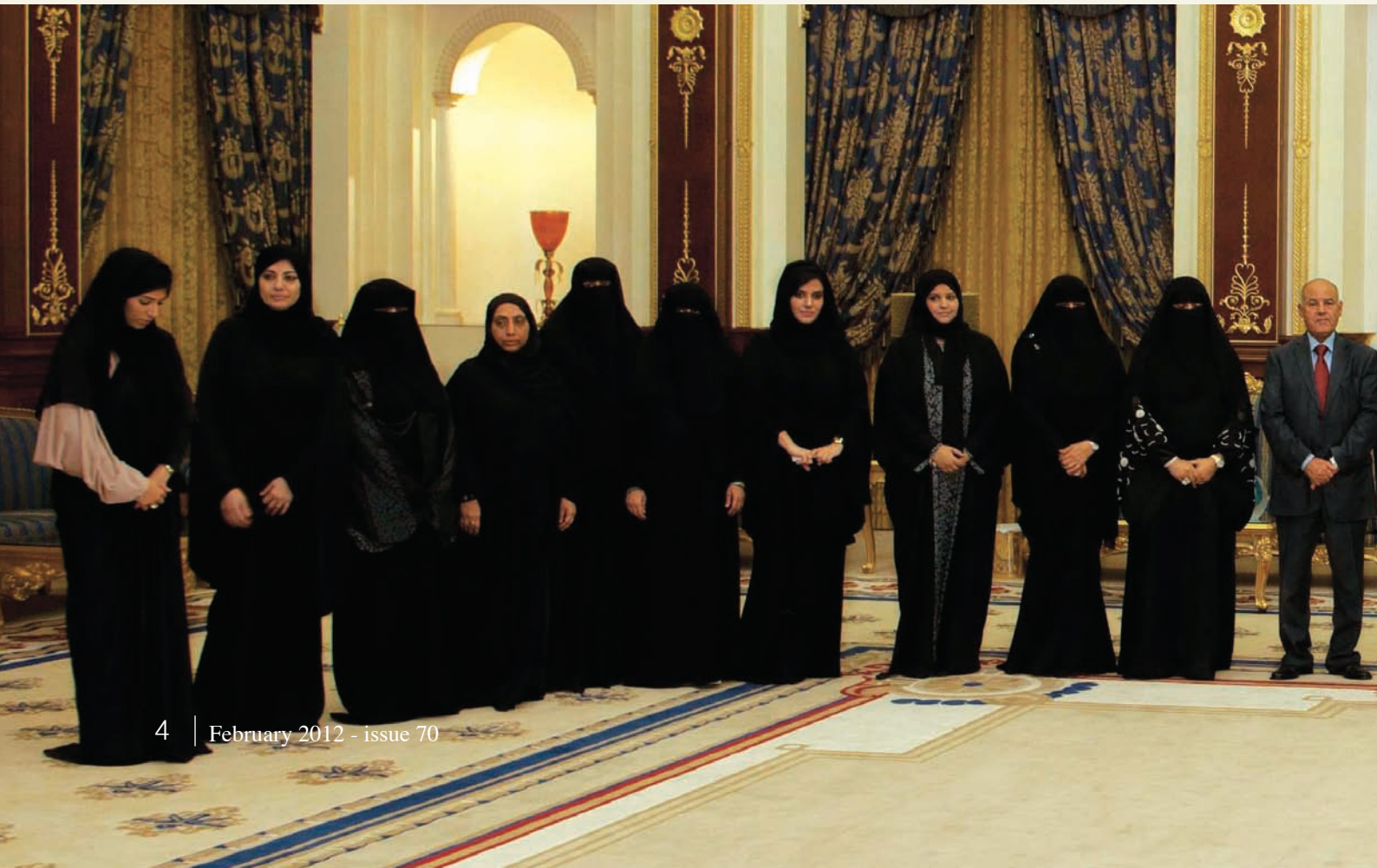
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Hamdan bin Rashid receives AGU President and graduates of Gifted Education Diploma

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance received at his palace in Zabeel Dr. Khalid Al Ohali, President of the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) in Bahrain, accompanied by nineteen Emirati female teachers who have completed their diploma study in Gifted Education Program in the framework of Nurturing the Gifted Plan adopted by the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance.

HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum congratulated graduates who will teach gifted and talented students in the state after qualification and receiving diploma at AGU for this purpose.

In return, the graduates thanked HH the Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance for the attention and care he pays for gifted students in the schools of UAE and for the concentration of HH on this segment of students by guiding them to higher education and helping them choose their most suitable specialization. Last year, Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance gave twenty-one teachers scholarships to AGU; they received a diploma in Gifted and Talented Program. This is the second graduated batch; they came to offer thanks and gratitude to His Highness, the sponsor of the award.







19 female graduates in the second batch of the program

Al Qutami: ‘Vocational Diploma’ provides Nurturing the Gifted Plan with national expertise

Dubai, Samer Salah

His Excellency Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami, Minister of Education and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, asserted that Vocational Gifted Education Diploma Program provides the national project Nurturing the Gifted with national expertise armed with the skills, knowledge and competence required for managing the classes of the talented. And it is the first nucleus in an ambitious vision aiming at achieving prominence in leading the education of the talented, by making and presenting a model worthy of imitation, subject to reproduction, and is a source for scientific value added in the same field.



This came in the speech of His Excellency during the graduation ceremony of the second batch in Gifted Education Diploma Program which included 19 female graduates, in Al-Bustan Rotana Hotel, Dubai.

Graduation ceremony was attended by His Excellency Dr Jamal Mohammed Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Secretary General of the Award, and by His Excellency Dr. Khalid Al Ohali, President of the Arabian Gulf University.

His Excellency added: "We have perceived the value of the program by evaluating the performance of the graduates of the first batch who participated in the committees of spotting and nurturing the talented in some educational zones and schools, and they put the scientific outcome of the Diploma into practice, especially programs of approaches and methods of teaching the gifted and thinking skills, which made the ministry satisfied and gave its officials more confidence in this privileged partnership between the parties overseeing the project; the parties are Ministry of Education, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, and Gulf University, hoping for the continuity of this performance and the achievement of the desired results", vowing, His Excellency, to give support for the accomplishment of the project.

His Excellency expressed his thanks to His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai; Minister of Finance; and the patron of the award, who sensed the responsibility and took the initiative to put forward his characteristic vision of developing the project of Nurturing the Gifted Plan.

Education is the center of development

For his part, His Excellency Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, the Secretary General, assured that the award had implemented Gifted Education Diploma Program in collaboration with the Gulf University and the Ministry of Edu-



Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami



Dr. Khalid Al Ohali



The Minister of education pledges to give support for accomplishing the project

The program contributes to the preparation of qualified teachers and provides Gulf region with expertise

cation, believing in the importance of the education sector as the main focus of development process, and building upon their national and social responsibility and their sense of the necessity of supporting the objectives of the government and the community regarding taking care in the talented and distinguished people of the state.

HE also added: "The program aims at helping teachers to gain knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the field educating the talented, the preparation of qualified teachers, meeting the needs of the environment of Arab Gulf and supplying it with expertise and leaders with educational excellence, contributing to the development of the systems of

education in the Gulf States, and enabling them to provide services and programs that help to meet the special needs of gifted students, and offering advanced vocational and academic programs in terms of form and content that match the aspirations and needs of GCC societies."

Objectives of the program

He clarified that the program's objectives are achieved through the development of knowledge competencies, which include the concepts, characteristics, features, issues and problems of the gifted and identifying the gifted and innovative students, and curricula, general or of certain quality, and programs for educating the gifted, the



development of educational competencies through teaching methods, planning programs and their educational requirements, and the use of the available environment sources, and teaching techniques and the development of materials, and providing various educational opportunities and projects of the talented, their philosophy, and objectives.

Accomplishing the objectives of the program

His Excellency added: "The objectives of the program are also achieved through the development of social competencies, which include social interaction skills, contact, communication, leadership, problem solving, taking responsibility, and the adoption of positive trends, culture, values, adaptation and mental health, as well as the development of functional competencies, which are related to several areas such as acquaintance with laws, legislation, regulations, instructions, meth-

ods of organization, planning, implementation, evaluation and decision-making, on both the global and regional level, as well as the development of professional competencies, by means and methods of taking care of the talented students in the classroom and outside it."

Duration of the program

On the term of the program, HE Muhairi said: "The program was presented throughout 4 months, theoretical study began on 4 May, and continued to 24 July, at a rate of 6 school hours a day, and the total hours mounted to 28, and practical field training lasted for 5 weeks beginning from 2 October until 31 of the same month."

He mentioned that the program was joined by 19 from the teaching staff of the resource room teachers, special education, one supervisor, and teachers of different subjects, explaining that the study was in the building of the Regional Centre for Educational Planning (UNESCO) in the Uni-

versity City in Sharjah. HE Al Muhairi clarified that curricula were presented by professors of the Gulf University with participation of prominent specialized professors from Arab and international universities. Regarding the curricula, they include measurement and identification of the gifted, programs of their education, creativity, guiding and directing the talented, the curricula and methods of their teaching, and thinking and field training skills, noting that the language of study is Arabic. He said: "It is possible for students who have passed the professional program to complete their studies to obtain a higher diploma in Gifted Education or master's degree in the gifted education program at the Gulf University in accordance with the requirements of graduation from the program."

A strong incentive

His Excellency Dr. Khalid Al Ohali, President of the Arabian Gulf University said: "The

School hours totaled 28 hours at 6 hours per day

The program lasted 4 months. Practical field training continued 5 weeks

Talent is the real seed for creativity and taking care of it in childhood sets the stage for prosperity in the future



graduation of the second batch of Gifted Education Diploma Program is a strong incentive to continue the efforts, excellence and creativity, because the world around us is witnessing in the third millennium substantial cosmic changes, their features are crystallized in the convergence of the distances and times, and the erosion of borders and acceleration of developments, and an inescapable international race for survival, progress, prosperity and well-being, as a result of the enormous progress in science and new technology.” In his speech during the graduation ceremony, His Excellency also added: “We are celebrating getting the fruits of distinguished cooperation between Arabian Gulf University and Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, and the completion of the blessed efforts of the GCC joint action towards achieving the goals for which it was created.” He made it clear that creativity

Conditions of enrollment in the program

- * To be a citizen of the UAE.
- * Getting a good average as a minimum in the bachelor’s degree
- * Obtaining the bachelor’s degree in Education from a recognized university.
- * Experience of no less than 3 years in service.
- * Obtaining an (Excellent) GPA in the report of teaching efficiency for three years.
- * Approval from work on completing of the study.
- * Passing a personal interview or any exams and other requirements.
- * Having self-motivation and initiative to work with the gifted class.
- * Commitment to attend all the courses of the program, the student gets warning if absents from lectures by 10 percent, and is deprived of the final exam in the case of absence from the scheduled attendance by 25 percent.
- * The student gets the degree of professional diploma if gets a good average in the subjects, and that the cumulative average shall not be less than 3 of 4 points.

is the production of all that is new and useful in science, art, literature and life, and it is one of the main objectives behind this distinguished scientific and cultural effort between Hamdan

bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and the Arabian Gulf University - Faculty of Upper-graduate Studies, Gifted Education Program.

He pointed out that it has become agreed among the scientists, intellectuals, and writers, that the differences between developed nations and the less developed ones are the differences in the ownership of creative minds, for creativity is a crucial point to the progress of peoples, and talent is the true seed of creativity, and caring for the talent in childhood is more like providing the basis and the environment suitable for the creativity to flourish in the future.

On their part, the graduates of Gifted Education Diploma Program asserted that the program enriched their scientific professional attainment and ascended the gifted, and they revealed the human potential powers. They thanked His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the patron of the award, for his interest in education, and support of the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted, and giving them the opportunity to get the Gifted Education Diploma Program.

Graduates: The program strengthened our professional skills and enabled us to know how to spot Gifted

The second graduated batch of Gifted Education Diploma Program have assured that the program strengthened their professional skills and enabled them to know how to spot and care for this group. The program also taught them how to solve problems by means of creative methods and how to behave in different situations. The graduates focused on the importance of the program under the field's need to employ elements who are able to discover and then care for the gifted. They expressed their wish to transfer what they have learned to the field by training courses and workshops.

The graduates thanked Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and His Highness, the sponsor of the award for the chance of enrollment at the program he provided them with. They desired to complete the study and get a master's and doctoral degrees in the same major. Aisha Al Matrooshi, field supervisor in Ajman Educational

Zone said: "The program has contributed in widening our knowledge of talented which is a class at our schools we were oblivious to. It gave us the opportunity to be in direct contact with talented students to observe their level and academic achievement, and to prepare plans to develop them, as well." "The program corrected some of our concepts about the gifted- we merged talent with

excellence, whereas after the program we found out that not all outstanding are gifted, but all gifted are outstanding." Al Matrooshi added. She noted that the gifted are a class which deserves to be guided in order not to behave in a wrong or deviant way as a kind of reaction to ignoring their talent, as well as there are problems of abnormal behavior. Spotting talented students solve

many problems by nurturing and highlighting talent since prevention is better than cure. Al Matrooshi mentioned that: "the study was extensive because the course which is taught in 4 months is studied in two weeks or a month along with demands and assignments, but the desire and love for the completion of study increased our determination to complete the program. My overwhelming af-





fection of the need of this category for care helped me a lot. She explained that the study includes 90 lesson derived from certain gifted-specialized programs, and is applied through actual lessons as some schools were selected for field training. "I chose 'Sheikha bin Saeed' model school in Ajman and implemented programs to students of grades 2 and 5; I perceived their significant response which demonstrates that they have talent."

She added: "I noticed a response from parents as well. Students were waiting for the lessons and enjoyed them because lessons are derived from program that simulates thinking through exercises, pictures, and methods of answering like answer in drawing as there is no restriction (full freedom of expression)."

Al Matrooshi thanked HH Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum for his patronage of the diploma as well as officials in the award who were continuously following them up, and said: "There are a lot of teachers

with a desire to join it. I aspire to complete the study and get a master's and doctoral degrees to help the field, and I am ready to do courses for teachers for the sake of implementation and continuation of the program; it is a gift that should not be stopped."

Problem-solving

On the other hand, Laila Al Balushi ex-teacher of Islamic Studies, currently in Quality and Institutional Excellence Department in the Ministry of Education said: "we have learned from the program many things we did not know about before such as: creative methods in problem-solving, how to behave in certain situations and characteristics of the gifted. The program that we attended was very successful and important since it highlights the absence of interest in this category at schools."

Al Balushi requested increase in the number of scholars, application of the study in the field, and assistance in the preparation of guiding curriculum for gifted

students, and said: "I would like to complete the study, and get higher grades, and I am ready to transfer what I have learned to my colleagues in the field."

Leila Al Sayegh, teacher of special education at 'Um Roman' school stated: "I have learned how to discover talented students and observe their characteristics. We have benefited greatly from the practical application of the program, particularly with regard to the concept of ego, how to identify the talented psychology, to solve their problems in creative ways, and to choose the most suitable to them. Throughout the practical application, I noticed that the level of students has changed for the better ».

"The field needs such programs because the gifted category requires care. The study was extensive; it would be better if the period was longer with full-time dedication." She added. Al Sayegh expressed willingness to provide training courses and workshops identifying and applying what she has learned in the diploma. She demanded

for more interest in this group, for completing the study and for providing an academic degree since there is motivation to learn.

Wafaa Al Zaabi, mathematics teacher at 'Taryam Omran' school in Ras Al Khaimah said: "I have benefited a lot from this diploma personally and practically, especially in training strategies, how to identify the problems of gifted and distinguished, and the distinction between talent and excellence. Talented are a group people with special needs who may suffer from despair, frustration, boredom and a sense of perfection."

"I have changed my teaching method; I have become aware of how to solve the problems of gifted students. Who knows the importance of talented people, would like to teach and take care of them." She added.

She called for the establishment of special centers for the gifted, providing them with special projects and curricula, and the completion of the study and transfer of expertise to the field.



‘Asia Pacific Conference’ expresses satisfaction with the preparations for Giftedness 2012

Al Muhairi: Hamdan Award is preparing enrichment units especial for gifted

Dubai . (Attamauz News):

His Excellency Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary General of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for the Distinguished Academic Performance asserted that the award, beginning from the third semester of the academic year 2011-2012, will start training teachers to prepare enrichment units especial for the talented students in the subjects of science and mathematics for grades 4 and 5, and they will be regarded as a parallel to the lessons students receive in the aforementioned subjects. Al Muhairi’s statements were made during a joint press conference with the delegation of the Asian Talent Council who visited the UAE to oversee the preparations to host ‘the 12th Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness 2012’, which will be held under the theme ‘Nurturing Talent, Growing Potential’ at the Dubai International Exhibition and Conference Centre during the period from 14 to 18 of next July.

His Excellency said: “This step will be followed by addition of new subjects in information technology, English and Arabic, and it comes in the context of the national plan for patronizing the gifted which is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.”

He added: “Two public schools in Dubai will be selected to implement this program, they are the hosting schools, and that

the units will be presented simultaneously with a program to discover the talented from the two chosen schools.”

He made it clear that the teachers will undergo practical training at the hands of experts in the same field to familiarize them with how to set these units, noting that they will be reviewed after their completion, revision, and adoption to be circulated among the hosting schools which will in turn

be increased in future years.

On the other hand, His Excellency Al Muhairi said that the international academic initiative which is represented by the conference will focus on teaching and improving the capabilities of gifted children, and that the conference will be held under the auspices of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for the Distinguished Academic Performance, and under the supervision of the Asian

Talent Council for Giftedness, which is an organization for the development and education of talented and innovative children in the Asia and Pacific region.

His Excellency stressed the importance of the conference for the State’s plans and programs in the area of patronizing the gifted, as well as for the award which sponsors the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted, he said: “The UAE is one of

the most initiative countries to achieve the human goals, and support the distinguished programs of developing and empowering human resources, for they are interested in this scientific gathering to benefit from successful experiences pioneering in contemporary civilizations, especially in the field of gifted education.”

He explained that organizing the conference offers a scientific civilized value, to translate the aspirations and objectives of the political leadership of the state, and to add to its objectives the desire of tight cooperation with specialized international continental and regional institutions that embrace expertise and practices in the field of talent, especially as we are preparing for the application of a national plan ambitious for discovering and nurturing talented people with significant support from His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance the patron of the Distinguished Academic Performance Award. The results of this qualitative project determine the future of the talented in the country and the region.

For her part, Professor Helen C. Yuen Koyo, coordinator of the Asian Council for Gifted, announced the Council’s content towards the ongoing preparations for the UAE to host the conference, and said: “The visit of the delegation of the Council was successful in all respects, and the civilized features that the delegation witnessed exceeded expectations, and the cultural reality of Dubai surpasses the excellent reputation which characterizes it globally, and educational and cultural data, economic and architectural structure are the titles for a real miracle which will give the relationship between the educational institution and the Asian council a push for development.”

Helen added: “The Dubai conference will witness high-level scientific gathering which will impact on the gifted class, as the benefit will include the student, the teacher, the supervisor the planner, and the ex-



Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi



Helen C. Yuen Koyo



Mariam Al Ghawi



Dr. Al Muhairi: Emirates is one of the most regarded countries to initiate the improvement and the support of empowering human resources

Koyo: the conference paves the way for the child to learn how to grow through social interaction

ecutor, and that the UAE will greatly benefit from this scientific event.”

Helen indicated that the conference was founded 24 years ago to highlight the need to develop curricula and educational facilities special for children with exceptional talent from an early age, pointing out that the importance of the conference lies not only in developing and nurturing these talents but in paving the way in front of the child to learn how to grow with them through social interaction and self promotion.

For her part, Khawla Bahloq, director of the talented management in the award President of the Organizing Committee of the Conference asserted that the event will continue for 5 days, and it includes an exhibition, workshops and ‘Children and Youth Committee’ with more than two thousand

specialized participants from around the world in the field of education, especially the education of the talented with special needs, and experts in psychology, scientists and innovators in the fields of science and literature, mathematics and music.

Whereas, Mariam Al Ghawi, the chairperson of the committee of ‘Children and Youth Committee’ at the conference, stressed that the Forum is an opportunity for talented people to stimulate their intellectual abilities through participation in innovative programs designed to develop their capabilities, problem-solving and teamwork.

She added that the Forum will be held on the sidelines of the conference with the participation of 500 talented children from the Gulf, Asia and the Pacific, aged between 9 and 18.



The delegation of the Asian Council received the gifted **Al Qutami**: UAE is exerting exceptional efforts in educational initiatives

His Highness Humaid Mohammed Al Qattami, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, President of the Twelfth Conference of the Asia-Pacific Giftedness, asserted that the UAE is making exceptional efforts in its initiatives of civilization, especially those directed to the education, development and empowerment of human resources. As it is preparing to implement its national plan for patronizing the gifted, it seizes the opportunity of organizing the conference to find out the latest studies, research and practice in the science of tal-

ent, especially as the event hosts a group of scientists, experts and researchers in this field.

This came while His Excellency was receiving the delegation of members of the Asian council for the talented led by Professor Helen C. Yuen Koyo, and the membership of Professor Sheng Chi Ku, Dr B Cooke Tan, and Dr. King one Park, who is paying an official visit to the State within the framework of preparations of the award for organizing the conference.

His Excellency and the visiting delegation discussed the latest developments of work and preparations for organizing the conference, and they

talked about the programs and activities of the talented in the state and the ways to develop the relationship between the ministry and the Council.

His Highness drew attention to the importance of this event which will take place in the country under the slogan « talent enrichment and capacity development », explaining that the conference is like a scientific forum which gathers distinguished brains from all around the world, in addition to their teachers, their families and their supervisors in order to establish educational standards for the gifted to be the basis for building a center for knowledge taking roles of determining, developing and

improving their distinctive human capacity and providing the social environment suitable for them.

His Highness asserted that the educational leadership in the UAE is looking forward to higher levels of cooperation with the World Council for the Gifted and Talented Asian Council to support the state's efforts in the areas of discovering and nurturing the talented. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Secretary General of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and a number of educational officials.

Having met a delegation from the Group headed by Saleh Janeeh

Al Ansari: Hamdan Award and ‘DQG’ share supporting excellence vision



Suleiman Abdul Khaleq Al Ansari, Member of Board of Trustees and Chief Executive Director of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance stated that the award and Dubai Quality Group (DQG) share the visions, ideas and trends in support of excellence and quality, within standards that are unprecedented at the world level. The award’s vision depends on the principle of pioneering leadership of excellence of educational performance and nurturing the gifted; it believes in a specific message of development of its vision through the best local and global programs of competition and positive cooperation which contributes to building a distinguished academic community.

The statement was made during his meeting with a delegation from DQG headed by Saleh Al Janeeh, Chairman of the Group and Maryam Al Thani Al Falasi, Secretary General of the Group in the presence of Abdul Ghafoor

Al Khaja, Director of Human Resources and Finance in the award, and Hessa Sultan, Head of Strategy and Development Office, and Alia Al Obaidali, Head of Excellence Program Section, and Fatima Al Hashemi, head of Assessment and Design Section.

The two sides discussed mechanisms that will expand and activate cooperation between them, for the benefit of the business community through programs and activities and collaborative initiatives, which contribute to promoting excellence and quality while improving the mechanisms of work, especially since at the heart of the Award is the concept of educational excellence pursued widely inside and outside the country.

Al Ansari, while welcoming the efforts adopted by DQG, which aimed to raise the levels of quality and excellence in the performance of various members and partners, pointed out that the Award, through its rich experience with DQG, showed the way

to better careers and better prospects.

Al Ansari said: “Hamdan Award aims to improve the level of performance, creativity and proficiency in the field of education, and encourages the entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and excellence in all scientific and literary areas. The award is keen to contribute effectively in providing educational and academic environment and conditions that are modern, advanced and encouraging in relation to innovation, pioneering and excellence, along with honoring all categories and sector relevant education among institutions and individuals who provide unique achievements and innovations.” He referred to the educational objectives of Hamdan Award that correspond to the objectives of DQG; this is the reason why the investment partnership with DQG was of the utmost importance for us in the award.

In this context, Saleh Janeeh, Chairman of Dubai Quality

Group said: “the visit comes within the framework of supporting the Group’s orientations to expand cooperation and dissemination of the volume of support at various organizations and companies, particularly concerning the affairs of investor partners” stressing the desire of the Group to uphold the principles of cooperation and positive, constructive and fruitful exchanges, which promote the trend towards a better reality. He pointed out the visit that combined the delegates of Dubai Quality Group and Hamdan Bin Rashid Award for Educational Excellence dealt with a set of facts and objectives that should be worked for to strengthen quality and excellence principles for all members and investor partners, whether they are companies or institutions, public or private at the state level. Certainly these principles will become reality by means of developed mechanisms used year after year, which proves that quality and excellence exist.

End of the 2nd phase of 'Central Adjudication' locally

Adjudicators: Commitment to criteria and acknowledgment of experiences are the most important reasons to win

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance finished the 2nd phase of Central Adjudication for the 14th Cycle at the local level, which included field visits and personal interviews. It is expected that the same stage will be completed in the first of March at the level of Gulf States.





Maryam Al Shehhi, Head of Competitions & Adjudication Section in Hamdan Award said: "Immediately after the 1st phase of Central Adjudication which was theoretical, the adjudication committees interviewed the participants in the category of Distinguished Student, to determine the validity of what was listed in the application; they also visited participants in other categories each in their field such as: Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished School, Distinguished Social Worker and other categories."

Al Shehhi pointed out that despite the end of the 2nd phase of Central Adjudication, adjudication process is not over yet- it continues until the announcement of the results that I expect to be at the end of March. The Head of Competitions & Adjudication Section in the award mentioned that limitation of pages number and size of attachments and the adoption of e-documentation helped facilitate the process of adjudication. Moreover, the adjudicators of the 14th Cycle assured that commitment to standards and viewing previous winning files are among the most important

reasons that lead to success, noting that there were some applications that did not match the required level which demands completion of deficiencies by owners in future cycles.

Best Applied Educational Research

Hamza Dodeen, Chairman of Adjudication Committee of Best Applied Educational Research category said: "12 files were adjudicated, ranging from teaching methods, use of various programs to increase learning, motivation towards learning, to solving difficulties and problems of learning, as well as solving some behavioral problems for students of both sexes."

Dodeen noted that a large sector wishes to compete in the award. This wish appeared clearly in the determination of some people to apply more than once. They applied and did not win, but benefited from the efforts of the winners; which was observed in the cooperation between the teachers during the completion of files.

He noted that the skills of scientific research in the academic field are less than they should

be, stressing the need to have training courses and brochures for those who wish to do so, and pointing out that induction and research urge people to follow-up and reading. There is great benefit in participating in research. Within the training process, there is limited perspective to the quality of research submitted to the award, they are limited to two types which require repetition and make applicants choose research that do not serve their theme.

Dodeen advised a systematic review and commitment to educational research, verifying of abidance by standards of scientific research in full, taking advantage of available resources, references and experience in the educational field, and the experience university professors. He stressed that improper methodology destroys the research and the belief that the results must always be positive destroy the research.

He pointed out that a researcher can take advantage of the field of education and universities in the UAE and other sources of knowledge such as the Internet which are available to assist any person who wishes to partici-

Adjudication of 12 files ranging from teaching methods to use of various programs to increase learning

Timing of applications delivery and 3-semester system caused participations disparity at the local and GCC levels

Attending workshops and courses facilitates Central Adjudication



pate in this category. There is also a need to benefit from the experience of others to achieve two objectives: participation in the award, and serving the educational field.

Local and Gulf Distinguished Student category

On the other hand, Dr. Ousha Al Muhairi, Chairman of Adjudication Committee of Distinguished Student at local and GCC levels said: “303 participations were adjudicated at the local and Gulf levels, and that the process went smoothly and easily since students abided by number of pages which saved time. E-file was also a positive experience but with Cons such as the need for more regulation. Besides, noted lack of abidance by the E-file condition.” She added that there was a small group with missing files, but was amended by phoning the parents and the coordinator to complete the applications like certificates and others, pointing to the development of applications year after year and that the observations and repetition of evidence was less, and indicating that the photocopies are

weak evidence while certificates are better.

As well, she called for abiding by the conditions and instructions of the award, and more adherence to standards and attending workshops and training courses carried out by the coordinators, which facilitates the process of Central Adjudication.

Distinguished School

Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, Chairman of Adjudication Committee of Distinguished School and School Management category said: “10 local participations and 19 GCC were adjudicated”, adding that timing of the delivery of applications and the 3-semester school system lie behind the varying numbers of participations at the local and GCC levels.

Al Kaabi stated that distinguished practice should be part of normal life whereas participation in the award is mere compilation of papers and evidence. There should not be great effort to prepare the file because the existing standards in the school are not only an outline, it is supposed that the

successful management does these things and do not consider them a burden.

He stated that the evaluation form contains positive aspects with development and improvement. Some schools repeat the same shortcomings, while some others avoided the notes and benefited from them. He explained that some participations from the Gulf countries have common lack of specific standards which narrows their chance to win-the standard is (leadership, strategic planning and administrative management), noting that schools in the UAE are characterized by the management side.

Dr. Al Kaabi advised with well preparation for the award, reading the standards and checking their availability; and that, based on these criteria, evaluation of school requires at least two years in order to spread the culture of excellence. Then they should apply for the award, as stages cannot be neglected. It is necessary to see the standards and their application for at least two years, as well as to be guided by the experience of distinguished schools.

Some schools repeat the same shortcomings and did not benefit from the notes of previous cycles

Saudi Arabia is the best in Distinguished School with its well-prepared files

Appeal to read the Interpretive Guide to facilitate understanding and commitment to standards



Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Supervisor

Dr. Ibrahim Al Mujaini, Chairman of Adjudication Committee of Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Supervisor cited: "20 local participations and the same number from Gulf countries were adjudicated in the category of Distinguished Teacher and 3 participations in the category of Distinguished Supervisor."

He added the documents seemed more organized, and were reduced to 250 pages where most of them were soft copies the thing which facilitated the process of adjudication. The committees dealing with the file try to judge the achievements and documents relating to each category. There were some problems: few files did not contain a date on the documents or approval from school management, and some items were misunderstood- so the answer becomes irrelevant and leads to a problem of consistency between the guide and the standard.

"We were surprised with some applications which were below the required level. There were

some applications with total points of 200 out of 1000; perhaps the reason was the absence of screening by educational zones." Al Mujaini said.

He explained that there are differences between files; Saudi files were the best among all other countries- they were set up well compared with other Gulf States, especially with regard to e-documentation.

He demanded participants to read the interpretive list of criteria before the collection of evidence and documents, because some of them did not read the rules well. He also requested to know about the experiences of others who have successfully applied, which helps in the organization of work.

Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz Balfakih Chairman of Adjudication Committee of Distinguished Family and Distinguished Social Worker categories said: "5 participations were adjudicated in the category of Distinguished Family, two from Dubai, one from each of Abu Dhabi, Fujairah and Sharjah Office; and 2 participations in the category of Distinguished Social Worker." He added that all applying fam-

ilies are good social core; their works were good and distinct, but some of them were having a shortage in documentation and the lack of sufficient evidence. He said he noticed problems with some applications from families such as lack of continuity in the care of children in the areas of the award; it is possible that the child is distinct in a particular domain, but the family ceases sponsorship in subsequent years, which makes the family lose some marks. There must be clarity in the roles of parents in the care of children, including the areas of health, academic, special abilities, self-development, religious and national care, so that the role of each kind would be prominent. This part causes deduction of marks because of misunderstanding how to deal with the terms of the form. He advised parents to stay away from composition and answer the items, whenever possible, in quantitative, practicing and tangible way.

Whereas in the category of Distinguished Social Worker, we hope that the worker would have a clear plan in terms of

objectives, implementation mechanisms, beneficiaries and the formation of plans, the impact and result in programs and projects, and that he performs initial formative evaluation operations and final ones.

He advised the applicants in the category of Distinguished Social Worker to observe the impact of programs and projects on the beneficiaries, whether students or parents in terms of the planning and evaluation processes. In addition, he hoped that the worker would play roles in the procedure research which affect the problems facing the targeted students so that the performance of the students themselves in the future would improve. Moreover, he requested that the worker carry out outstanding programs for weak, failing and distinguished students; to provide special programs and projects contributing in consolidation of social relations between the school and family; to make use of techniques and modern means of communication; and that case studies should be diverse and follow the steps and use rationed diagnostic tools.

Interviews reveal the creativity of participating students

Students qualified to the 2nd phase of the Central Adjudication in the 14th Cycle of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance have shown their creativity and distinction in several areas during personal interviews. They showed keenness to confirm their talents and hobbies stated in their files. Some of them took their musical instrument, began playing and entertained adjudicators with unique playing which reflects extremely good taste and creativity. Others were great orators, enjoying a strong character and sonorous sound. While some of them brought their paintings that express their creative vision to the world around. According to adjudicators, the interviews have revealed personal talents and unique hobbies with participating students that can be nurtured and invested for their own interest.



