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on December, 22nd



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On the 41st National Day,
Dr. Al Muhairi reviews
the Union achievements
and the founding fathers role



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Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance

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Monthly Educational Magazine

OUR VISION

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

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Introduction



UAE Education .. Unique Bet

* On the day of the Nation, history memories are reflected in the exquisite scene, and the reality of achievement, thanks to the favor of Zayed and Rashid and the founding fathers in the building foundations of the modern state, which enabled their descendants in the contemporary generation, led by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, may God protect him, and his brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Members of the Supreme Council, Rulers of the emirates, to continue the march of development, construction and leading the federal state to the prestigious position it assumes today.

* Dependence and bet was laid on the educational system in the rehabilitation of national human resources bringing the nation dreams into reality, realizing the most important of those goals in 41 years. Thus, UAE has become among the countries where excellence dominates all fields, and where its development and entrepreneurship practices reached to levels that qualify UAE to be a model in the region by offering the world new great civilized experience where work is the basis, human being is the center, in a method of the noble values summarized in a topless strategic vision, with the purpose of sustainable human development.

* Educational system could, worthily, meet the requirements of the last stages thanks to being enabled and supported by the federal government. Such support has been doubled to reach to the extent required by the needs of the next stage of the education coping with the economic, social, political and cultural variables; an education based on modern technology and keeps pace with its development; an education looks to the future with realism and prepares for future challenges; an education balances between the dimensions of local, regional and international culture; an influential and pioneer education taking the initiative, achieving global standards and winning prizes; an education to be a representative for the novelty and to become a popular destination for those seeking development and excellence. Betting remains always on the educational system, and will always rely on the creative potentials in the educational field to continue the march, make the difference, and be always in the first position.

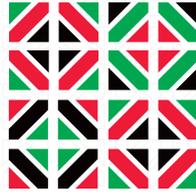
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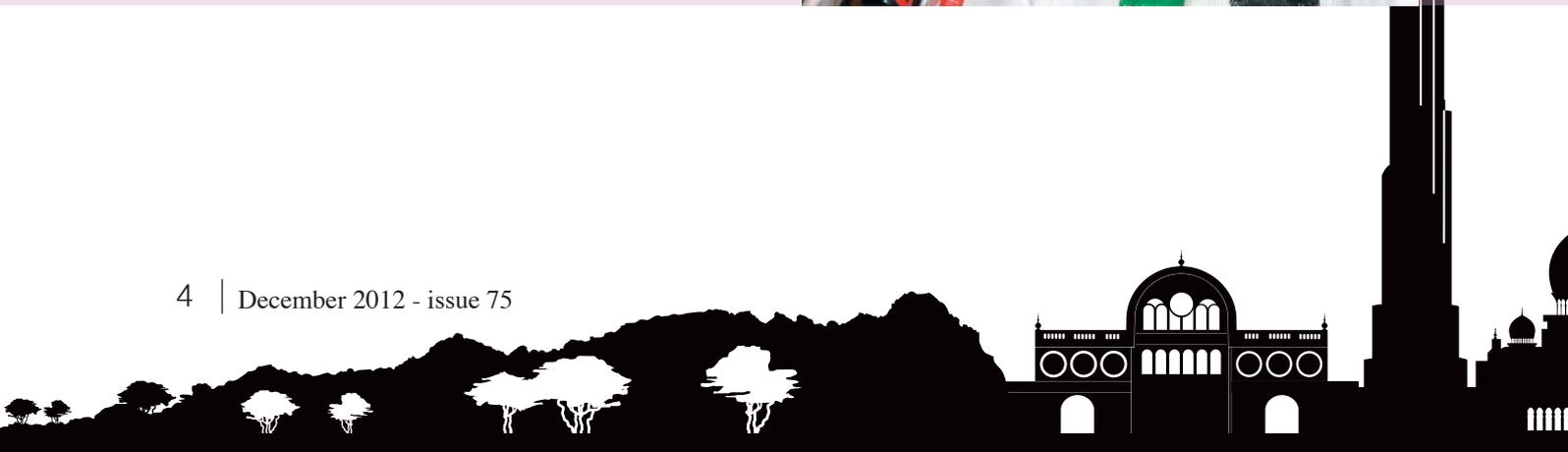
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In Historical narrative in National Day celebration, **The Award's Secretary General reviews the achievements of the Union and the role of the founding fathers**

The employees of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance celebrated the UAE 41st National Day, in the presence of Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Muhairi, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, and Secretary-General of the Award along with a number of officials. The ceremony began with the national anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an oratorical festival where attendees expressed their love and belonging to the UAE, as well as their pride of the amazing achievements realized thanks to the Union. The attendees praised the role of the first generation founders, led by the late, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the UAE, may God rest his soul, and Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, God rest his soul, and their brethren, Rulers of other Emirates.





«Attamauz Magazine». Dubai

The ceremony participants praised the efforts made to continue the march driven by H.H Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, along with H.H Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai; and the UAE Supreme Council Members; and Lieutenant General HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces.

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi accounted historical events which took place during the Union, as well as prominent figures, which have been credited to drive the Union to its success, mentioning the achievements accomplished during the era of the Union comparing with the previous period, all that by displaying scenes and milestones which shows the difference between the past and present period.

He also talked about the paradigm shift in the education field as the engine assuring excellence and development in all areas of life, and thus global prestigious position assumed by the United Arab Emirates, as well as its intellectual and material structure which qualifies the country to lead the region to new horizons in the near future.

The Secretary General praised individual initiatives taken by the UAE nationals at the ruling elite level as well as the citizens in terms

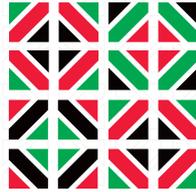
of supporting educational, cultural and social mobility, citing HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance and Patron of his educational Award as an Emirati model who dedicated his energy and potential in supporting the federal state, education, medical science and humanitarian activities, and drove the country to a global reputation worthy of appreciation and respect.

From their part, attendees expressed their gratitude for the great effort made by the wise leadership in order to provide all the requirements to achieve stability and prosperity of the citizens and residents, expressing their sincere congratulations to the political leadership under the chairmanship of HH President of the UAE and his Vice President, along with their brethren, Rulers of other Emirates.

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance continues its march to achieve its vision of being pioneer in the management of excellence in educational performance and fostering talent, and its mission in improving the quality of educational system, supporting all pre-higher education learners and the individuals and institutions entrusted with educating these learners. All this through positive cooperation and competition with the hope that our educational outcome would be recognized among the advanced categories in the world.

The Award's objectives are to upgrade performance, mastery





and creativity in the education domain; to encourage initiatives, innovation and excellence in all literary and scientific domains; to contribute in creating modern and improved educational environment and favorable conditions that foster innovations, advancement and excellence; and to honor all talented and creative categories and parties involved in the educational sector, who produce outstanding achievements and innovation.

Over the 14 years, the Award supplied the educational field locally and in the GCC states with thousands of distinguished people who represent the nucleus to instill quality in educational performance. The number of participants in the Award over its previous cycles amounted to 6275 partici-

pants out of which 1731 winners, while in the GCC states over the 9 previous cycles, the number of participants amounted to 559 out of which 130 GCC winners.

The Award anguished Teacher, the Distinguished Student, the Distinguished Social Worker, the Distinguished Supervisor, Best Scientific Innovation, Best Applied Project and the Distinguished Parent. His Highness, the Award Sponsor — May Allah keep him - , encouraged by the unprecedented success of the Award in its first session and by the community positive response, issued a decree for the Award to include all the Emirates.

Moreover, His Highness ordered increases in the Award financial remunerations, the

quotas, and the categories. Thus, two new categories were initiated: the Distinguished School Administration and The Distinguished Educational Zone. With these two additions the number of prizes rose up to 172 prizes

In the same year, by the end of The Second Session, His Highness The Award Sponsor, gave his instructions to add a new category: Highly Distinguished Teacher, in confirmation of the high status of the teacher, and his message and role in raising generations of educated citizens. In the same year The parent Category was amended to be The Distinguished Family Category, with increases in its quotas and financial remunerations. In March 2001 His Highness The Award Sponsor issued

his directives to found The National Centre for The Gifted and The Distinguished, Affiliated to the Award and to be a core institution for nurturing the gifted till they become the scientific, intellectual and creative elite of the country.

In March 2002, His Highness The Award Sponsor issued further directives to add two new categories: The Best Educational Research and The distinguished Central Administration. With these new categories The Award covered all the elements in the educational system.

In March 2003 His Highness The Award Sponsor issued a decree for The Award to





include The Gulf Cooperation Council Countries in the categories of the Distinguished Student and The Distinguished School Administration.

These new additions initiated a new historical phase in the educational performance in the region, based on the philosophy of creativity and excellence simulations

In the conclusion of the Eighth Session in 2006, His Highness Sheikh — May Allah keep him — extended the scope of the Award for the benefit of the educators in the Arab Countries. Consequently His Highness issued his directives to initiate a new category under the name of “Best Applied Research in the Arab Nation” to be the Award fourteenth category.

In the ninth session the prize sponsor His Highness sheikh Hamdan gave instructions to honor establishments supporting education either national or international therefore establishments supporting education prize came up in the 11th Cycle of 2009.

And in the ten session ending ceremony in 2008 highness the prize sponsor announced his international initiation in establishing a global prize with cooperation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO) to develop teachers skills and abilities and performance, the prize was founded on the 15th of march 2009 in the French capital Paris under the name “ UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-

Maktoum prize for outstanding practice and performance in enhancing the effectiveness of teachers”

In addition the prize sponsor announced the founding of 3 higher education prizes in the 11th session ending ceremony, which were Higher education/ distinguished university student, Higher education/ Best Applied Project, Higher education/ Best Scientific Innovation which will be launched in the 12th session.

The Distinguished Personality of the year

At its 10th Cycle, the Award chose His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai to be «Distinguished Personality of the Year» in recognition of his continuous care and support to education and learners, inside or outside the UAE, regionally and globally, and because of his contributions to the excellent approach of announcing the establishment of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, with a capital of “AED 37 billion” to support and develop the various scientific and cognitive activities, besides announcing the largest humanitarian campaign bid aimed at providing educational opportunities to more than one million children around the world.

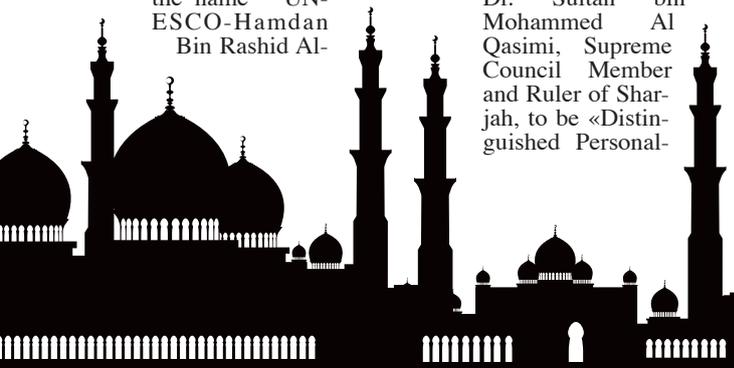
At 11th Cycle, the Award chose, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, to be «Distinguished Personal-

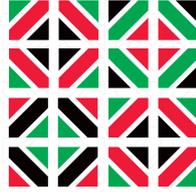
ity of the Year» in recognition of the role of HH in the educational process, support of development efforts, and the fruitful impact of HH in the science and culture movement locally, regionally and internationally.

At the 13th Cycle, His Highness Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ajman, was chosen to be «Distinguished Personality of the Year» by the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in recognition of HH efforts in the field of education and development, and enhancing the competitiveness therein.

At its 14th Cycle, the Award chose Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak to be «Distinguished Personality of the Year» in recognition of her leading role in the education and empowerment of women at all levels towards enhancing their different roles in the service of the nation as men, besides the great efforts exerted by Her Highness in support of education in general through the educational centers and institutions established and sponsored by Her

Highness, in addition to the extraordinary achievements of Her Highness on the level international organizations and institutions which contributed significantly to global reputation for UAE and Arab women.





Education in the UAE .. Confident Steps to Universality





Education in the UAE during 2012 moves forward with confident steps towards universality after coping with the latest teaching aids, driven by assurances from the prudent leadership that the radical development of education is an essential part of UAE Vision 2021. Education represents a national necessity for sustainable development, because the road to a better future for the UAE starts from the school.

The federal budget of 2013 focused on the social development sector and social benefits, which were allocated a sum of AED 22.7 billion, spearheaded by education sector, which acquired 22% of the total budget of the sector at AED 9.9 billion, in order to complete the implementation of the development strategy of education in the UAE.

The education budget has been increased to AED 6 billion, to support the development initiatives in UAE schools and to provide the required financial support for teaching staff upgrades.

In June, following the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the State, may Allah protect him, that the UAE commits to provide a decent living, economic prosperity, financial stability and greater opulence for the UAE nationals, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, may Allah preserve him, ordered to provide jobs and funds required to upgrade 7782 teachers and other workers in the cadre of educational bodies of mentors, headmasters, vice-headmasters, and administrators working in the Ministry of Education, out of the UAE



belief of the importance of the message performed by the teacher, and the great role played by teachers in the evolution of the nation, not to mention the need to encourage and motivate citizens in the staff of teachers, mentors, headmasters and vice-headmasters since education is the foundation for development and the pillar of countries advance. Attention paid to teachers is the first step in building and establishing modern states. The financial costs of these upgrades

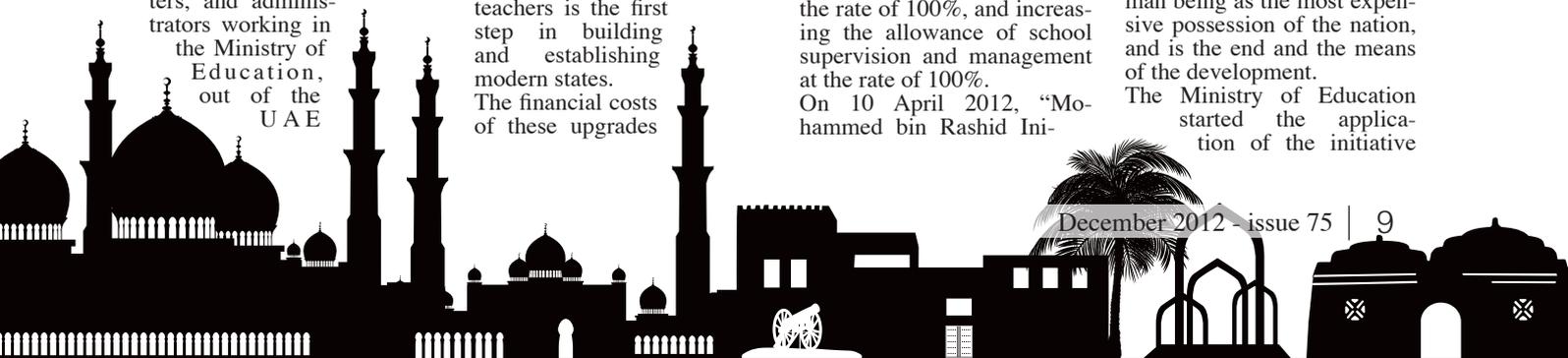
amount to AED 368 million a year. At the beginning of 2012, His Highness President of the UAE has ordered to apply increment to the salaries of workers in the federal government, including teachers and members of the educational bodies at the rate of 35% of the basic salary, in addition to increasing the nature of work allowance allocated to them at the rate of 100%, and increasing the allowance of school supervision and management at the rate of 100%. On 10 April 2012, “Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Smart Learning”

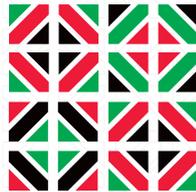
was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, may Allah preserve him. The Initiative includes all schools in the UAE at a cost of one billion dirhams.

The initiative aims to create a new learning environment in schools that includes smart classes in all schools, the distribution of iPads for all students, and providing all UAE schools with fourth generation high-speed networks, in addition to special training courses for teachers, and new scientific curricula supporting the main curricula.

The project is implemented in cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA) in the UAE with a direct follow-up from the Prime Minister Office. During the launch of the Initiative, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum stressed that the government will continue on the route of the principle followed by the UAE for forty years, which proved its success, namely, the investment in and the development of human being as the most expensive possession of the nation, and is the end and the means of the development.

The Ministry of Education started the application of the initiative





opment in the advanced societies of the world.



last September in the second stage classes in 18 government schools. The ministry has established an integrated plan and schedule containing various stages of the Initiative, which takes 5 years to be completed.

The project aims to achieve the objective of taking the curricula and teaching subjects out from the traditional frameworks and ordinary stereotypes school books, towards e-curricula and the scientific technological content, which provides students with opportunities of continuous learning, mass education, communication with the teachers, and accessing to the administrative programs and student information and data, via the world of cloud computing, and a bundle of integrated smart applications.

The project provides high-level communication networks,

characterized with flexibility in its content, and accuracy and speed in its tools, relying on modern technologies which provide opportunities of constructive dialogue and fruitful cooperation between all key parties to the educational process (administrators, teachers, students, parents) on the one hand, and on the other hand promoting school partnership with the surrounding local community (institutions and individuals).

2012 - 2013 School Year

With the beginning of the school year, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, may Allah preserve him, visited a number of schools in the emirates of Umm Al Quwain and Ajman, and participated his students celebrating their re-

turn to school in the first day of the new school year.

The number of students in the school year (2012 - 2013) increased by 3097% to 728,918 students, compared to the school year 1970 - 1971 wherein students number was 22,800.

Furthermore, the number of schools in the school year (2012 - 2013) increased by 1624% to 1276 schools after the UAE had contained only 74 schools.

In details, the number of students in government schools for the new school year amounted to 269,412 students, enrolled in 785 schools, compared to 458,508 students in private schools enrolled in 491 schools. Whereas the number of teaching, technical and administrative bodies members amounted to 29,332 teachers and administrators in schools at the UAE level.

The number of teaching, administrative and technical bodies in the government schools of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in various study stages this year amounted to 13,417 teachers, while the number of students amounted to nearly 1,271,100 students.

The number of students in private schools at the level of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi amounted to 185,000 students approximately receiving their study in 183 private schools including Arabic and foreign curriculum.

Illiteracy

In terms of literacy, according to the Statistics Centre in Abu Dhabi (SCAD), it has decreased significantly among citizens from 75.12% in 1971 to





40.08% in 1980, to 22.56% in 1990, to 12.08% in 2000, then to 6% during 2011. This latter percentage is one of the lowest rates of illiteracy in the Middle East, as the data of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics indicates that the overall rate of illiteracy in the Arab countries reached 27.3% in 2009.

Higher education

At the level of higher education, this sector has developed dramatically during the years of Union as there were no universities in the UAE except the United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain, which was established in 1977. Then it was followed by opening dozens of private and government universities, high-

er education institutions and colleges, which are spreading today in all regions of the UAE.

Such institutions include, for example, Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research; Zayed University; Higher Colleges of Technology; Abu Dhabi University; Paris Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi; Sharjah University; American University of Sharjah; American University in Dubai; St. Joseph University Dubai; Ajman University of Science and Technology; Institutes of Applied Technology in Abu Dhabi and other universities and colleges that have gained international academic reputation. Universities and colleges contributed to graduation of thousands of alumni. The number of

private higher education institutions exceeded 60 licensed educational institutions teaching 450 approved academic programs.

Academic and educational sector was not apart from keeping up with global developments, especially after His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai launched Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Program at the level of higher education in the UAE at the headquarters of Higher Colleges of Technology in Abu Dhabi.

His Highness signed on an «iPad» announcing the launch of applying Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Program at the level of Zayed University, United Arab Emirates University, and Higher Colleges of Technology in the UAE

wherein about fourteen thousand students studying in the foundation basic stage in the higher education institutions will take advantage of the Program.

His Highness also stressed that the optimal use of modern technologies in our university and colleges contributes greatly to make a quantum leap in the world of science and knowledge, and to prepare and qualify the sons and daughters of the UAE to face the future with all its challenges and requirements, as well as contributes to access to a new life after graduation armed with science and techniques that open to them wider and more compass horizons for creativity, excellence and constructive participation in building a civilized society that is able to keep up with scientific and knowledge devel-



At the first meeting of the Executive Committee,
**Hamdan Award coordinators emphasize
the commitment to standards**



(Attamauz News) . Dubai

The coordinators of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the educational zones emphasized that the participants shall commit to the standards, and be accurate while filling out the forms and attaching files for the works nominated to run the competitions of the Award in its various categories, especially the categories directly related to the student, such

as Distinguished Student, the Best Applied Project and the Best Scientific Innovation. Having included the coordinators of educational zones in its membership, the Award Executive Committee held its first meeting in Al Bustan Rotana Hotel in Dubai during the 15th Cycle of the Award. The meeting discussed the preparations of coordination offices for the competitions of the new cycle of the award and the needs of educational zones and schools of appli-

cations and introductory and interpretive guides for the Award standards, as well as training sessions and workshops, as the Award has finished printing its publications which will be distributed to schools in the coming days. Coordinators praised the various activities of the Award, which are aimed at raising the level of educational awareness of the importance of educational excellence and quality, especially during the annual Seminar of Best Prac-

tices and Adjudication Forum.

Participants in the meeting discussed ways of motivating members of the administration and academic bodies in the government schools to participate in the Research Award in the Arab world, as well as encouraging community institutions, both governmental and private ones, to contribute in supporting education, and participation in the Award of Education-Supporting Organizations.

Completion of the IQ tests for gifted programs applicants

(Attamauz News) - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance has completed IQ tests for students applying to join Nurturing the Gifted programs at Al Ibdaa and Al Nukhba model schools in Dubai Educational Zone; both are talented-incubator schools. The test comes within the framework of the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted executed by the Award in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, the Secretary-General of the Hamdan Award, stated that the tests have been applied on the fourth and fifth grades in science and math as a first stage in the Award's strategy in the application of IQ tests



gradually to include materials and other grades.

He pointed out that the project aims to discover talented students in an environment of empowerment and support which provides the principle

of equal opportunity for all talented students to learn in an attractive school environment that responds to their needs, challenges their abilities, and develops their talents through sophisticated enrich-

ment activities and programs offered by specialized teachers qualified to deal efficiently and effectively with talented students.

Al Muhairi said that the testing standards have been applied to a sample of candidates in the first stage grades of incubating schools. The Award offered the necessary training for teachers involved in the implementation of this project, pointing out that the program aims to study the needs of these schools of devices, modern teaching aids and scientific references necessary to support opportunities of success of the project and the achievement of its objectives.

The Award Secretary-General noted that the second phase will include other schools in the gifted programs, and will be announced in 2013.

International Experts to Update National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted

Dubai . (Attamauz News)

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance hosted a number of international experts from several prestigious universities to review and amend the Award-designed National Plan for Nurturing Gifted.

The Plan is financed by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, patron of the Award, aiming to spotting and nurturing talented students in the UAE schools, as well as qualifying national education staff dedicated to the educational process in gifted classes.

Mr. Suleiman Al Ansari, Chief Executive Director of the Award, stated that the experts meeting is a workshop where they audited the strategic plan for the Gifted, and discussed

developing it in accordance with the updates in the science of talent, in addition to discussing the best global practices in the education of the gifted.

He added that the experts participating in this process are the most prominent in the field of knowledge and awareness of the nature of the education systems in the region and the characteristics of the students. He explained that the Award is interested to keep pace with the changes and developments through consulting experts and developing the plan that contributes to spotting and nurturing the Gifted; educating, disseminating and partnership with institutions in the field of giftedness; and focusing on schools and centers of the Gifted; as well as preparation of development projects for them and development of cadres specialized in the same field.

The expert, Dr. Abdullah Al Jughayman, commended the Award's tendency to update the National Plan for Nurturing Gifted in the UAE; especially that it is flexible which allows it to enable adapting it with the changes and developments in the science of talent.

He stressed that the success of the Hamdan Award in the organization of the 12th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness last July, and attracting the leading scientists, experts and experiences, reinforced the importance of the project as a qualitative initiative in education contributing to its quality and excellence.

On the other hand, the international expert Haidron Stoger cited: "The National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted, adopted by the Hamdan Award, to be implemented in the United Arab Emirates is distinctive,

because it is the newest in the region, and the most accurate in terms of harmonizing with the conditions, nature and characteristics of the educational system."

She pointed out that this Plan proves the interest of the UAE in the Gifted, and that there is consistency between the research and application in the Plan presented by the Award. Such kind of high coordination does not exist in other countries.

The expert Albert Ziegler said that the comprehensiveness and integration of the plan of discovering and nurturing talented people prepared by the Hamdan Award is reason to be optimistic in the success of the project, which would serve as a precedent for the Middle East. Further, he praised the care and support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan for such an ambitious Plan.

Training program for 24 adjudicators from Kuwait to learn how to deal with the applications and required documents



«Attamauz Magazine»: Dubai

Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance organized two training programs for adjudicators in both Distinguished Teacher category and Distinguished School category at Tulaitula School in Kuwait as the first stage of the Adjudicators' training program at the level of the Award's competitions in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Both training programs focused on how to deal with the applications and the required attached documents, and to assess to what extent they fulfill the requirements in terms of documents, evidence and attachments. The training programs lasted for five days with the number of 24 adjudication participants.

The two programs take place in the framework of the Award's plan aimed at increasing educational awareness of the importance of learning quality, promoting a culture of excellence, and introducing educational field in the GCC states with the standards of the Award, as well as its updates for the 15th Cycle. Khawla Bahloq, Director of the Educational Excellence Department, said that Hamdan

Award had sent Rashid Al Muhaire and Samiya Majan, Adjudicators Experts, to Kuwait as a part of its aim toward creating local adjudicators from the participating countries as well as preparing them to adjudicate works received from teachers, students and schools that have entered the competition before sending them to the final arbitration stage of the Award.

Bahloq assured the response of the educational field in the GCC States is in continuous growth, during the past cycles, to consolidate the thought and culture of excellence at a considerable percentage of the educational system elements thanks to media momentum to show concept and approach of quality, as well as the Award programs coordinated with the efforts of the Ministries of Education in the GCC States, and the desire noticed in the area to achieve excellence and improve educational performance.

Issa Mohammed Burahma, Director of Educational Activities Department and Coordinator of the Award at the State of Kuwait, said that the 15th edition had been prepared by sending a handout to all public, private and qualitative schools explain-



ing the style and method of participation and communication with the work teams at the beginning of the school year.

He added: «Also, awareness meetings were held during several consecutive days for all categories interested in participating in the Award, as it was noticed that number of participants had been increasing in previous editions. The debate, dialogue, questions and inquiries reflected a clear interest to start registering participants, as at the end of every meeting, participation models of the winners in previous editions are displayed in the workshop».

The Coordinator of the Award

called all Supervisors of educational affairs of all levels to participate in the Award program by addressing to members of committee of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance.

Finally, he explained that training courses have played a significant role in the consolidation of some concepts and fundamentals related to the application for participation, as well as some technical issues, and he pointed out the participants feedback by raising a number of key issues as for the method of work and preparations for participating in the Award.

Throughout a worksheet presented by Dr. Naguib Mahfouz in «American University of Sharjah»,

Hamdan Award's news were reviewed at the meeting of consolidating excellence

Attamauz Magazine».
Sharjah

By presenting a worksheet, Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance took part at the meeting of consolidating excellence, organized by Sharjah Educational Zone at the American University under the patronage of HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah.

At a discussion session, Dr. Naguib Mahfouz, a member of the Central Adjudication Committees of Hamdan Award, presented one worksheet, in which he mentioned the latest news of the award for the 15th Cycle, its standards, entrepreneurial vision in driving educational performance excellence and nurturing gifted people.

Sharjah Educational Zone launched consolidated excellence initiative which aims to provide integrated care for distinguished people, and prepare them to participate in the various educational awards, and show their obvious and potential creations and skills to the targeted group and guide it to the best, and create a competitive environment among the participants in the awards.

Dr. Mahfouz pointed out the number of participants who were honored by the Award in the past years and which are just as likely as 1731 winners, stressing that the Hamdan Award has played a major role in spreading the culture of excellence, and motivating elements of the educational system to keep up with the quality of performance, and to search for its causes.



He also praised the efforts of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance and patron of the Award in his support of education, and raising it up to the level qualifying to achieve the aspirations of the UAE society.

Moreover, the Award participated in the Forum's co-exhibition with an exhibition stand where it distributed brochures and criteria of the award, interpretive evidences, promotional gifts as the focus was on the category of higher education, which include Distinguished University Student, Best Innovation, Best Applied Project.

On the other hand, Mr. Nassem Al-Samadi, founder of the excellence consolidation theory, presented, during the forum, a worksheet on «consolidation gateway to educational excellence». Other worksheets

were also presented by Amal Al-Afifi, Secretary General of Khalifa Award for Education, and Aisha Saif, Secretary General Sharjah Award for Excellence and Excellence in Education, and Adel Al-Marzouki, Manager of Institutional Excellence Department in Ministry of Education.

All sessions were managed by Saeed Al Kaabi, Director of Sharjah Educational Zone, who stressed the importance of participation in educational awards at the state level, a in order to achieve a quantum leap in various fields.

From her part, Mona Jawad Salman, Head of the Strategic Planning Unit and institutional excellence in Sharjah Educational Zone and Coordinator of Hamdan Award, that the reference of (consolidating excellence) initiative is the standards of institutional and educational

Awards in the UAE, the categories of which are: students, teachers, employees, school administrators, and mentor educators.

She explained that one of the initiative's pillars is the fifth topic in the strategic plan of the Ministry of Education, whereas the ninth strategic goal is to ensure provision of decentralized administrative services with high quality, efficiency and transparency in a record time, and ensure the application of quality standards and institutional excellence. As well, she pointed out the importance of launching obvious and potential creations and skills of targeted groups, and direct them to the best under the guidance of the wise leadership which attaches great importance to spreading a culture of excellence, in terms of the belief that this is the key to improving performance.

A photograph showing two women in hijabs sitting at a desk, looking at and writing on documents. The woman on the left is wearing a black hijab and glasses, while the woman on the right is wearing a white hijab and a purple top. They appear to be in an office or administrative setting, focused on their work.

Educational Zones finish adjudication of “Distinguished Student”, 50 Adjudicators to start adjudication on December, 22nd

Follow-up: Samer Salah

50 Adjudicators, in Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, begin central adjudication projects on next December 22nd, where the first stage will last until next January 5th. Educational zones in the state had finished adjudication of the participants’ applications for the fifteenth edition of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, in the category of the distinguished student, and handed over the adjudicated applications to the Award’s management as a preparation for the second stage called central adjudication.



In a survey conducted by «Attamaouz Magazine», all the Award's Coordinators in all educational zones have agreed on the fact that the timing of handing over participations, which coincided the first class exams as well as the 41st National Day celebrations, was the reason of withdrawing some applicants at the last minute, and prevented others to complete submission of required documents, requiring the Award's management to take exams dates into account while preparing the next edition. Khawla Bahloq, Director of Excellence Department at the Award, explained that the central adjudication is the next stage of areas adjudication, which consists of several phases, the first includes assessing candidates' applications and attached documents, where the second deals with field adjudication as well as per-

sonal interviews and site visits to the candidates, as for the third phase is to prepare final results and get them approved by the Board of Trustees. Abu Dhabi Education Council begins its preparation for the current edition since the beginning of the current academic year by registering names of those who intend to participate this year, and that in collaboration with Coordinators of educational prizes at schools, noticing that a large number of applications has been counted from various categories, amounted to 4 thousand, 923 of them have applied to adjudication committees, mostly in the category of distinguished student. Abu Dhabi Education Council was keen to provide adjudication requirements and provision of necessary support involving a visit of Mohamed Salem Mohamed Al Thahiri, Executive Di-

rector of School Operations, to the adjudication committees during work the final interviews with students applying for the Award, where he addressed lots of useful comments for the coming years, where the most important was to form a working group to visit public schools, and urge them to participate actively. Al Thahiri said that Abu Dhabi Education Council has dedicated its efforts in promoting schools in the three regions of Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Al Gharbiya, to contribute to the Award competitions that overshoots local boundaries to the Arab and international prospects.

Great efforts

Rashid Mohammed Salim Saeed, Coordinator of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, in Abu Dhabi Edu-

cational Zone, stated that adjudications in Abu Dhabi Office went well, and that candidates' files have been adjudicated three times, in addition to interviews conducted with students and visits to the teachers in their schools.

He also explained that, as a result of the large number of applicants for the award this year, the Committee began its work well early i.e since last 11 November by circular to all public and private schools through text messages and emails as well as official circular via fax, upon this circular stickers was distributed for the fifteenth edition of Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, as well as evidences of candidature.

Training courses

He added: «Adjudication Subcommittee conducted a number of training courses

in the student, teacher and research areas, in different parts of the city where a lot of notes have been presented, as well as conditions to be met upon submitting files of the Award's applicants, which have been transmitted through the adjudication forum and best practices forum, noticing that these training workshops have facilitated a lot of business for the adjudication sub-committees as a result of applicants' compliance with the observations noted during the workshops.

Workshops

Jamila Salem Al Thahiri, General Coordinator of educational Prizes at Al Gharbia Education Office of Abu Dhabi Education Council, confirmed that im-

mediately upon completion of the fourteenth edition activities, the office organized workshops to reward all categories of the Award in several schools belonging to the office, and in September, committees' chairmen were selected, and a meeting of the coordination office members was held, in addition to site visits to schools in order to introduce the Awards.

She added: «Applicants wishing to participate on line were contacted through the educational windows forum of Al Gharbia Education Office, and the Award's updates and publications were circulated on the targeted audience».

She also said that the office has organized a forum for educational prizes in

Al Marfaa Grils School, were the winners in the categories of Awards have been honoured, including 33 distinguished in the student category, teacher and researches categories, as well as school management and distinguished family categories. Moreover, committees of the Coordinating Bureau of the prizes were honoured, in addition to Al Areej kindergarten and the family of the student Faris Marzouk Al Saari and Madinat Zayed for disabled people.

Al Thahiri urged participants to apply for electronic documentation and take into account number of pages and required sizes, to pay attention to the years required to apply for business, to take in considera-

Abu Dhabi adjudicated 923 participants mostly in the category of distinguished student

Adjudication of candidates' files in Abu Dhabi office took place 3 times

Al Gharbia Education Office communicates with those applying for e-participation

Launch of an Excellence Centre in Dubai to provide consultancies for all applicants categories



tion signature, stamps, and official credits, and to open the program in different computers.

She also stated that the coincidence of submitting files at the same time the exams and celebrations of National Day took place, prevented some applicants from participating, calling to mind such circumstances in the future editions, mentioning that the number of applications in the current edition is much more better than the previous ones, and that this year's edition has witnessed a strong participation, revealing the participation in the category of the best scientific innovation, in addition to 25 files in the category of distinguished student, and 7 applications in the category

of best educational research plus one teacher, that was a preliminary outcome.

Initiatives in Dubai

Abdul Al Qader Al Amiri, Coordinator of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Dubai Educational Zone, stated that upon starting the edition, several initiatives were launched to increase the number of participants in the Award, which were distributed in a certain chronological order.

He added: «A meeting was held with the coordinators of the prizes at schools in collaboration with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai, and was attended by 50 teachers (men & wom-

en), involving coordination between them, and arranging work mechanisms to begin the events of the 15th edition», pointing out that the prize of Best coordinator at schools was launched to encourage gifted students, and urged them to participate in the Award.

He stated that the educational zone has worked to coordinate efforts with the knowledge Authority supervising private schools in Dubai after a bilateral meeting resulted in a memorandum of understanding and the formulation of a framework for cooperation, as well as visits to schools to encourage students to apply for the Award.

Moreover, he stated that the number of site visits to schools amounted to 25

visits, including specific and general schools, noticing that the workshops, conducted by the educational zone in the category of distinguished school, amounted to 10 private and public workshops, plus 7 workshops in the category of distinguished teacher.

He said: «An excellence centre was launched in the training and development centre of the educational zone at Tulaitila School, which is consultancies-specialized centre dedicated to all applicants from different categories, the timing of which are on Saturday from 8 AM until 5 PM, to provide applicants with instructions to complete their applications step by step during counselling sessions», referring to the number of the





74 students nominated for the central adjudication in Sharjah Educational Zone

43 students nominated for the central adjudication in Al Sharqiya Zone

Desire to postpone participation to the next edition lead to withdrawals in Al Fujairah

Al Fujairah nominates 22 applications for the central adjudication, 14 of them are in the distinguished student category

centre's beneficiaries which exceeded 100 beneficiaries. He also revealed that the steps taken by the educational zone resulted in increasing the number of participants in various categories, and that the applications which were selected to the central adjudication are characterized by strength and durability, claiming the quorum of Dubai Educational Zone to be increased as the limitation to a certain number deprives distinguished applicants from winning the Award.

He pointed out that what distinguishes the current edition is the participation of applied technology institute in both best implemented project and distinguished student categories.

Fierce competition

At Sharjah Educational Zone, Mona Jawad Salman, Head of the Strategic

Planning Unit and Institutional Excellence and Coordinator of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, explained that the number of candidates from the distinguished student category amounted to 74 candidates, plus 4 in the distinguished teacher category, and 3 participations in the category of school and distinguished school management, as well as one project, targeted and action research, and two families. She added: «Adjudication committees in the distinguished student category commenced their work for foreign private schools this month Dec 18th, whereas government and model schools committees began on December 25th».

Salman confirmed that the competition has intensified among students of private foreign schools, with a dis-

tinguished applications in all criteria of student category, which shows combined efforts of students and their parents, along with the school administrations in creating ways to compete in the Award, also emerged the role of private foreign schools administrations in taking special care of distinguished and gifted students, as well as students and parents efforts which emerged to meet the requirements of the participation criteria.

In terms of improvement opportunities, the Award's coordinator at Sharjah Educational Zone explained that effecting excellence coordinators' role in the government and model schools supports distinguished students and prepare them to participate in various local and international Awards, stressing the need to activate participation of boys'



schools in general in all excellence categories.. She also explained that the challenges of the current edition are time coincidence of submitting candidature applications with the first semester exams, which prevented 20 students (girls & boys) from submitting their applications, noticing that a number of 94 candidates (girls & boys) were registered at the excellence unit, but only 74 of them actually applied.

Al Sharqiya zone

Sharjah Educational Zone had nominated 43 candidates at Al Sharqiya area to compete for Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in its 15th edition.

Ahmed Hassan Al Qathi, Head of activities and school environment in Sharjah Educational Zone

Participants in the 15th Cycle and Candidates to Central Adjudication – Abu Dhabi Educational Council

Category	Applicant	Nominee
Student	853	83
Teacher	34	4
Administration	9	1
Specialist	5	-
Family	4	1
Project and Innovation	7	-
Research	5	3
Supervisor	1	-
Highly Teacher	3	1
Elder	2	-
Total	923	93

at Al Sharqiya area and Coordinator of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, said that all excluded applications did not meet the required conditions and standards, wish-

ing all the best to all candidates, and those unlucky in this edition to participate again next year.

Al Qathi said: «Adjudication committee assessed 79 projects from all categories, a revision of those projects

was conducted resulting in the exclusion of 38 projects, and referring of 43 project to the Award's management to compete in the 15th edition.

He added that 34 participations, in the category of distinguished student, and 5 in the category of distinguished teacher, and one participation in the category of distinguished school and school administration, along with two participations in the educational research category, and one in the category of distinguished project were sorted out.

Art of documentation and files configuration

For her part, Moza Salhi, Coordinator at Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, in Umm Al Quwain educational zone, confirmed that adjudica-

Participants in the 15th Cycle – Al Fujairah Educational Zone

Student	Teacher	Highly Teacher	Administration	Family	Research	Specialist	Project	Supervisor	Elder
43	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1

tion of applications, in the distinguished student category, were completed, and that 4 of them were selected to the central adjudication in an initial outcome, plus one participation only in the category of distinguished teacher.

Al Salhi demanded to amend the time of submitting applications in the coming editions, as the current one coincided with exams and the National Day celebrations, which led to withdrawing some applicants from the participation. For her part, Mariam Saqr

Mohammed Samahi, Coordinator at Hamdan Bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Fujairah Educational Zone, said: «The adjudication committee of the distinguished student category has completed the evaluation of participating applicants in the 15th edition, as all the applications issued by Al Maydan educational schools, and wishing to participate in the Award's categories, were received, then registered at the launching of the edition».

She mentioned that the number of participants in the current edition amounted to 57 candidatures, including 43 in the category of distinguished student, 5 in the category of distinguished teacher, plus two participations in the social specialist category, in addition to one participant in each of the following categories: Highly Distinguished teacher, school administration, applied educational research and unique project, as well as directed and older student.

Samahi clarified that de-

spite continuous communication and efforts made by the coordination department of the Award in the educational zone, as well as the concerned audience in the education area, considerable withdrawals were noticed in the categories of the student, teacher and family, due to their desire to postpone their applications to the next edition, which led to the shrinking of numbers received for participation from schools of the region.

She explained that the participants and those inter-





ested in the Award have confirmed that the reason for their reluctance or postponing their application, is due to the psychological factor which causes to them a big pressure and burden, especially for families or their sons who wish to participate, noticing that the time of delivery of projects shall be at the beginning of current December, claiming the time of application to be delayed to the end of December or January.

She added: «The short time left, readiness of students and area, and the majority of families to pass the first semester exams, which took place in advance comparing with the last year, as the stage of the prescribed curriculum termination has begun as well as the preparations and exams of students before the end of November, all this led to the

Nominated Participations to the Central Adjudication – Sharjah Educational Zone

Category	Nominated No.
Student	74
Teacher	4
Administration	3
Project	1
Supervisor	1
Research	1
Family	2

withdrawal of distinguished students and teachers due to their concern to terminate the curriculum, in addition to the work supervision committees for correction and grading, especially as the delivery date of the projects coincided with this period out of free time.

She noted that the majority of students in all grades participated in the 41st Na-

tional Day celebrations, thus most of the students, who are candidates of the Award, were participating in the ceremonies held all around the country as distinguished and outstanding students, so they took part in the presentations and competitions at a national level organized by different ministries, as well as events organized by those authori-

ties having their activities aimed at school students, all the above made them unable to prepare and process the application file, and is the same case for other categories, such as teacher and social specialist as well as school administrations.

Selected candidates

Al Samahi declared that 22 applications have been selected to the central adjudication, 14 of them are in the category of distinguished student, and 11 applications were excluded for non-applicability of some application conditions and criteria, in addition to 4 applications out of 5 in the category of distinguished teacher, plus one participation in the category of older student, and two participations in the category of social specialist and one in the educational research.