

23% Increase in Local Participations Committees in Field



AIT News Tamayoz

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Hamdan Award Wins Membership of International Organization for Teachers

Standards for Selecting and Operating Schools for Talent

400% Increase in UNESCO-Hamdan Prize Participations

Winter Camp to Make Talented Students Acquire Leadership & Planning Skills



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Issue and Correspondence:

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for
Distinguished Academic Performance

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OUR VISION

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

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Educational Creativity Lab

* A style we have not ever known before, and a new method of planning and work created by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai: it is the government creativity lab, which will inevitably lead to a shift in driving the effort of government performance towards quality and efficiency, especially in education, which found its objective in time when it really needs such an objective to be able shift from theories, studies and experiments to the application of innovative solutions; and consequently, to correct the path of education due to its role as one of the essential national pillars to ensure the continuation of the long-term development movement, and to secure the competitive position of the State and the Citizen in the future.

* Despite our agreement on the difficulty of resolving the knots of Education, being a process wherein factors and influences are intertwined and criss-crossed, its system relationships overlap to outside the direct and full control, the efficient management of education is able to overcome all obstacles, and move aptly towards achieving the goals, especially in light of the government and official care and support, besides the public interaction, which is observed now in the education officials who have entered a different phase of planning and work under the direct supervision of His Excellency Humaid Mohammed Al Qatami, Minister of Education, within a policy based on excellence in performance, follow-up and implementation; the thing which makes the community trust the sustainability of the children excelling over their parents. This is the simplest and most real induction for the safety its progress.

“Thank You Khalifa”..

* It is a wonderful initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, as loyalty and gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. It is an initiative honestly reflecting the feelings of love, appreciation and loyalty to His Highness by the UAE people, as well as whoever knows “Khalifa”. It was such a generous gesture summarized in three words.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor



We welcome your contributions and inquiries as to pursue communication with you.
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Starting Interviews and Field Visits

23% Increase in Local Participations and Non-Winners Persist on Excellence

Mohammed Ali

On 4th of January, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance started the second phase of central adjudication of files winning excellence in the first phase. The second stage involves personal interviews and field visits, based on which the degrees of excellence already obtained by the student according to the evaluation process are determined or modified, and then the winners are chosen with the order of their positions.





424 local and 65 GCC participations and 37 Arab research

130% increase in Distinguished University Student more than previous cycle

53 adjudicators evaluated 16th Cycle local and GCC files

Participations at the local level increased by 23% more than the previous cycle amounting to 424 participations compared to 345 applications in the previous cycle. On the GCC competitions level, the participations increased at 8%, amounting to 65 participations compared to 60 applications in the previous cycle. On the Arab Educational Research level, the number of participations increased at 68% rising from 22 to 37 research of the current edition. The percentage of Distinguished Student applications increased at 26% from 258 in the 15th Cycle to 326 in the current one, while the participations in universities increased at 130% from 10 to 23 nomination applications. The Distinguished Teacher applications amounted to 37 compared to the 26 ones last cycle at 42% increase. As well, Highly Distinguished Teacher applications witnessed 400% increase from 1 to 4 participations in the current cycle. Participations in the Social



Worker grew by 100% rising from 2 in the 15th Cycle to 4 in the current one; and so was the case with Supervisor category at 2 applications compared to only one in the previous cycle; while the participation in the Psychological Specialist remained the same in both cycles with one application each. Best Scientific Innovation participations increased at 200% to 3 in comparison to 1 in the last cycle, whereas participations the Best Project decreased at 10% to 9 participations after they were 10 participations in the last cycle. Applications to Educational Research increased 54% to 20 compared to 13 participations in the previous cycle, and the same is applicable to the Distinguished Family with 25% increase to 5 applications after 4 families applied in the previous cycle. Dubai Educational Zone and the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), Dubai topped the number of participations with 114

nomination applications, followed by Sharjah Educational Zone and Sharjah Office Eastern Region with 111 participations, then Abu Dhabi Educational Council (ADEC) third with 100 participations as follows: 60 in Abu Dhabi, 31 in Al Ain, and 9 participations in the Western Region. Fujairah Educational Zone came fourth with 38 participations, Ajman Educational Zone fifth with 17 nominations, followed by RAK Educational Zone sixth with 14 applications, and finally Umm Al Quwain Educational Zone seventh with 5 participations. On the Gulf States level, Distinguished School and School Administration grew at 89% percent from 9 in the last cycle to 17 nomination application in the current one, whereas the Distinguished Teacher participations decreased slightly at 5 percent from 22 in the last cycle to 21 applications at the current cycle. As for the Distinguished Student, the percentage decreased at 7% from 29 participations at the 15th Cycle down to 27

ones in the current edition. Saudi Arabia topped with 37 participations: 16 nomination applications in the Distinguished Student, 13 in the Distinguished Teacher, and 8 participations in the Distinguished School and School Administration.

Bahrain came second in terms of the number with 14 participations spread over 7 participations in Distinguished Student, 3 in the Distinguished Teacher, and 4 in the Distinguished School and School Administration.

Kuwait came third with 10 participations: 2 in the Distinguished Student, 5 in the Distinguished Teacher, and 3 participations in the Distinguished School and School

GCC Participations in the 16th Cycle

State	Student	Teacher	School	Total
KSA/Boys	6	4	3	13
KSA/Girls	10	9	5	24
Kuwait	2	5	3	10
Qatar	1	0	3	4
Bahrain	7	3	4	14
Total	27	21	17	65

Administration. Qatar was the last in terms of the number with 4 participations: one of which was in the Distinguished Student and the remaining 3 in the Distinguished School, while no one applied for the Distinguished

Teacher. Started in the Higher Colleges of Technology, Dubai, the first phase of central adjudication for the 16th Cycle launched a workshop for the 53 members of the jury at the local and GCC levels wherein some ap-

plications for the Award competitions were evaluated theoretically to all local categories and the three GCC categories; namely, Teacher, Student and School.

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 declared that the current cycle was marked by the participation of two central departments from the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the first time, in addition to the participation in all categories of the Award, especially the non-participated categories in the previous cycles, such as Distinguished Psy-

Participations in the 16th Cycle

Zone	Cat.	School	Student	Teacher	H. D. Teacher	Social Worker	Psych. Worker	Supervisor	Innovation	Project	Research	Family	Educational Zone	Central Dept.	Total
Abu Dhabi		1	51	3							5				60
Al Ain			21	5	1	1				1	1	1			31
Western		1	4	1							1	2			9
Dubai		2	95	5	1	1	1		1	4	3	1			114
Sharjah		3	64	4	1	1			1	1	3	1			79
Sharjah / East			22	6							4				32
Ajman		1	10	4				1		1					17
Umm Al Quwain			4								1				5
Ras Al Khaimah		2	9	1						1	1				14
Fujairah		1	24	8	1	1		1		1	1				38
Universities & Colleges			22						1						23
Sub Total		11	326	37	4	4	1	2	3	9	20	5	0	2	424



chological and Social Worker, Highly Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Central Department. He added that he noticed that the participants who were not so lucky in the previous cycles reapplied for the current cycle, which confirms the persistence on excellence by the targeted groups. On the other hand ADEC has

approved 144 participations in Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in various categories for the 16th Cycle. Mr. Mohammed Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of School Operations at ADEC assured that the preparations for the current cycle has begun since the beginning of 2012 – 2013 by the imple-

mentation of training workshops specialized in the preparation of the Award files and the best methods of the documentation processes adopted. The names of people who wish to participate this year were determined since the beginning of the current school year in cooperation with the coordinators of the educational awards at schools.

He pointed out that the number participations has reached 4,600 participants wherefrom 1,600 were viewed by the jury who approved 144 participations for this year, mostly centered on the Student category. He added that the submitted projects included educational initiatives implemented in ADEC schools as well as candidates for the various catego-





2 of MOE central departments participate for the first time

Applications for the non-participated categories in the previous cycles

ries of the Award. Al Dhaheeri stated that Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance is one of the awards enhancing creativity and innovation of education in schools through covered categories which target assisting innovators of administrators, teachers, students and schools in various areas, encouraging them to apply these ideas and put them in practice.



He explained that ADEC has spared no effort to encourage schools in the three regions: Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western Region to contribute to the competitions of this Award that have crossed the local borders to the Arab and international horizons. Due to the large number of applicants for the Award this year, the Committee began its work on 11th of last November by notifying all public and

private schools through text messages and e-mail as well as the official circular via fax. Following the circular, the posters of Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance were distributed with the nomination applications and explanatory guidelines. The adjudication subcommittee has implemented a number of training courses in the Student, Teacher and Research





categories wherein the notes and conditions to be met in the files of applicants for the Award were discussed.

Such workshops have facilitated a lot of the adjudication subcommittee work as a result of the commitment of the applicants to the observations attained from the workshops.

Among the main events organized by the Coordinating Office of the Award were four training courses for the Distinguished Student, two for the Distinguished Teacher, one for the Social Worker, one for the Best Applied Project, one for the Distinguished School Administration, one the Distinguished Family, and one training course for the category of the Educational Research.

This year, Abu Dhabi jury was keen on full compliance with all standards included in the nomination guidelines and the observations addressed by the Adjudication Forum.

Adjudications conducted in the office of Abu Dhabi were smooth as the candidates' files were adjudicated three times, the students were interviewed and the teachers were visited in their schools.

The adjudicators are selected with great care according to specific criteria and special

conditions; most importantly, to be winners in previous cycles, in addition to their scientific and voluntary competence, and based on the percentage of winner forms that were nominated by their committee in the previous cycle, along with taking into account renewal and development, as well as allowing for the development and creativity.

The Coordinating Office makes great efforts to maintain leadership in educational awards by organizing a program of field visits to schools to motivate and encourage participation in the Award categories, and organize events and applied and training workshops to provide participants with the skills to prepare their initiatives and projects to the Award.

Winners in previous cycles were benefitted from by transferring their expertise to the candidates in the current cycles and by providing the appropriate guidance.

In Sharjah, Ms. Mona Jawad Salman, Head of Strategic Planning and Organizational Excellence in the Sharjah Educational Zone emphasized that private schools won the competition over public schools. Participants' files in the Distinguished Students

were excellent in all standards, indicating the combined efforts of students, parents and school administrators in the preparations to compete in the Award.

She added that the role of the foreign private school administrations in the care of superior and talented students was prominent, besides some personal efforts by students and parents to meet the requirements of the participation criteria, commitment, cooperation and response from the parents of candidates for the qualifications at the level of the Award, making it easier for operations to improve the participations as more than 40% of participants obtained 90% and above.

She pointed out that candidates have been granted specific assessment reports about the excellence aspects and the aspects that need to be improved; the thing which contributed to strengthening and improving the qualified participations, and encouraging the non-qualified participants to prepare better for the coming cycles.

She stated that the activities of the current cycle were marked by the diversity of involved groups by holding 8 qualification workshops for various excellence categories

of the Award.

About opportunities for improvement in the coming cycles, Ms. Mona noted to activating the role of the coordinators of excellence in the government and model schools to support outstanding students and prepare them for participation in various local and international awards, in addition to activating the participation of boys' schools in general in all categories of excellence.

As for the challenges, she cited that the synchronization of delivering the nomination application with the first semester exams has led to a decline in the number of students from public education schools.

As well, Ms. Mona recommended circulating the outcome of studying the phenomenon of the educational field reluctance to participate in educational awards, which is conducted by the Strategic Planning and Organizational Excellence Unit in Sharjah Zone.

She stressed the need that the Award administration surveys the opinion of people interested in the Award categories about the delivery dates of the candidates' files, to achieve greater participation in local competitions.



Comprising 90 Countries and Organizations Hamdan Award Becomes Member of International Organization for Teachers

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance won the membership of the Supreme Committee of the International Task Force on Teachers for Education for All (EFA).

The Committee comprises more than 90 countries, and international and regional organizations, within the initiative of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO).

This announcement was made by His Excellency Humaid Mohammed Al Qatami, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees after a meeting of the Board at the MOE office in Dubai. The meeting was attended by Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice President of the Board and the Sec-

retary-General of the Award and members of the Board.

The Board reviewed the report of the Award participation in the Organization meetings organized in Kinshasa, where a part of the participation was allocated for the promotion of UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers. The conference was attended by Mr. Mwango Macker, the Congolese Minister of Education. His Excellency Humaid Al Qatami, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan Award commended the care received by education in the UAE from His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime

Minister and Ruler Dubai, and Their Highnesses Supreme Council Members and Rulers of the Emirates.

He added that this care enabled education to keep abreast of global developments, accomplish quality and quantity achievements, and enter into partnerships with international organizations through the projects and programs serving the goals of sustainable development.

His Excellency praised the support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, sponsor of the Award for the quality programs and projects implemented by the Award, in collaboration with local institutions and international organizations, which reflect the special status of education in the UAE, support the featured

position of the UAE in regional and international forums, and reflect the advanced status of education in the framework of official attention and care.

He stated that the cumulative outcome of distinguished educational practices available at the Award due to its prestigious local and GCC competitions, Arab Educational Research and UNESCO-Hamdan Prize, in addition to the knowledge and experience result in the management of educational excellence, altogether boosted the confidence of international organization in the Award's ability to support the objectives of their programs targeting education, and adding to the same in a way that may form an important asset in pushing international efforts towards promoting education and expanding the base of its

Al Qatami: the Award has the potential of transition to educational quality program

Congolese Minister of Education appreciates Hamdan Award role in dissemination of excellence and Gifted welfare

Dr. Al Suwaidi: a tribute to the influence of the Award in modeling educational practices and molding them to be spread

distinctive practices. His Excellency noted that Hamdan Award has the experience and potentials that put it on the cusp of transition to a program of quality education, which opens up new horizons for school institutions in the UAE and the brotherly countries.

Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, member of the Board of Trustees, General-Coordinator of the Award jury, and head of the delegation in the meetings of Kinshasa commended the confidence of Member States in the Organization by electing the Award to the membership of the Supreme Committee of the International Task Force on Teachers for EFA.

He expressed satisfaction with the elections and interaction with the news conference, which was held in the presence of Mr. Mwango Macker, the Congolese Minister of Education, Edem Adubra, representative of UNESCO, Dr. Therese Dicom a member of the jury for Africa, and a large number of media representatives.

Mr. Al Suwaidi added that the

conference witnessed introduction of the Prize, its objectives and subsidiaries, and its assessment by UNESCO as one of the most important awards that support the goals of UNESCO in the improvement of the status and role of teachers in the communities.

Al Suwaidi added that the conference presented a UNESCO-Hamdan Prize winner as one of the outstanding practice in the area of enhancing the performance of teachers, explaining the positive impact of participation in the Prize and how winning could lead to great results on their status and the role that they are doing.

He said that winning the Prize made the Ministry of Education in their country pay more interest to their status. Also the programs they offer to teachers have been developed; the thing which was met with tribute due to the impact of the Prize in modeling educational practices, and molding them to be spread and to disseminate their welfare. The Congolese Minister has praised the role of the Award in the dissemination of educa-

tional excellence, Gifted welfare and motivating teachers in the developing countries to improve their performance. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the United Arab Emirates and the efforts of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Based on her practical experience, Dr. Therese Dicom, member of the jury for Africa confirmed the high professional adjudication proceedings in the International Award, accuracy of the criteria followed and specialization of the International Committee of Experts, which consists of experts representing different regions of the world.

She talked about the importance of teacher training, pointing out that through its interest in teachers, the Award focuses on the important role they play. She noted that in Africa, they care about certain professions such as medicine and law, whereas the outstanding teacher is the one who guides the engineer, doctor and lawyer, calling everyone to participate in the Award.





Completion of Sorting Participations of 3rd Edition Developing Adjudication and Review Model for UNESCO-Hamdan Prize

Mohammed Ali

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance has been developing an adjudication and review model for UNESCO-Hamdan Prize to facilitate the adjudicators' consideration of the applications satisfying conditions and adding their remarks directly. The Examination and Review Committee in UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers has concluded the first phase of the adjudication process of the third edition of the Prize, sorting letters of nomination participating in the Prize.

O has received 130 files from different geographical regions and nominated 99 of them after initial sorting. The regions covered 5 territories, from Africa, Asia, Arab States, the Pacific, Europe, North and South America, and the Caribbean Islands.

Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, General Coordinator of the Prize and Chairman of the Initial Sorting Committee stated that the number of participations in the Prize competitions for the current session has increased by 400%, noting that the number of participations in the previous session was 33 participations.

He added that the number of participations in this session from the Arab states is remarkable, as there are files from Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt and Syria, stressing that the interaction from Arab countries with the Prize denotes the existence of distinctive practices in the performance of teachers deserving to be considered thoroughly in order to disseminate and take advantage of them.

Dr. Kaabi attributed the high number of participations to the intensive advertising for the Prize and introducing it in global conferences, in addition to participation of its winners in the UNESCO events.

He praised the support of the Prize sponsor, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, and HH's visit to the UNESCO that have had the greatest impact in increasing the number of participations and introducing the Prize, in addition to the support of the Permanent Representative of the UAE to UNESCO, Abdullah Ali Masbeh. Dr. Al-Kaabi added that an initial meeting was held with members of the Jury wherein the tasks required of each member were explained, and the mechanism of adjudication was agreed upon. At first, a model file was adjudicated to ensure that all members

adjudicate in the same manner.

He explained that the submitted files were divided into acceptable: files that have met the participation requirements; rejected: files lacking requirement(s); the uncertain: files that need inquiries and clarifications. He pointed out that the committee was divided into two teams: the first for examination and the second for review.

He said that looking for fame and recognition stimulated the participants to compete in UNESCO-Hamdan Prize, due to the international reputation accessed by the Prize.

Dr. Al Kaabi stated that innovative methods in improving the quality of education were noticeable among the participating applications despite the lack of financial resources, which was considered an enriching variety adding different dimensions and experiences to the jury.

Dr. Al Kaabi declared that there are advanced works that can be benefitted from by the local educational system and field, saying it is likely to study projects that can be benefitted from in addition to launching partnerships providing some recommen-

99 nomination files from 5 geographic regions

Number of the 3rd Cycle participations increases at 400%

Interaction from Arabs of and participations from Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt and Syria

dations concerning development.

He described adjudication processes as smooth and fun, especially as the projects are among the adjudicators' specialization. These processes also shift them from theory to practice and applied projects in a cooperative environment wherein experiences are exchanged. He praised the understanding between the members of the jury who have experience in adjudication, especially in UNESCO-Hamdan Prize.

Meeting Conditions

Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz, member of the jury, stated that the review process means to make sure that the required conditions are satisfied. It is conditioned that the candidates must have legal personality or attach a letter from an official body stating that nothing prevents their participation; they must have been established for no less than five years; they must have no political, religious or ethnic affiliation; they must be independent in terms of administration and finance; they must not be entirely supported (fully funded or directly managed) by either the Hamdan Award or by UNESCO; and they must be wholly or partly concerned with educational matters.

Dr. Mahfouz noted that the Prize aims to benefit humanity in the provision of finance. It follows up the mechanism of payment to the supported authority, and ensures the achievement of the objectives of the technical and financial support.

He praised the diversity of nationalities of the jury, considering it a representative of the universality desired by the Prize in supporting Human and Education, besides the diversity in terms of thought, cultural and religious background.

Dr. Mahfouz stressed that no file may be accepted unless being approved by 4 members, and wished that the files

bear the name of the project, institution, benefit and work because it is difficult for adjudicators getting such information although they are easy to be accessed.

Commenting on the files, he stated that few participations lack documentation in some areas although it could easily be attached which makes the file incomplete. Moreover, some participations were recommended by unrenowned institutions; the thing which made the important condition of recommendation by an approved authority unavailable from such participation.

Dr. Mahfouz called that the date of adjudication corresponds to an official holiday in coordination with UNESCO to assist in the performance process, stressing the need to dedicate a page on the beginning of the file showing the list conditions and marking whether they are satisfied or not, as well as documentation attachments with their page number.

Development of Ideas and Experiences

Dr. Effie Efthemio, a member of the jury, stated that this is her first experience, and she considers it a great opportunity to join an experienced jury contributing to the development of her ideas and experiences.

She described the Prize as wonderful, especially that its mission involves the development of education, support of teachers and learners from different communities and educational systems; it allows participants to get support, and hence the development of education in their countries through Hamdan Prize finance for their projects.

She noted that the adjudication enabled her to look at and consider the educational projects around the world letting her know the concerns of the participants; the thing which enabled her to have an idea about educational problems around the world, and



Considering how local educational field to take advantage of advanced projects

Innovation in improving educational quality despite the lack of financial resources

Files lacking documentation and recommendations from non-accredited institutions

gave her an opportunity to reflect on the things she thought of as taken for granted, such as providing education for all: the thing she discovered it is not available in some countries, which should drive researchers to inspect the educational problems and then work to resolve them. She added that she felt cooperation, efficiency and effectiveness by the jury at work in a manner bringing them all to achieve the desired targets. Dr. Effie called people wishing to participate in the Prize to read requirements well, and to attach the required documents and not to randomize the conditions in order to facilitate the work of the jury.

Quantum Leap

On the other hand, Dr. Mohammed Shaaban said that this is his second participation in the jury, pointing out that the Prize has achieved a qualitative leap demonstrat-

ing its reputation and spread as reflected in the numbers involved.

He called for putting a list of the required conditions in the beginning of the file showing the project's year of incorporation, description, explanation, clarification, objectives and targeted groups to make dealing with and accepting the file easier; the thing which is useful for the applicant and the jury, in addition to a list showing other documentary attachments.

He pointed out that he may reject an application due to lack of documentation of commitment to a standard, stressing the need to read the terms and focus on them.

Dr. Shaaban added that his participation in the Prize adjudication added a lot to him, developed his expertise and enriched his knowledge, as a result of studying the projects developed from unrenowned places, praising the homogeneity and cooperation

of the jury.

Dr. Ibrahim Al Mujaini said that few files lacked some things that can be avoided with little effort, calling for a careful reading so that the applicant can meet all the terms and conditions.

He pointed out that a list of conditions and the attachments at the beginning of the file makes it easier for the adjudicators and minimizes their efforts. It also shows the lack aspects in the application at first sight; the thing which saves the adjudicator's effort and preserves the right of the applicant.

Dr. Al Mujaini advised applicants to choose an accredited authority for issuing the certificate of recommendation, not to request it from unrenowned institution or authority, because it may cause excluding the application and the applicant misses the chance to win. Applicants also shall use English or Arabic in writing the name and details of the project.



Al Ansari Honors the Jury Members

Suleiman Al Ansari, Chief Executive Officer of the Prize honored the jury, praising the support of UNESCO for UNESCO-Hamdan Prize in a manner enabling it to fulfill its mission of improving the performance of teachers and encourage them to invent new teaching methods to raise the efficiency of the educational process. He also lauded the keenness of the working

committees to establish the principle of excellence and work. Al Ansari honored the jury consisting of Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, Dr. Ibrahim Al Mujaini, Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz, Dr. Mohamed Shaaban and Dr. Effie Efthemio, praising their efforts and the obvious effective quest to establish the principles of educational excellence in international horizon.



Under an Agreement concluded between the MOE and Hamdan Award in force until 2017 including 4 schools,

Standards for Selecting and Operating Schools for Talent

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance concluded an Agreement with the Ministry of Education (MOE) regarding the project of the schools adopting talents, with the aim of establishing the foundations and criteria regulating the process of selecting and operating the schools for the implementation of the project. The Agreement will enter into force as of this month, and continues in force until the end of the current strategic plan of the Award in 2017, including four schools that will be chosen according to criteria adopted by the Award. The teachers and supervisors involved in the implementation of the project at schools will be provided with the necessary training, along with supplying the schools with the modern devices, teaching aids and scientific references required to provide care for and discover gifted students at schools, and then to provide the programs of Hamdan Award specialized in the welfare of talented students.



Training teachers and supervisors involved in the implementation of the project at schools

Supplying modern devices, teaching aids and scientific references for schools

Providing care for gifted students and discovering them at schools



His Excellency Ali Mehad Al Suwaidi, Acting Undersecretary of the MOE stated that Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance has achieved many accomplishments at the level of individuals and field of education. It has created a competitive environment among teachers and educational institutions reflecting positive results on students. He said that the next phase would witness an expansion in the project of spotting talents whose energies will be utilized by the community through this Agreement. As well, the MOE is keen to organize special training courses for all teachers to qualify them to discover talented students at early stages. On the other hand, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary-General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance announced



Ali Mehad Al Suwaidi



Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi



Mariam Al Ghawi



Noura Al Marri

that the Award qualified 60 teachers through Gifted Education Diploma program. Those teachers will act as seeds whereby we can train and qualify all teachers in the educational field how to spot talents and utilize their energy. He pointed out that the Award was established with the support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum 15 years ago to create field excellence and to be beneficial to students, faculty and administrative bodies; consequently, it will reflect the Award's vision and standards in the development of the educational process by means of its programs. He added that the Award has implemented three programs and graduated three batches due to the belief in the educational sector importance as the main hub in the development process, based on the national and social responsibility, and because of the Award's sense of the need to

support formal and social trend in taking care of the gifted and talented children in the UAE. Being the first professional diploma program applied in the Arab world in the field of gifted education, the Award has implemented the Gifted Education Diploma program in collaboration with the MOE. This Agreement stems from the shared visions of both the MOE and the Award towards the unification of the efforts exerted in the field of gift out of their belief in the cooperation and coordination among these efforts, in order to achieve integration through the support of specialized programs in the field of gift of both of them. The project aims at taking care of public-education gifted students from grade 4 to 12 and providing qualified national staff for nurturing gifted students, in addition to providing an educational environment attracting talented

students in the UAE by meeting their needs and investing their energies for the benefit of the UAE. It also aims at creating a competitive atmosphere among schools to provide the necessary care and supplying gifted students with the appropriate programs.

The Award will support the schools offering programs of talent care through the project of schools adopting Hamdan Award for the Gifted, which will be chosen according to strict scientific standards prepared by experts in the field of talent.

Providing care for gifted students is among the top priorities of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, which is targeted by the National Plan for the Gifted as executed by the Award under the patronage and support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance in order to take care of gifted students in UAE schools.

The Award seeks to achieve the optimum of the Plan through its programs that are summarized in spotting talented students and providing them with the care they need in an attractive and distinguished educational environment within the framework of the National Plan for Gifted adopted by the Award.

Among the most important objectives of the MOE within its strategic plans are to unify standards and provide educational opportunities for students with special needs (disabled and gifted) in order to achieve high level of equal opportunities within the activity of developing services and programs targeting students with disabilities as well as gifted and talented students.

Through such plans and strategies, many programs designated for talent and excellence are applied, including qualifying teachers, spotting talented students, and supplying schools with devices, requirements and references in the field of talent, in addition to training students in a variety of programs that elevate their abilities and talents. Such programs will be boosted through this Agreement according to global standards in col-



laboration with the Award. Noura Al Marri, Director of MOE Department of Special Education said that the MOE has identified a set of goals and is working to achieve them in this area, on top of which is providing talented students with equal opportunities for education in the government or private schools, as well as supplying them with appropriate services in all educational insti-

tutions, whether government or private schools, in a manner suitable for their needs and enhances their capabilities. Moreover, the said goals include supplying spotting and identification tools, providing appropriate programs through the appropriate educational evaluation and diagnosis, determining the needed requirements with designing the suitable educational programs, and

providing all services according to the international best practices in all government and private schools. Furthermore, Mariam Al Ghawi, Director of Department of Gifted Welfare at Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance added that the National Plan regulates all practices oriented to talented segment in an integrated

model established according to the latest theories and scientific studies. The Plan is designed specially to take care of all gifted students at all schools; it aims at investing talented capabilities and meeting the national priorities, in addition to increasing communication, participation and social service, and raising the level of national staff in the field of talent.



Hamdan Award Pavilion in Sharjah Book Fair Attracting Students



«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in the activities of the 32nd Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF), which was held at the Expo Centre, from 6 to 16 November, with the participation of 1010 UAE, Arab and international publishing house.

Displayed books in the 32nd SIBF included many and varied titles amounting to more than 400,000 titles; while the visitors and public enjoyed watching more than 500 various activities within the cultural and intellectual program on the sidelines of the SIBF. Such activities included seminars, lectures and poetry evenings. The SIBF has achieved record results in terms of visitors, guests and sales.

Over 10 days, the SIBF had received a million visitors from

within the UAE and abroad, including about 150,000 schoolchildren, compared to 600,000 visitors, including about 80,000 schoolchildren.

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary-General of the Award said: "Participation in the SIBF comes in line with the strategic objectives of the Award, which considers fairs and exhibitions an occasion to promote Hamdan Award".

At its pavilion, Hamdan Award presented its brochures about the Award, the different categories of competition and how to apply for them. The Award offered various publications in nurturing the gifted, which aim to support talent and refining it scientifically and socially. The Award displayed its prepared research and studies, as well.

The Award pavilion attracted visitors from different nationalities. There was a big turnout of visitors who viewed the Award publications and docu-

mentary films; the thing which increased their desire to know more about the activities of the Award, and its role in supporting the talented and gifted.

More specifically, the Award pavilion saw a remarkable turnout of school and academic students to see and learn about the Award criteria. However, the visitors were attracted by the new innovative technological application, which converts an image to moving footage, called 'Augmented Reality'.

This application decodes and transfers symbols applied in the photo by OGLE Company, which holds the same name of the application itself and then converting it into a graphical or footage material. The application is a special camera developed by OGLE, where the user directs the camera lens of the smart device to the encoded image by the application; the thing which leads to loading the image on the phone or

smart device and converting it to moving footage on the smart device screen. This application created interaction by the students and visitors to try the application, as well as learning about the general directory of the categories and criteria of the Award.

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance seeks developing the elements of the educational process through the promotion of innovation and creativity, as well as inspiring the spirit of excellence among students, teachers and the administrations in the teaching profession, in order to achieve its mission in the advancement of the educational process, finding potentials of creativity and taking care of the distinguished and talented. Directors of the stand distributed brochures and souvenirs for the public, students and teachers.

Hamdan Award Welcomes Expert from UNESCO

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

At its headquarters, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance welcomed the educational expert Mr. Renato Operti of the International Bureau of Education (IBE) – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The visit comes in line with the initiative of the IBE on the sidelines of the agreement concluded between Hamdan Award and UNESCO to finance the joint initiative between the parties “building the capacity of teachers and their trainers in support of curriculum reformation initiatives”. The project aims at the



development and reformation of the curricula by offering a post-graduate diploma in curriculum design and development. Participants will receive a pack-

age of resources, including training tools for curriculum development, addressing different aspects and subjects of the process of curriculum development

such as: policies dialogue and formulation; curriculum design, management, implementation and evaluation; development of school books and other teaching and learning resources and their sources; and evaluation of learning and evaluation for learning.

A total of 234 educational professionals from 46 countries from all over the world participated in the diploma program including officials from UNESCO and other international organizations.

The visit was concluded by thanking and honoring Mr. Operti by exchanging a selection of educational versions issued by the International Bureau of Education and some souvenirs.

Qatari Appreciation for Hamdan bin Rashid Initiatives Supporting Education

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

Dr. Mohammed Abdul Wahed Al Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education, Qatar, appreciated the initiatives and efforts of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance supporting the development of education and improving the prospects for his performance toward mastery.

H.E. commended the set of educational awards that encourage and stimulate the institutions and individuals in educational system towards the performance of distinguished practices.

Dr. Al Hammadi received the delegation of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, headed by Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary-General of the Award at the Office of the Qatari MOE in Doha.

The Qatari minister praised the efforts of coordination and cooperation between the Award and the Qatari MOE over the Award competition cycles at the GCC level. Such efforts have enriched the work aspects in the management of education where their positive impact was reflected on the educational field disseminating excellence culture and standards in schools.



Dr. Al Hammadi assured directing the schools towards participation in the Award competitions and interaction with its activities and programs, as well as enhancing coordination and cooperation efforts between the institutions.

On the other hand, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary-General of the Award appreciated the distinguished participation of the Qatari educational field in Hamdan Award competitions over the previous cycles, praising the level of support and coordination of Qatari MOE, which ensures the achievement of the lofty goals

of the Award in providing an integrated approach to educational excellence in the whole region.

Dr. Al Muhairi gave a brief introduction about Hamdan Award, and its latest developments on the level of categories, criteria and participation requirements as well as the agenda of the current cycle.

The meeting was attended by Ms. Rabia Mohammed Al Kaabi, Undersecretary of the MOE in the UAE; Mr. Suleiman Abdul Khaliq, Chief Executive Officer of the Award; and Mr. Ismail Al Mulla, Director of Audit and Follow-up.



Hamdan Award participating in 37th UNESCO Conference... Minister of Education: UAE Offers Unique Model of Cohesion and Humanitarian Support in All Forms

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in the 37th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the organization's headquarters in France.

The delegation was headed by His Excellency Humaid Mohammed Al Qatami, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Award, as HE delivered the United Arab Emirates speech. The Minister commended the achievements and quality steps of the UAE striving to reach an advanced stage in education, build the knowledge society, and link quality knowledge to sustainable development.

HE stressed that based on its political and economic principles, with its development vision and prospects of future movement, the UAE provides a unique model of cohesion



and humanitarian support, in all forms, and in many parts of the world.

The Conference was attended by representatives from about 195 countries, where the Conference held sessions for them and for the associate members and non-members, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In the sessions held on the first day, the General Conference discussed the administrative and procedural matters, and reviewed the technical and administrative reports of the UNESCO works over the past two years, on top of which was the report of the Director-General of UNESCO, wherein she highlighted the UNESCO's efforts supporting education,

science and culture around the world.

The conferees discussed education issues in the world, especially with regard to education development, as well as providing opportunities of good learning for students and empowering learners to be active citizens in their communities, in addition to shaping education features in future, providing it for all, achieving gender equality and promoting science, technology and innovation policies, not to mention establishing engineering capacity, cooperating to protect natural environments and taking care of fresh water sources.

Moreover, the conferees discussed setting future-oriented policies in order to support social transformations, involve younger generations in shaping future policies and strategies, study the programs that achieving protection of heritage and history and preserving them, and finally to support and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.

Within the Winter Camp Program 40 Talented Students Acquiring Leadership & Planning Skills

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

40 Gifted students gained the leadership and planning skills in the first winter camp organized by Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Children's City, Dubai.

Lasted over 17th and 18th December 2013, the camp aimed at the promotion of many moral values that contribute to the development of scientific creative abilities of the students.

The organization of the camp is part of the operational plan

for gifted welfare, and comes within a series of activities and events organized by the Award with the objective of investment and development of the talented students' capabilities, and guiding them in a distinguished attractive educational environment harmonizing with their capabilities.

The 40 students had passed several tests revealing gifts. Then they participated in a series of entertainment, professional and educational events and activities for the purpose of development of the personal and scientific aspects of lead-



ership they have, in addition to the development of their capabilities, knowledge and skills. His Excellency Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Secretary-General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance listed the objectives behind the implementation of this program, which is one of the channels to achieve the initiatives of the National Plan for the Gifted.

H.E. explained that the Award aims to invest and refine the energies of talents, as well as

to develop their skills in thinking, conversation, dialogue and problem solving, as well as the development of cultural and scientific information, in order to support the sense of creativity, thinking and talent of the participating students.

The gifted students at the camp were trained by a group of graduates of the first, second and third patches of Gifted Education Diploma, as part of the activation of role of Gifted Education Diploma program organized by the Hamdan Award for a number of supervisors and teachers.



