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phase of the Central
Adjudication ..
And field visits begin

20 associates of Gifted Education
Diploma finish field training

«Board of Trustees»
recommends strengthening dissemina-
tion of excellence concept

Program to develop
social and psychological
skills for the Gifted
launched





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Issue and Correspondence:

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



Preventing education from tampering

* When the UAE defined the objectives of education, employed enormous human and financial resources for it, instructed to create a modern infrastructure and an administrative and technical system, and allocated operational budgets costing billions of dirhams annually, in order to enable education to achieve its pure national objectives, it means that it works and strives for building an advanced state that is susceptible to sustainable development, able to provide a decent life for its citizens, and to ensure a secure and stable future for the coming generations; a state committed to its duties and rights, empowered to tackle the risks and face all the challenges and changes.

* When the UAE puts all the above at our disposal as officials and partners in the educational process, whether we are administrators, teachers or parents, then it places full trust in us, and confides the most expensive wealth, including the heritage, culture, civilization, achievements, hopes and aspirations; thus, education becomes great trust with us, that requires a high sense of responsibility, preservation of its mission, ensuring its sincere performance and integrity, and paying attention to any effects that may change its destination and deviate it away from its national goals, or that could bring harm to the nation if fell in the grip of personalization, ideology and other purposes. Education requires great awareness from people in charge of the educational process and official supervision authorities; it requires the availability of a strict mechanism for continuous supervision, follow-up and assessment of the educational performance. Most importantly, it requires the application of standards for early detection of any intellectual and behavioral deviations that may occur in the system, so that these standards predispose the community to urgent treatment for any crisis before it escalates.

* Though the Ministry of Education and its institutions hold great responsibility in providing protective immunity to the educational and academic system against any breach or deviation, but we are all responsible for the safety of our education and immunity of our schools, so that they are tightly closed, and away from any tampering or distortion.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

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Caricature





«Board of Trustees» recommends strengthening dissemination of excellence concept

«Attamauz News» - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance Board of Trustees recommended working to strengthen the positive aspects achieved in the dissemination of the excellence concept, high qualitative level participations, and to increase the level of understanding excellence standards in the Award categories.

Chaired by HE Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in the office of the ministry in Dubai, in the presence of Dr. Jamal Al

Muhairi, Vice President of the Board and the Secretary General of the Award, and the members of the Board of Trustees.

HE Al Qutami praised the care and support provided by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, for boosting the efforts of UNESCO in the implementation of global programs of spreading and improving education, in addition to achieving the objectives of Education for All.

MOE Minister praised HH's interest and sponsorship of educational excellence programs, as well as supporting the plans of the Ministry of Education by means of HH's Award for

distinguished academic performance, and the projects targeting improving education, and upgrading it from tradition to modernity.

The Board was briefed on the report of the visit of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid to the headquarters of UNESCO presiding a high-level delegation last October. During the visit HH signed two agreements with UNESCO to fund some educational projects, and discussed the ways of mutual cooperation in the educational and cultural fields. The Board was also briefed on the final report of the 12th Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness (Giftedness 2012), which was held in Dubai last July un-

der the auspices of the Award. The Board commended the outcome of Giftedness 2012 and its achieved scientific and marketing objectives, that were reflected on the status of the UAE on the giftedness map, not to mention enriching the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted that the Award implements in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

The Award's Board of Trustees instructed the Award management to circulate the scientific profit gained from Giftedness 2012 by taking the necessary steps to publish its lectures and workshops online at the Award website. The Board was also briefed on the final report of the 14th Cycle of the Award.



20 associates of Gifted Education Diploma finish field training

Samer Salah – Dubai

20 associates of Gifted Education Professional Diploma Program have finished field training while they are now preparing for graduation ceremony. Khaleda Mohammed Al Husseini, head of Guidance and Counseling Division at the Gifted Programs Section in the Department of Gifted Welfare in Award Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, stated that this is the third batch of the Program, which witnessed - for the first time - the enrollment of two male members, noting that the number of associates and alumni of the program amounted to 60 people.



On the basis of keeping pace with the developments and changes taking place in the fields of education, in addition to meeting the needs and requirements, and because gifted education is unusual specialty, and it is required by the educational field, Hamdan Award provides Gifted Education Professional Diploma Program in cooperation with Arabian Gulf University within the Award's agreement with the Ministry of Education, which is the first professional diploma program to be applied in the Arab world in the field of gifted education.

Al Husseini noted that the training program seeks to achieve a goal of the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted, namely, the development of national human resources of teachers, helping them to acquire knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the field of gifted education; as well as preparing qualified teachers in field of gifted education, meeting the needs of the educational field, supplying it with expertise and high educational leaders, and contributing to the development of educational institutions, not to mention empowering them to

provide services and programs that help meeting the special needs of gifted students. She added that the program seeks to provide professional and academic programs advanced in terms of form and content coping pace with the level of aspirations and objectives of the Award. She explained that the program targets are the special education teachers and supervisors, in addition to teachers and supervisors of different educational subject. She stated that the associate members of the first and second batches have benefited a

lot from the Professional Diploma; they enriched different areas of the educational field, both in spreading the culture of talent, or spotting talented students; they also helped in the formation of committees to discover gifted students, and trained teachers of gifted students. As well, they implemented courses for talented students in schools through participation in programs during the holiday between 1st and 2nd semesters and summer programs organized by the Award's Department of Gifted Welfare for talented students.



Speaking about the conditions of enrollment in the Program, Al Hussein said that an applicant shall be UAE national, with at least “good” in the BA degree, and a bachelor’s degree in education from a recognized university, enjoying an experience of not less than 3 years in teaching. In addition to that, the applicant shall have obtained an “excellent” cumulative evaluation in the teaching efficiency report for three years; he / she shall

obtain the approval of study from the work authority, and pass the interview or any other exams and requirements. The applicant shall have self-motivation and initiative to work with the talented class, as well as commitment to attend all courses of the Program. She said that the student gets a warning letter in case of absence from 10 percent of the lectures, and will not be allowed to enter the final exam in the event of absence from

25 percent of the scheduled classes. The student will be awarded a diploma if achieved “good” rate in all subjects, provided that the cumulative GPA is at least 3 of 4 points. Regarding the duration of the program, she said that the program is presented in five months at 6 hours a day from 08:30 AM to 02:30 PM, with 28 hours in total. She mentioned that the program is delivered by professors specialized in the field of

gifted education from Arabian Gulf University and other professors from specialized universities. Concerning the privileges enjoyed by the Program’s associates, Al Hussein stated that students who have passed the professional Program are able to complete their studies to achieve academic diploma or master’s degree in gifted education program at Arabian Gulf University after equation of the study subjects.





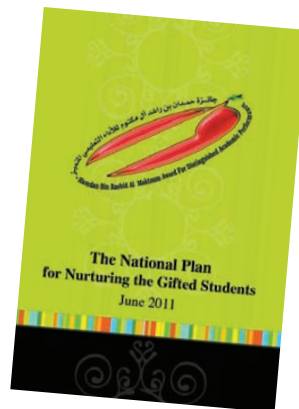
Program to develop social and psychological skills for the Gifted launched

Samer Salah – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance completed a program to develop social and psychological skills for the gifted students.

Khaleda Mohammed Al Husseini, head of Guidance and Counseling Division at the Gifted Programs Section in the Department of Gifted Welfare in Award Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, stated that the program has been

accomplished by consultants and experts in talent field. The program comes within the National Plan for spotting and nurturing the Gifted. She noted that the program includes gifted students aged from 10 to 17 years old, within the framework of the national plan for discovering and nurturing the gifted people which depends on the latest programs, tools and modern scientific methods, in order to achieve a quantum leap in the nurturing the Gifted and to expand the care and attention paid to them to include all national students



in UAE schools .

However, that the National Plan organizes all the practices targeting talented class within an integrated model constructed according to the latest scientific theories and studies. The plan was designed specifically to include all gifted students in all schools with care.

The plan aims to utilize the capabilities of talented groups; meet national priorities; increase communication, participation and community service; and upgrade the national staff working in the field of talent.

Al Suwaidi stresses that the Award shall continue establishing the principle of transparency and impartiality,

End of the theoretical phase of the Central Adjudication .. And field visits begin

By : Samer Salah

Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance started field visits to candidates who have successfully passed Central Adjudication – the second phase after the theoretical adjudication of applications. Hamdan Award also finished interviews of the 15th Cycle of the Distinguished Student at the local level in the Men’s Higher Colleges of Technology - Dubai on January 5th.

176 of the candidate students were qualified for the second phase of the interview at the rate of 65.7 percent of the total 268 participating students. Interviews were made by 17 adjudicators over two days.

The second phase of Central Adjudication (field visits) will start at the local level on January 13th until January 17th 2013, where adjudicators will visit schools and meet teachers who have been nominated. Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance had finished Central Adjudication processes for the participating applications in the local competitions of the 15th Cycle of the Award in various categories at the local level.

Adjudication processes involved elite of expertise in the field of excellent educational performance including employees in the public education and higher education sectors, according to the Award criteria.

Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Member of the Board of Trustees and General Coordinator of Arbitration Committees, praised the role of adjudicators in the assessment of distinguished educational practices as expressed by the applications.

He stressed that the Award shall continue establishing the principle of transparency and impartiality in its adjudication methodology, in addition to accuracy of the results and credibility in granting the degree of excellence to the eligible recipients among the elements of the educational system.

The number of participations at the local level hit 338 distributed according to educa-



dr. Khalifa alsuaidi

tional zones as follows: 104 applications in Dubai Educational Zone, 66 applications in Abu Dhabi Educational Zone, 23 applications in the Al Ain Educational Zone, 9 applications in the Western Educational Zone, and 50 applications in Sharjah Educational

Zone.

The number of applications in Sharjah Educational Bureau - East Zone was 32, Ajman Educational Zone presented 8 applications, Umm Al Quwain Educational Zone submitted 5 applications, Ras Al Khaimah Educational Zone submitted 8 applications, and Fujairah Educational Zone submitted 22 applications, while universities and colleges participated with 11 applications in higher education competitions.

At the level of categories, the Distinguished Student came first by 268 applications, followed by the Distinguished Teacher by 26, then the Distinguished School by 11 ones. Khawla Bahloq, Educational Excellence Director in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, cited that participation numbers for this

Bahloq: Excluding files that did not comply with the number of attachments for each category

65.7% of the participating students were qualified to the interview

17 adjudicator interviewed 176 participants in the Student over two days

Start of field visits on 13th of Jan.



year are close to those of last year, as there are 338 participations while they were 333 ones in the 14th Cycle. She noted that the number of participating Distinguished Teacher increased by about 30 percent, as there are 26 participations, while they were 20 ones last Cycle. The Best Project participations number also increased by 350 percent, as they amounted to 9 projects whereas they were only 2 projects last year. As well, the number of participations in the Educational Research increased by about 62 percent reaching 13 research while last year they were only 8 ones. Khawla Bahloq commended the increase of the number of participating students of schools and universities by 68 percent in this Cycle. She explained that there is a decline in the GCC participations in the current Cycle compared to the previous one, noting that the number of applicants to the Award in the current Cycle amounted to 60

participations, compared to 70 ones in the previous year, with a decrease by 14.2 percent. She added that there was a decrease in the number of participating GCC schools by 52 percent as their participations numbered 9, while they hit 19 ones the last year. Miss Khawla noted the increased number of participations from Saudi Arabia, which amounted to 44 participations among both male and female categories, while they were 36 ones last year, with 22 percent increase. Bahloq commended the participations of Saudi Arabia, which she described as good, while Qatar's number went down by 50 percent, as there are only two participations this year, while there were four last year. She emphasized that the adjudication process went smoothly, and that there are files with good prominent levels in both the Student and the Teacher. She explained that about 10 new adjudicators were intro-

duced to Central Adjudication committees, and that committees have taken advantage of national capabilities that were really noticeable. She revealed that some files were excluded on the basis that they did not comply with the number attachments for each category as follows: (Student: 100 pages or 50 sheets, University Student: 100 pages or 50 sheets, Teacher: 250 pages, Highly Distinguished Teacher: 250 pages, School and School Administration: 500 pages, Best Project: 100 pages, Best Innovation: 100 pages, Psychological and Social Worker: 250 pages, Supervisor: 200 pages, Family: 300 pages, and Education-Supporting Organization: 50 pages). The Educational Excellence Director of Hamdan Award stated that 3 categories witnesses reluctance, namely, Educational Zone, Psychological Specialist, and Central Administration, as no participation was submitted in these three categories.

Educational Excellence Director: 3 categories witness reluctance in Cycle 15

Increase by 62% in application to the Educational Research amounting to 13

10 new adjudicators in central committees, with noticeable national capabilities

GCC applications went down by 14.2% amounting to 60 nominations

Participations in the 15th Cycle

Cat. Zone	School	Student	Teacher	H. D. Teacher	Social Worker	Supervisor	Innovation	Project	Research	Family	Educational Zone	Total
Abu Dhabi	1	57	3	1					3	1		66
Al Ain		17	2		1			2		1		23
Western		6					1		2			9
Dubai	5	85	8		1			2	3			104
Sharjah	2	39	4			1		1	1	2		50
Sharjah / East	1	23	5					1	2			32
Ajman	1	6						1				8
Umm Al Quwain		4	1									5
Ras Al Khaimah	1	5						1	1			8
Fujairah		16	3		1		1		1			22
Universities & Colleges		10						1				11
Total	11	268	26	1	3	1	2	9	13	4	0	338

GCC Participations in the 15th Cycle

State	Student	Teacher	School	Total
KSA/Boys	9	5	2	16
KSA/Girls	8	7	3	18
Kuwait	4	6	2	12
Qatar	1	1	0	2
Bahrain	7	3	2	12
Total	29	22	9	60



Students and their parents at the moment of entering to interviews ..

Tension .. Self-confidence .. Commitment to standards is the decisive factor

Reportage : Samer Salah

Attending with their parents, they could not hide their perturbation and tension that infiltrate them and their companions, but their self-confidence and confidence in the precision of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance standards contributed to making them steadfast and gave them the opportunity to show their talents and excellence. «Attamauz News» accompanied the students and their parents when they entered to the interviews to monitor their feelings at these moments, and prepared this reportage.



Mariam Jassem Al Marzouqi cited that this is her first participation in Hamdan Award. She was very excited and having no fear at all; because she derived her courage from her mother, who was with her at all her excellence stages.

Al Marzouqi said that she adores excellence since she was a child, whereas Hamdan Award is an opportunity to showcase her excellence and talents, and that excellence is a characteristic which is like the most beautiful dream in her life she pursues, noting that excellence is not difficult to achieve, however it needs diligence, persistence and hard work.

Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Lathqani, a winner of Distinguished Teacher in the 5th Cycle of Hamdan Award, attended with his daughter, Sarah. Sarah has won in the Distinguished Student competition two times. He waited for his daughter until she

finished her interview.

Mr. Al Lathqani wandered why the jury had asked his daughter for the books from which she learned how to develop her talents and skills while he received a clear message stating bringing documents that are related to the talent (certificates and the like), which she already brought, whereas bringing the books means heavy loads.

Upon asking Sarah about the importance of Hamdan Award for her, she answered that it dominates the thoughts of distinguished people, provides them with the motivation to increase their activities and skills, and contribute to encouragement of fair competition among talented people not to mention supporting their superiority.

For his part, Ahmad Mohammed Hamdan, an outstanding student in the tenth grade who had already won the award when he was in fifth grade, ex-

pressed his happiness to participate for the second time, especially that the award contributed significantly to his eagerness for excellence.

He explained that the award provided him with the motivation to finish memorizing the Holy Quran with good reading (recitation), pointing out that everyone has to have a positive role in the community; which urged him to encourage his friends to participate in the Award, clarifying to them that excellence is within reach but it needs persistence, diligence, self-confidence, a motive and an encouraging stimulus such as Hamdan Award.

He commended the remarkable method of the committees, specifically in asking the questions, encouragement, discarding the participants' fear and perturbation, and avoiding provocative questions.

He stressed that winning the

Mariam Al Marzouqi:
Excellence is not difficult to achieve but needs diligence and continuous hard work

Sarah: Hamdan Award
encourages fair competition among talented people and supports their superiority



award is only the beginning of brilliance and excellence way in this wonderful country, that is because the Award described to us the rules and regulations to pursuit excellence according its global standards.

Sami, a head of a family that likes excellence and seeks it in all spheres of life, said: "I kept encouraging them to excellence until they motivated me to it". His daughter, Fatima, won in the previous cycle and encouraged her brother, Fahd, and her sister, Haya, to participate in the Award.

He stated that a creative chaos occurred in the house turning it into a school, forum and center for the development of skills and explorations. Therefore the father caught up with the talented procession; he began study and follow-up after he thought for a moment that he had missed train. He worked hard, persevered and entered the field of

excellence to get a master's degree in telecommunications.

Sami wished that the delivery of achievement file would be delayed until after National Day so that students can attach their participation its activities with their files.

His son, Fahd, who had just finished his interview said: "The Award supplied him with self-confidence and strengthened his spirit of excellence and pride about himself. Participation in the Award has given him a high position among his friends and teachers; they started to refer to him as an outstanding student, and he became a role model among his friends".

Fahd could not avoid expressing his admiration of the members of the jury since their smiles and encouragement to him made him feel affability and optimism about success and excellence.

Humaid Ibrahim is a student

proceeding towards excellence with steady steps. His self-confidence and insistence to be at the forefront defeated his fear from the interview. He considers participating in the Award an outstanding achievement and educational credit for him; he is very happy that teachers now respect him and his colleagues admire him more than ever before, which has boosted his spirit of leadership and cooperation.

He explained that he benefited from his previous participation in the last cycle despite not winning, in the sense that this year he has become able to attach what was missing from his file last year with the help of his mother and teachers. He advised his colleagues to participate and apply for the award, noting that if he were not the first, at least he is competing for the first position.

For her part, Humaid Ibrahim's is satisfied with her son and ad-

Ahmad Mohammed Hamdan: Hamdan Award provided me with motivation to finish memorizing the Quran

Humaid Ibrahim: Participation in Hamdan Award is an outstanding achievement and educational credit

mires his personality. She thinks that the Award put her son in the foreground, and constituted a motive for her son that stimulated him to diligence, studying his lessons and focusing on the development of his skills as it paved a way before him to achieve excellence in all fields of his life.

Humaid's mother praised the Forum's role in facilitating the task entrusted to parents to help their children, as the Forum illustrated the standards by which evaluation will be based on. In addition, it contributed to the lessening of a lot of effort, pressure and time.

She was pleased because the jury members attended to talk to them and to benefit from their knowledge, as well as the presence of some distinguished students in previous years to share their experiences with the students newly applying and to benefit from them.

Humaid's mother hoped that officials of the Award inform the parents in advance so that students can review their file, as she was informed to attend before only one day, which forced her to interrupt her vacation and return quickly, the thing which caused confusion to the family.

Tala Suhail, a distinguished student in the fifth grade, was surpassed by her brother to excellence, then he began encouraging her to participate. She said that the Award criteria made her arrange her talents and seek to develop them. She added that the presence of clear Award standards and excellence controls makes it easier for people to achieve their goals and reduces distance and time, noting that she seeks to win the Award; because she believes that winning the Award supports her belief that she made her first step towards success and progress.

Tala stressed that the Award has contributed to the development of her character and the increase of her self-confidence, made her gain a lot of respect in the school, pointing out that she could not hide her tension before entering the jury, because her love of winning and excellence is a dream of her a long time ago, as she sleeps and wakes up imagining she is on the podium.





Moments & Footage

Moments & Footage

Monitoring and comment by Samer Salah
 Waiting moments with the taste of tension.. Flavored with pride with achievements.. Taste of anticipation and winning .. It is the waiting room to enter to arbitration committees, and these are the elite students, candidates of the 15th Cycle, entering to the jury with confidence inspired by their parents who share them the same tension. Soon, parents show steadfastness to help students prove to the jury the truthfulness of what was stated in the applications, and to prove that their excellence is not fortuitous; rather, it is the outcome of days and sleepless nights effort.

Through footage, «Attamauz News» camera documented waiting moments experienced by candidates to interviews in the category of Distinguished Student for the 15th Cycle with their parents inside the hall of the Men's Higher Colleges of Technology - Dubai.



