

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi:
Founders & Leadership Efforts Took UAE to Universality

Introducing Arab & International Hamdan Awards in Morocco

Accomplishing Phase 1 of Adjudication and Commending Files Coherence

In Winter Camp ..

Enrichment Programs for Developing Skills of 40 Gifted Students



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Cover Story

OUR VISION

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

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ADEC & Education Solutions

Introduction

* If the student is the hub of the learning process, and his/her opinion is being really subject of consideration and attention by the concerned parties in education, then we must also pay double and concentrated attention to the efforts of Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC). There are head-turner stations in ADEC website: a distinguished class of evidentiary information which is in fact signals deduced from the writings of students and parents. Therefore, I appeal the decision-makers in education to visit the site and review samples of the testimonies about education provided by the students and their parents. These statements reflect the size of ADEC's extraordinary efforts, and prove the success of the overall education development policy, which have been effectively applied in Abu Dhabi, and have achieved impressive results reflected positively on the school environment, educational and skill attainment of students in public schools.

* A quick reading of these documented impressions on the website shows that the satisfaction indicators that have been achieved in Abu Dhabi on educational service are very high, whether the satisfaction of administrative and teaching staff, parents or students. It also included learning methods, education accessories, school buildings and follow-up and communication system... etc. In short, it is an educational quality that is aspired by the community, parent, educational theorist, strategic planner and investor. As such, why such sophisticated system is not to be circulated to all emirates, so that all UAE schools follow this modern style of buildings, the curricula become responsive to the competencies required, and the elite teachers and administrators become attractive learning environment with stimulating methods, so that the educational service quality and level become integrated in all public schools in the UAE. Eventually, the educational performance harmonizes, and the sustainable human development is realized at the same time in all parts of the UAE.

* ADEC outstanding practices in education administration deserve to be a model in the applications of solving public education problems.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

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The Award Embodies UAE History through Competitions among Employees..

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi: Founders & Leadership Efforts Took UAE to Universality

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance embodied the history of the UAE since the Union through contests among the departments and employees. The departments of Educational Excellence, Gifted Welfare, General Secretariat and Human Resources participated in the contest wherein the Educational Excellence Department ranked first, as it showed creativity in the embodiment of Union.

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary General of the Award cited: “the UAE has obtained its outstanding position on the world map, thanks to the efforts of the first generation in achieving the Union and establishment of the State, especially late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum and their brethren, Rulers of the Emirates, and thanks to that establishment and to the march of sustainable development led by 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 of Dubai, and their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council, Rulers of the Emirates, not to forget the great endeavors of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown

Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces towards empowering the UAE individuals and institutions to maintain the UAE national gains.”

He pointed out that all these efforts have reinforced the construction foundations and have led the UAE to universality with confidence and competence to rank, in a record time, among the developed countries that compete and achieve in many areas thanks to the UAE’s integrated system conforming to international standards.

Dr. Al Muhairi expressed heartfelt thanks to the excellence-pioneer leadership for the care and support given by providing the requirements that could achieve prosperous, proud, and secure future for the people of the UAE, as well as for exemplifying a success-



ful model of leadership for the Arab and Middle East area. Moreover, Al Muhairi congratulated His Highness the President of State, His Highness Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, Their Highnesses Sheikhs of the UAE, nationals, residents and all the Arabs on this historic achievement, which is just a step on the way of infinite ambitions and dreams.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi, Media & Relations Director at Hamdan Award, Head of the National Day celebration committee stated: “based on the appreciation of this occasion which embodies the great history of the UAE with its educational mission represented in enhancing the youths’ patriotism sense and spirit of loyalty, the Award is keen to organize many events annually wherein the popular tradition is revived

Educational Excellence Department tops the competition of the UAE history embodiment

National Day represents great history of UAE and its educational mission in deepening loyalty







to celebrate the Union Day.” The Award started celebrating the 43rd National Day by the National Anthem and Loyalty Oath, followed by the speeches in which the audience expressed their love and belongingness to the UAE, as well as their pride of the amazing achievements thanks to the Union, appreciating the role of the first generation of founders. Then the speeches narrated the historical events that accompanied the Union naming the dignitaries who accomplished such events, in addition to achievements in the Union era compared to the preceding period. The celebrants outlined the quality shift in education as it is the motive of excellence and development in various fields of life and the incentive to the prestigious global status

occupied by the UAE, as well as its intellectual and material infrastructure which qualified the State to lead the region to new heights in the near future. The celebrants praised the personal initiatives of the Emiratis in support of educational, cultural and social movement, naming Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum as an Emirati model who employed his energies and potential in supporting the federal country, education, medical sciences and humanitarian initiatives, bringing the UAE about this internationally appreciated and respected reputation. The celebrants expressed gratitude for the great efforts of the wise leadership in providing all the requirements of stability and prosperity for the citizens and residents alike.





Participated in the Policy Dialogue Forum in Education

Hamdan Award Introduces Arab & International Awards in Morocco



«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in the activities of the 7th International Policy Dialogue Forum in education held in Rabat, Morocco, under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization “UNESCO”, and in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training in the Kingdom of Morocco. The Award delegation held a press conference attended by Mr. Rachid Belmokhtar, Moroccan Minister of National Education and Professional Training, wherein the delegation introduced the international and Arab version of Hamdan Award, namely: ‘UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers’ and the ‘Best Educational Research in the Arab World’.

Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Member of the Board of Trustees and head of the delegation stated: “we participated in the Forum because Hamdan Award is one of the members of the UNESCO International Committee of the teaching workforce. By this participation, the Award is keen to highlight the UAE presence in this annual Forum, and to share the knowledge and experiences in improving the performance of teachers with other countries, especially that Hamdan Award targets teachers segment through the international version of the Award which is oriented to reward outstanding practices and efforts to enhance the performance of teachers.” He added that conveying de-

velopment experiences among the member states bridges the knowledge gap, reduces distances and saves time towards achieving the educational goals, pointing out that the Forum focuses on developing the goals and indicators related to the performance of teachers; the thing which is fully consistent with one of the most important objectives of Hamdan Award.

Al Suwaidi said that strengthening cooperation and partnerships among the various institutions operating in the field of education at both national and regional levels improves the success opportunities of educational projects and initiatives worldwide.

The Award also participated



in the educational exhibition on the sidelines of the Forum where its stand witnessed overwhelming response from the audience.

The Forum aimed at sharing knowledge, experiences and appropriate methods of developing teachers' goals and indicators to implement and ensure adopting the national policies related to them. As well, the Forum targeted developing and drafting realistic recommendations for teachers to develop the agenda that will be discussed at the 2015 World Education Forum in Korea. Furthermore, the Forum sought to reach a consensus regarding the procedural recommendations to be implemented at both the regional and international

levels concerning the effectiveness of teachers, as well as to identify methods to strengthen cooperation and partnership among the various key actors in the field of education at the national, regional and international levels in order to achieve teachers' objectives in the international agenda for Education beyond 2015.

During the Forum three sub-topics were discussed: inclusion and equity in the policies and practices related to teachers; innovation in education and qualification of teachers; and the vocational system of teachers.

The UN report on Education for All in 2013 and 2014 has revealed a shortage of the number of qualified teachers and

the need for other 1.6 million teachers to achieve universal primary education by 2015. The report also pointed to the overcrowding in the glasses and the growing temporary contracts to fill the shortage of teachers, where the number of contract teachers in West Africa amounted to half of the faculty since 2000.

The Forum was attended by international experts, representatives of relevant government sectors, international and regional organizations, international non-governmental organizations, development and contracting agencies and private institutions, as well as Morocco's international partners, vocational associations of teachers and teaching unions.

Focus on developing goals and indicators related to teachers' performance

Conveying development experiences bridges knowledge gap and reduces distances and time

Educational Zones Finish Phase 1

Starting Central Adjudication and Coordinators Commend Files Coherence

Mohammed Ali

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance began receiving applications from the educational zones and central departments at the UAE level to participate in cycle 17. Educational zones finished the adjudication of participating applications, and nominated the approved applications to the Award, marking the beginning of the phase 2 of the adjudication i.e. the central adjudication. Coordinators of the Award in the educational zones commended the coherence of files, expecting tough competition among the participants of the current session, amid increasing participation in all categories.

The number of approved participations by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) amounted to 120 nominated files to the central adjudication of Hamdan Award out of the total of 3200 participations of which 1087 applications were reviewed by the Adjudication Committee.

Mr. Mohammed Salem Al Dhaheeri, Executive Director of School Operations at ADEC approved the participations at the level of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Al Dhaheeri stressed that educational awards are closely linked with the educational field. They play a key role in planting and spreading the culture of excellence in the field of education, while Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance is

deemed among the leading educational awards that have a head start and remarkable influence in stimulating creative and talented segments.

He also underlined the importance of effective participation in cycle 17 of the Award with the largest possible number of participations in the various categories, noting that preparations have begun for the current session since the beginning of last year by carrying out a number of training workshops specialized in the preparation of the Award files and the best applied methods in documentation. The names of the people willing to participate this year were listed since the early beginning of the current academic year (2014 – 2015) in collaboration with the coordinators of the educational awards in

schools.

“About 3200 was the number of participations, out of which 1087 were reviewed by the Adjudication Committee. Only 120 participations were approved for this year, most of them are in the Student category. The submitted projects included educational initiatives that have been implemented in ADEC schools, besides some applications for various categories of the Award,” Al Dhaheeri cited

Promoting Creativity & Innovation

As well, Al Dhaheeri added that Hamdan Award is one of the awards supporting creativity and innovation in schools through its categories seeking to unleash creative administrators, teachers and students, as well as schools in various

Approving 120 candidates out of 3200 participations in Abu Dhabi

Absence of nominations in Applied Project, Innovation and Highly Distinguished Teacher in Abu Dhabi

8 participations from Abu Dhabi in Applied Educational Research





areas, encouraging them to apply these ideas and put them in practice. However, ADEC spares no effort to encourage schools in the Emirate to take part in the competitions of the Award which exceeded domestic borders to Arabic and international horizons. He emphasized the role of motivation and encouragement to participate in the various categories of the

Award and the organization of practical and training events and workshops in order to provide participants with the skills to equip their initiatives and projects in the Award. As well, the winners in previous cycles were utilized to transfer their expertise to the candidates in the current cycle and provide them with the appropriate guidance.

Training Courses

The Adjudication Subcommittee has implemented a number of training courses in each of the categories of Student, Teacher and Research, wherein the observations and conditions to be met by applicants' file were delivered. The coordinating office of the Award also organized four training courses for the Dis-

Number of Dubai participations increases to 132 files in current cycle

No. of Participants & Candidates for the 17 Cycle (Sharjah)

S. No.	Category	No. of Participants	No. of Candidates	Winning Estimations
1	Student (Public Schools)	87	54	30
2	Student (English Schools)	93	62	35
3	Teacher	16	15	8
4	Mentor	2	2	1
5	School	4	4	2
6	Worker	1	1	
7	Family	2	2	2
8	Innovation	2	2	
9	Research	8	8	3
Total		215	150	82 (between 76 and 82)



tistinguished Student, two training courses for the Distinguished Teacher, and training courses for each of the Social Worker, Best Applied Project, Distinguished School Administration, Distinguished Family, and Educational Research. The 120 participations nominated for competition from the emirate of Abu Dhabi are distributed on the competition categories as follows: 88 in the Student category, 15 in the Teacher, 2 in the Social & Psychological Worker, 1 in the School Administration, 4 in the Family, 8 in the Research, and 2 in the Oldest

Adult Learner, while no nominations were recorded in the Project, Best Innovation and Highly Distinguished Teacher. The participation of Abu Dhabi City is represented by 62 candidates, Al Ain by 47 candidates, and the Western Region by 11 candidates.

Tough Competition

In Dubai, Abdul Kader Saeed Al Ameri, Coordinator of Hamdan Award in Dubai Educational Zone (DEZ) said that the current session was characterized by tough competition and great participation

in all categories. The number of files amounted to 132 compared to 116 last year, with a remarkable increase in the number of teacher candidates at a total of 10 teachers. Further, Al Ameri stated that a team of consultants was formed at the beginning of the session 17 with the mission of providing consultations every Saturday at the training and services center. The services provided by the team which consists of winners of the previous cycles and mentors from DEZ include consultations and observations in all categories.

Organizing 35 training workshops in Dubai private and public schools





He attributed the increased number to the media campaign held by the Award inside the UAE and abroad, as well as to the wide-spread reputation of UNESCO–Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize; the things which, besides the workshops held by the Award, affected the local expansion of the Award and had a major role in urging the field to participate.

Remarkable Participation from British Schools

Al Ameri pointed out that 35 training workshops were organized in private and public schools; the thing which is reflected in the increased number of British schools participating in the categories of Teacher and Student. These schools were also intensively targeted by the workshops.

He said: “it was the first time that DEZ hits the top of assigned quota as 259 applications were adjudicated; nevertheless, the files were coherent and competition was at the most.

He stated that the period of vacations imposed pressure

on the adjudicators in the since that the 259 files were completed within a week, with 11 hours a day of adjudication on average. There were about 10 adjudicators of mentors or previous winners who have undergone training courses.

Special Needs

Al Ameri appealed to add a category for people with special needs to differentiate them from other peers, demanding special standards to take their case into account, especially as we are seeing an acceleration in the process of merging with special standards, as well as taking into account the marks of people with special needs and the degree of their participation in society.

He also appealed to refrain from receiving hard copy applications in future sessions, for the sake of preservation of the environment and keeping up with smart transformation pursued by the UAE in all its institutions.

He highlighted his confidence of the efforts of DEZ team and the Knowledge and

Human Development Authority in Dubai (KHDA), as well as his confidence of following the designed plan centered on maintaining the lead in the number of winners.

Sharjah Participation

Adel Abdul-Azim Allam, coordinator of competitions and awards in Sharjah Educational Zone (SEZ) stated that 151 applications have been nominated to the central adjudication, with an increase of 37% in comparison with last year, out of the total of 215 files. Between 76 and 82 participants are expected to win.

Allam pointed out that the participations were concentrated on the category of Distinguished Student at 116, followed by 16 participations in the Distinguished Teacher. “Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance is one of the largest and most important educational awards that reflect wide educational move in the field. It also encourages spreading the culture

Increased participation from British schools in Teacher and Student

Establishment of counseling centers in Sharjah from winners and experts



of excellence and scientific innovation among the various educational zones and schools in the Arab world,” cited Allam.

Moreover, he pointed out that a plan was developed for the cycle 17 of the Award on several axes with coordination and cooperation between the administrations of the SEZ and the Award in order to activate and increase the number of participants through ongoing awareness campaigns in the educational field and developing an action plan for the selection of candidates and continuous communication with the Award coordinators in the schools on an ongoing basis, to encourage them to spread the culture of excellence in their schools.

Workshops & Visits

Allam said many workshops and visits were carried out to the Award headquarters to review and take advantage of previous experiences. As well, counseling centers composed of winners and experts have also been formed in SEZ. The adjudication committees and the action plan were prepared

at the beginning of the cycle through counseling training workshops tackling the preparation and following up of files, to give the opportunity to carry out the improvement of the nomination file and to raise the level of the works submitted for competition.

“The process continued throughout the 17th cycle until the adjudication date. This has had a clear impact on increasing the number of participants and the quality of files,” added Allam.

Awareness Campaigns

In addition, he stated that as part of efforts at the level of SEZ to increase the number of participations in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, many activities and a lot of events have been done. An awareness campaign has been carried out in the field of education through workshops, meetings and lectures. Ads and posters were distributed in SEZ schools, and an action plan has also been developed for the selection of candidates for the Award categories. Com-

munication was conducted in all ways with school administrators and coordinators of the Award in the schools continuously to encourage them to spread the culture of the Award in their schools.

As well, he added: “circulars were sent to schools regarding the Award and the specified dates. Forms were sent several times via e-mail to the schools. Many training workshops were organized in coordination with the Award administration under the supervision of specialists with high efficiencies. In addition, Many field visits were carried out to the Award headquarters and counseling centers composed of the winners and experts have been established for SEZ.”

On the other hand, Mohammed Khalil Mohammed mentor of English stated: “SEZ has received a large number of files for this category. The competition was tough even among the students at the same school. This year has seen a great competition between the schools in a lot of files. The number amounted to more than 50 files in only one school.

151 applications to the Central Adjudication at 37% increase in Sharjah

82 participants from Sharjah are expected to win in this cycle

Including Scientific and Knowledge Activities
and Courses in 2014 Winter Camp

Enrichment Programs for Developing Skills of 40 Gifted Students





Mohammed Ali – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance organizes the 2014 winter camp for talented students in Etisalat Academy from 21 to 25 December 2014. In her statement to 'Al Tamayoz News' Magazine, Mariam Al Ghawi, Director of the Department of Gifted Welfare at Hamdan Award said that the number of students participating in the camp amounted to 40 students of different ages, starting from grade four to eight. They attended the program of enrichment activities for gifted students, which is one of the effective programs in the National Plan for the Gifted adopted by the Award.



Al Ghawi stated that the enrichment activities programs is designed to develop the scientific skills of gifted students through specialized scientific programs, providing them with self-learning, creative thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as promoting the skills of social networking for talented students in order to turn them into leading and social personalities that are influential in the community, to enrich their skills through activities, events and training workshops, and to highlight their talents and utilize their abilities to be motivated to creativity.

Attractive Educational Environment

Al Ghawi reported that through programs of enrichment activities, the Department of Gifted Welfare at Hamdan Award attempts to provide the necessary care for gifted students within an excellent and attractive educational environment that meets their needs and suits their abilities according to scientific standards and principles.

Furthermore, she added that the enrichment programs are delivered through training courses and scientific and knowledge activities that help in the development of the scientific, personal and leadership aspects of talented students. Such programs enhance the students'



Providing students with self-learning and problem-solving skills

Highlighting the talents of gifted students and utilizing their abilities to motivate creativity

Development of scientific, personal and leadership aspects among talented students

Guiding Parents in Psychological, Mental and Social Needs of Gifted Students

On the sidelines of the winter camp, the consultation unit organized an educational program for the parents of gifted students participating in the winter camp. The program is carried out by Dr. Mona Al Ameri, the expert in the field of psychological counseling. Parents are divided into two categories: (counseling of childhood) for the parents of students from grades four to six, and (counseling of adolescence), for the parents of students from grades seven to nine in accordance with the program of counseling needs for gifted students, and through the consultation unit in the field of talent at Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. The program includes the counseling gifted needs of psychological, mental and social aspects of gifted students.

skills in the aspects of scientific excellence, promote the skills of self-learning, creative thinking and social communication, and enrich their critical thinking and time management skills. Since their launch in 2012, 105 gifted students aging 9 to 13 years have been enrolled in the summer, spring and winter enrichment activities programs.

Attracting Talents

Speaking about how to attract talented students Al Ghawi said: "The Department of Discovering Talented Students at Hamdan Award launches regular discovery campaigns, targeting the citizens of all the emirates. The accepted students should meet the applicable enrollment

requirements provided by the Department of Gifted Welfare at Hamdan Award.”

According to Al Ghawi, the requirements of enrollment at the enrichment programs for gifted students include the student’s excellence in one of the areas of talent sponsored by the Award; namely, math, science, technology and computer sciences. The student shall be a UAE national and shall pass the test of measuring the mental abilities and submit a certificate proving excellence in the field of talent, including: certificates of appreciation, awards, participating in local or international competitions, recommendation letters from the school management, trainers or teachers. The standards adopted by the Award shall be applied, including tendencies and interests forms, learning methods forms, in addition to passing the mental capacity test, obtaining a minimum of 120 degrees.

STEM Program to Make Talented Students Familiar with the Latest Technologies

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance have applied STEM educational program to gifted students whereby the Award seeks to provide the necessary care for gifted students in an attractive and distinguished educational environment that satisfies their needs and suits their abilities based on the scientific standards and principles of the Award. STEM is one of the recent educational programs applied by many specialized institutions across the globe. This is a quantum leap within the program of training and qualifying talented students. By applying such unique program, the Award seeks

to make talented students familiar with the latest scientific and engineering techniques because the training workshops of STEM include several scientific fields such as science, technology, engineering and math, whereby students are trained on aviation engineering and robotics. Other training programs and a variety of scientific and knowledge activities were delivered to help in the development of personal, scientific and leadership aspects among students, besides enhancing self-learning skills, creative thinking and social networking, not to mention enriching the skills of critical thinking and time management.

Activities & Programs

With regard to the activities of 2014 winter camp, Al Ghawi clarified that they are divided into the scientific program which is a science camp intended to invent a machine that makes the student acquire many skills in the areas of engineering design, logical thinking, principles of physics and mechanics, programming, management of engineering projects and skills of testing and assembly. Finally, she added that the second part of the camp is linked to the development of personal and leadership skills of talented students, e.g. the development of basic skills in building the most effective relationships. This development aims to provide practical strategies in relationship building, communication support and promotion of the individual’s identity, in addition to how to maintain health fitness (the genius of body) which aims at empowering the student to healthy habits in order to achieve balanced growth.

