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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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Introduction



Cycle 14

* The 14th Cycle of the Award holds two prominent events: one of them is UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers; the other, and the extraordinary one, is 'Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness' that is going to be hosted in Dubai next July. As professional Emiratis in distinction, we are exposed on new pleasure of challenge by these events; we are facing an opportunity to consolidate the journey of success, excellence, and being pioneering systematic. The reason is that there are nearly 80 days between the 14th Cycle closing ceremony and Asia Conference and Youth Forum. According to pioneering principle, Hamdan Award is stick to 'Modelizing' its competitions and events in order to achieve high level of influence and accomplish its objective in improvement of education. Thus the Award made an amendment on Applied Educational Research Award at the level of Arab World by which the 'Applied' condition was deleted from participating Arabic researches due to belief that this condition is useless after 5 cycles of repetition of (overlooked winner or no winner). Then the decision was to impose the same 'Applied' condition on National Best Educational Research which indicates a confident step to make a 'Model' that will be followed by Gulf and Arab countries later on.

* 'Bedaya' Forum, which Abo Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) held on the occasion of launching new academic year 2011 - 2012, represents a special event that involved every significant detail for the educational quantum leap, for consolidating (ADEC) competence, and for its faculty to meet the necessities of the current stage. The forum proves that education in Abo Dhabi is one step away from a real revolution under the generous government support. We look forward for seeing the new school model which is going to be ready in 2014 available in schools all over Emirates and for each citizen.

* The 2012 financial year has budgeted AED 8.2 billion for Education; which equals 20% of the total budget of the country. We hope that this great amount will bring about the expected spring and that enhancing the teacher's state project will be allocated a portion. Teachers represent the class which deserves the best. Happy and distinguish academic year all!

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

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Honouring Hamdan Bin Rashid by the 'Sabika Al Khalifa Award' as the Best Sponsor of Arab Productive Families

Her Highness Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King of Bahrain, President of the Supreme Council for Women, and Owner of 'Supporting of Arab Productive Families Award 2011' honoured H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, who was selected as the Best Sponsor of Arab Productive Families by Her Highness Award. This honouring was given to His Highness in recognition of his effort and contribution to supporting UAE productive families.

In a ceremony, the prize was received from Her Highness Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa by His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Al Maktoum Charity Foundation on behalf of Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance. The ceremony was held at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Center in the attendance of Human Rights and Social Development Minister, Her Excellency Fatima Al Balushi and a crowd of Arab undersecretaries and officials in charge of social affairs and development.

Her Highness Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa con-

gratulated Sheikh Hamdan for being selected by the first cycle of the Award 2011 as the first Arab personality supporting the productive families through his charitable projects, and praised his effort and initiatives in this prospect. She presented prizes to the winners of other categories of the Award as well.

However, 12 Arab countries applied for the Award with its 3 categories. At the same time, 9 Arab countries participated in 'Made in my Home' exhibition which was part of the ceremony events and included the products of the 'productive families'.

After the ceremony, His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Ham-

dan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum accompanied Her Highness Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King of Bahrain, President of the Supreme Council for Women on opening of the 3rd Annual 'Made in My Home' Exhibition which aims at urging low-income families to start up small business, encouraging talented people and improving their skills, and activating the economic role of individuals in society. It also aims at providing an opportunity for families to find additional sources to increase their income and improve their economic situation, creating new job opportunities for families by means of utilization of personal skills and



capacities, and opening new horizons to become widespread and to double earnings.

During his tour, H.H. Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Al Maktoum donated 30 sewing machines with fabric to 30 Bahraini families registered at Bahrain's Family Bank; the bank officials thanked him and Al Maktoum Charity Foundation.

Moreover, H. H. Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Al Maktoum Charity Foundation, expressed his glory to receive the Award on behalf of his father H. H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum as the first Arab personality to win the first Arabic edition of the Award, and thanked Kingdom of Bahrain and H. H. Sabika Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa for her pioneering initiative to empower and develop Arab families.

On the other hand, H. E. Mariam Mohammed Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of Social Affairs stated: "We are extremely delighted. It is a great honour for UAE to have such a noble

person as H. H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum." She mentioned that his valuable thoughts and deeds were of great effect in supporting UAE productive families through holding many exhibitions, and that he was the first to contribute in expanding businesses of 'productive families' from the national to the international scene through participation of these families in exhibitions organized on the sidelines of world horse race championships; for example, productive families participation in Newbury Exhibition in Britain, Cologne Exhibition in Germany, and others in Italy. All these exhibitions were totally sponsored by him. Therefore he played a major role in advertising the hand-made Emirati product and introducing it to foreign people. In the meantime, Naji Al Hai, the deputy undersecretary of Ministry of Social Affairs said: "the Award which H. H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Fi-

nance has won reflects the UAE leadership interest in the social dimension nationally and regionally." Al Hai emphasised that H. H. Hamdan paid a lot of support to 'Productive Families Programs' as a result of his faith in their importance in strengthening the woman's role and promoting the family as one entity, as well as their contribution in shifting the UAE citizens from sponsoring to development method.

H. E. Mirza Al Sayegh, Di-

rector of H. H. Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Affairs and member of Board of Trustees of Al Maktoum Charity Foundation (MCF), as well, expressed his pride that H. H. Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum has won the Award of H. H. Sabika Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa as the first Arab Personality to be the Best Sponsor of Arab Productive Families. He appreciated the Award role in supporting women programs.

Besides, Al Sayegh stressed H. H. Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum desire and instructions to provide support and help for families stating that what His Highness does and looks at as his duty should be an epitome to be followed in Arab and Muslim societies.

Al Sayegh also mentioned that there are plenty of thoughts in the humanitarian and charity fields that can be achieved by many personalities from Ministry of Social Affairs and MCF.

The 1st Arab Personality to Support the Productive Families Through charitable projects.

Expanding the 'Productive Family' from National to International

Bokova Appreciates Hamdan Award

Participation in ‘Teachers Day’

Dubai . “Attamauz News”:

Her Highness, Irina Bokova the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General, praised Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in the World Teachers Day exhibition that was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Bokova stated that Hamdan Award is one of the leading organizations with significant role in spreading educational distinction culture and support teacher through UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers. She also expressed her happiness that the Award joined this event through which a message of attention, appreciation, and support was conveyed to teachers.

That was after Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in the World Teachers Day festivals held in Paris by the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on October 5th. Hamdan Award was given an area in the accompanied exhibition where the UAE and the Award role in supporting the teacher was clarified, not only in the national and Arabic level, but also in the whole region through UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers. In addition, the Award activities were introduced, headed by Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness that will be held in Dubai.

Secretary General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, clarified that the Award’s purpose of participating in the festival is to present the Award, its message, objectives of its establishment, and the prizes presented by the Hamdan Award to support and motivate teachers locally, regionally, and internationally. Such Prizes include: Distinguished Teacher, Highly Distinguished Teacher,



and UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers, as well as Educational Research Award.

On the other hand, Head of Exhibition Management in the Award, Mariam Salmeen,

mentioned that the Award stand in the exhibition gained the attention of visitors who got informed of all the information of the Award categories, standards, and various activities. Visitors also expressed interest in the role of His Excellency the Award Sponsor in promoting culture and education.

Hamdan Award Holds Research, Statistics, and Innovative Thinking Course

Dubai . “Attamauz News”:

For four days, the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance held a training course in Men’s Higher College of Technology. The (Scientific Research and Statistical Analysis) course targeted 20 teachers from different educational zones in UAE, the contestants of (Post Excellence) Project, and the Profes-

sional Diploma Program in Teaching the Talented. The course was held among the Hamdan Award preparations to execute the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted and completion of the National Project infrastructure.

The course included a lecture presented by Dr. Jamal Shaker about scientific research methodology and methods of access to knowledge, methods of scientific research in schools of

thought, the characteristics of good scientific research and the ideal researcher; a workshop about the general rules of writing scientific research, how to write scientific research from title to findings with the recommendations and report, research tools such as questionnaire, observation, and interview.

In addition, the targeted were subject to training on SPSS statistical analysis software which contains a variety of studies.

They trained to how to collect and input data from their work environment by using MS Excel, then how to transfer and analyze data on SPSS using the most important list in the software “Analysis”, which analyzes data statistically, and by which subjects are studied along with study of the scientific basis of each indicator manually, then, again by the software which applies on data from the participants’ real work.

The Hamdan Award advertises “Giftedness 2012” in Prague and Turkey



Dubai . “Attamauz News”:

A delegation from the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance joined The 19th Biennial World Conference for Gifted and Talented Children in Prague - Czech Republic between August 8th and August 12th. The delegation aimed at advertising the 12th edition of the Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness hosted by the Hamdan Award from July 14th to July 18th 2012 in Dubai.

Prague Conference program contained several meetings, workshops, and lectures related to gifted education, such as how to prepare gifted leaders for the future, E-learning in schools, and other topics.

However, Prague 19th Biennial World Conference for Gifted and Talented Children, which is organized by the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC), attracts interested scholars and experts in educating the gifted in order to exchange thoughts and experience from different parts of the world.

During Prague Conference,

Dr. Mohammed Al Baili, the head of delegation, presented a summary working paper about the Hamdan Award preparations for hosting and organizing the 12th edition of the Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness, followed by a documentary film about the potentiality and highly developed infrastructure in UAE and Dubai in particular as a host city. Some Conference brochures and promotional gifts were delivered to audience, too.

On the other hand, the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance held an introductory meeting while joining 5th International Conference for Excellence in Education: Giftedness- Creativity- Development in Istanbul, Turkey from July 6th to July 9th.

The meeting was attended by the participating delegations in which the Giftedness expert, Dr. Al Baili summarized the Hamdan Award preparations to host the conference. Again, in Istanbul Conference, brochures and promotional gifts were delivered to audience.



Bahrain Minister of Education Extols Award Winners' Efforts



Manama . "Attamauz News":

Bahrain Minister of Education Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi extols the efforts of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance winners. He stressed the Ministry adherence to provide the opportunity for schools to participate in international competitions in order to express the high educational level of

Kingdom of Bahrain upon initiatives of the National Project for Education and Training Development, developmental projects and Promoting School Performance Program.

The statement was declared during the meeting of Bahrain Minister of Education in his office in the Ministry Building with Isa Khalifa Al Hooti, the Kingdom of Bahrain Coordinator of the Hamdan bin

Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. The meeting also included the award 13th cycle winners: Amina Abdullah Al Jodar- the Manager of Al Muharraq Elementary School for girls, and Sabah Khalifa Hajras- the Manager of Um Al Hassam Elementary school for boys, both of them are Distinguished School & School Administration winners, and the

student in Sar School for girls Nawafel Abdul Wahed Mansour Shihab- Distinguished Student winner.

It is to be noted that every year the Kingdom of Bahrain scores outstanding results in the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, which is an indication to the development of educational and administrative procedures in Bahrain.

Sheikh Zayed Housing Program Hosts Workshop of Hamdan Award

Dubai . (Attamauz News):

Sheikh Zayed Housing Program hosted the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. The deputy manager of Educational Excellence, the expert Hessa Sultan presented an introductory workshop to students of Summer Training Program in the institution. This event goes along with both the Award and Program devotion to the service of national society by utilization of Summer Training Program students in order to make them acquainted to excellence concepts and to acquire skills of dealing with its standards. Besides, the event aimed at strengthening the students' culture of excellence and creativity, and to activate the distinguished people's role in widening the basis of innovators in schools and society institutions.





19 Teachers of (Professional Diploma for Talents) Program Start Field Training

Dubai . "Attamauz News":

The second batch of participants in Professional Diploma for Talents Program started field training in the schools of Ministry of Education throughout the nation. However, the program is one of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance programs. The training lasts until the end of this October and is supervised by specialized academic elite from Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain with administrative supervisors from Hamdan Award. 19 teachers are included in the program.

As an application of the goals of National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted that is run by Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance accompanied by Ministry of Education, the program is designed to help the studying teachers to acquire knowledge, skills, and experience related to nurturing the gifted. Other purposes include preparing qualified teachers for the gifted, meet-

ing the needs of Gulf States and Arab Nation surroundings, providing them with highly specialized educational leaders and experts, enabling them to provide services and program which could help meeting the special needs of gifted students, and presenting advanced professional and academic programs in form and content as well, in order to live up to the Gulf States needs and expectations.

On the other hand, the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance organized a series of events to promote preparation of the Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness that is going to be held in Dubai next year. Such events, to a great extent, contribute in refining the capabilities of both supervisors of talented all over UAE and the Hamdan Award executive officials in Nurturing the Gifted Program.

(Basic Elements of Talent) was the title of a training course which targeted executive officials in Nurturing the Gifted Program, in which a lecture

was given by the President of International Research Association for Talent Development and Excellence, Dr. Abdullah Al-Jughaiman. The aim of such training courses is to improve proficiency and behaviors for the purpose of meeting the current and future needs. Moreover, they contribute in reducing the gap between the actual practices, which may be insufficient, and up-to-date and scientific developments. Whereas scientific studies have proved that the outcome of practice is in direct proportion to the trainee's effort, performance, and ability to search and explore information, and to invent the suitable proposals by means of practical application in reality during and after training.

Furthermore, Nurturing the Gifted Program aims at helping specialists in education and interested in talented care to make them acquainted with the most important and modern theories and applications related to their specialization. This program has provided the participants with opportunities to acquire theoretical and

practical experience related to a set of educational subjects and activities that help them understand their specialization and its essentials. On top of these essentials are talent historical backgrounds, economic, social, and scientific justifications of talented programs, new and basic theories of nurturing the gifted, gift and gifted concepts, the wrong ideas about them, the gifted and their teachers' mental, scientific, and personal characteristics, how to find them, familiarity with scientific criteria and Aurora Battery to identify gifted, gifted schools and academies, Nurturing the gifted according to Wisconsin's Comprehensive Integrated Gifted Programming Model, school and non-school nurturing programs, standards of managing, establishing, and choosing the gifted, and programs of leading and directing the gifted. Additionally, some of the Hamdan Award gifted management programs were discussed throughout this training course in addition to talks about the best way to activate such programs.



The Hamdan Award Publishes the 14th Session Publications

Dubai . “Attamauz News”:

The Hamdan Award published a set of publications related to its 14th Session. This set included Application Forms, the Harvest of Session (13) book, the General Introductory Guide, the Explanatory Guides of the Hamdan Award Standards and Categories, and the Academic Agendas. In addition to posters dealt with the Award competitions and categories; one of which was in Arabic and English and designated for all competitions; whereas seven other posters covered National Competitions in Education and in Higher Education in both Arabic and English, Education Supporting Organizations Award and Gulf Competitions in Arabic and English, and the Applied Pedagogical Research Award at the level of Arab World.

As for the ‘UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize

for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers’, there was a brochure with an overall view of the Prize, its amount, who can apply, Prize criteria and conditions of winning in Arabic, English, and French. Posters of UNESCO-Hamdan Prize were issued as well.

Moreover, Nurturing the Gifted Administration presented a brochure about the 2nd batch of Professional Diploma Program in Teaching the Talented which extended from May 4th to October 17th. It also published posters about the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted in Arabic and English, while a sponsored booklet by the Hamdan Award is in progress; it talks about the standards of the American Association for gifted children. In accordance with its information plan in promoting the culture of educational research and supporting and encouraging

researchers, the Hamdan Award released the new version of the winner of the best ‘applied pedagogical research Award at the level of the Arab world’ entitled ‘Efficiency of Guidance Program in Improvement of Ideological Moderation in Modifying Violence Orientation and Decreasing Isolation Sense of Ideological Extremist preparatory Students’ by Mohammad Ibrahim Mohammad Atallah, Assistant lecturer of Psychological Health at Faculty of Education, Mansoura University.

Furthermore, the winner researches in the ‘Best National Applied Research’ were published. The first one is ‘the Effect of Using the Constructive Learning model on Improving the Musical Notes Reading of the 6th Grade Students’ by Hanaa Farouq Al Deeb. The second one is ‘Training Students on Metacognitive Strategy to Improve their Presentations’ by Hayat Amdoni. The last research

is ‘the Effect of Using Maps’ by Dr. Raed Subhi Abulllah.

In addition, the Hamdan Award has published a set of books and studies one of which is ‘the Role of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Improving Academic Performance in UAE’ by Dr. Saleh Hwaidy, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Al Walily, and Mohamed Awad. Another book is ‘Hamdan Award.. Reality and Hope in the Eyes of Educational Field’ by Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz Balfakih, Associate professor in Curriculum and Teaching Methods Dept. at Faculty of Education, United Arab Emirates University.

It is to be noted that you can get the 14th Session Publications from the Hamdan Award Headquarter in Dubai or from the Coordinators in educational zones in UAE or the States of Gulf Cooperation Council. Some Publications are available on the Award website.

Hamdan Award to Organize the Arbitration Forum and the Convention of Best Practices on Nov. 26th

Dubai . “Attamauz News”:

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance is going to organize the 6th Arbitration Forum and the Convention of Best Practices in Distinguished Academic Performance at Al Rashidiya Ballroom in Al Bustan Rotana Hotel on October 26th – 27th.

In his statement, the Hamdan Award Secretary General, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi said: “Arbitration Forum aims at raising the level of arbitration and improving the arbitrators’ performance regionally and centrally, both locally and across Gulf States. It is also intended to bring members of arbitration committees’ perspectives close to one another, unify the practices, explain the trends and policy of the Award in relation to regulations and lists of arbitration, and introduce the updates of 14th Session.”

Dr. Al Muhairi added: “In addition, the Forum aims at listening to varieties of arbitrators’ viewpoints of arbitration issues on the local and Gulf levels, the prevailing practices on both levels, consideration of the most important remarks and improving

suggestions resulted as feedback of arbitration processes from the point of view of the targeted in the academic field, and direct contact along with establishment of appropriate environment to strengthen the relationship between the Award and arbitrators at all levels.” Moreover, he referred that the Forum is directed to arbitrators of 12th and 13th Sessions, UAE education zones and GCC states coordinators, and the national and GCC arbitrators of the Award competitions.

Al Muhairi clarified that a paper will be presented during the Forum. The paper is about the Award and recent developments and general instructions for 14th Session arbitration, by Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Member of the Board of Trustees; as well as a paper by Yosef Al Khalfan, an Arbitrator in GCC States; and a third one by an Award winner teacher of the 13th Session, Mr. Majdi Ammar.

Then, the chairmen of committees are going to display the most notable remarks during arbitration of Distinguished Student, Distinguished Teacher, Distinguished School & School Administration, Distinguished Family, Distinguished Social / psychological Worker, and Best

Applied Project, and Best Scientific Innovation.

On the other hand, speaking about 6th Convention of Best Practices, the Award Secretary General stated that it aims at increasing the awareness of the academic community towards the distinguished academic practices; spreading and transmitting knowledge, expertise, and distinguished experience and deepening distinction culture by means of displaying and

documenting the best experiences according to the standards of the academic performance; and honouring distinguished academic achievements besides their authors. It also aims at documentation and calculation of distinguished academic practices; spreading and popularizing the culture of distinction in academic performance and defining the winners’ effort and distinguished innovation; crowning of winners’ effort and motivating them to proceed in the distinction way; encouraging distinguished people to join the Award; widening the Convention targeted scope by allowing foreign private schools to participate; and telling the world of competitions and criteria of Higher Education in United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Al Muhairi clarified that the Convention will be accompanied by an exhibition for the winners of Education Supporting Organizations Award. These Organizations are Dubai Police, Dubai Municipality, and Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khaled Al Nahyan Cultural Center. Other education wings will attend as well, such as: Khalifa Award for Education, Ras Al Khaimah Award for the Ideal Girls, Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education, Shamsa Bint Suhail Award for Creative Women, Distinguished School Corner, Best Applied Project, and the Award Administrations of Distinguished and Gifted.

Dr. Mariam Lootah is going to present a paper during the Convention. And Mr. Mohammad Yosif Shahin, one of the winners of the Award, is going to talk about his experience with it. There will be an explanation of electronic documentation for application forms in the categories of Distinguished Student and Distinguished Teacher. The Distinguished participations will be displayed for the categories of Distinguished School & School Administration, Best Applied Project, and distinguished Academic student.



At the Start of the 14th Session

Dr. Al Muhairi Calls upon Hardworking Participation in the Hamdan Award Competitions



Interview by Zahir Hussain

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, the Secretary General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, announces that the winning share of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been doubled from 6 up to 12 prizes equally between males and females. That was because of vast geographical area and the good quality of their presented works in the last sessions.



Dr. Al Muhairi called national and Gulf education field upon hardworking participation in the Hamdan Award events. In his interview with "Attamauz News" Magazine, Dr. Muhairi stated: "the Hamdan Award will spare no effort in guiding participants to the way of being distinguished and will spread distinction; this step is to keep in pace with the five-year strategic plan" which he revealed preparations for in the coming period.

In his answer of the recent developments of the Award 14th Session, the Award Secretary General said: "There have been some changes in the application form of the Best Project in National Competitions: only applied research will be accepted. The local environment is applicable for projects, in this way projects will contrib-

ute in achieving more improvement in education field and in education process in general. At the same time, this 'applied' condition has been deleted from "Applied Pedagogical Research Award at the level of Arab World", for the sake of receiving more participating researches. Since potential varies from one country to another, this condition restricts participation; excellent researches that could enrich education have been noticed in previous sessions but they lacked application."

A Cornerstone

"Applied pedagogical research is a cornerstone of improving education in the sense that it takes part in finding the appropriate solutions for the problems of education, academy, behavior, environment, family,

and society. Thus, for the sake of improving education and achieving its output along with developing potential and skills of people dealing with it, it is essential to start studying and investigating the causes and results of these problems in order to reach practicable procedures and well planned recommendations." Dr. Muhairi said.

"There is also a new addition in participating conditions of (Sponsoring Organizations Award); the winner organization has the right of candidacy once more after two sessions with a new project." He added. The Award Secretary General referred to the large size of attached files over last few years to the extent that it forms a burden on both the applicant and the arbitrator alike. This was the reason behind the limitation of number and size of at-

'Application' Condition Deleted from the Arab Research and Imposed at the National

Researches Contribute in much Improvement to Education Field and Process

Winners of 'Sponsoring Organizations' are Allowed to Re-Apply New Project after 2 Sessions

attachments in each Award category as follows: Distinguished Student and Higher education/ distinguished university student, 100 pages; Distinguished Teacher and Highly Distinguished Teacher, 250 pages; Distinguished School & School Administration, 500 pages; Best Applied Project and Best Scientific Innovation, 100 pages; Distinguished Social / psychological Worker 250 pages; Distinguished Supervisor, 200 pages; Distinguished Family, 300 pages; and Best Education Supporting Organizations, 50 pages.

E- Application Forms

Furthermore, Dr. Muhairi mentioned that application forms of 14th Session will be submitted electronically on the Award website for all categories of the Award competitions. Applicants must visit the Award website; choose the application

form according to his / her category, fill information online, save information, and print the application form to complete it with signatures, attachments, and explanatory Guides in order to present them.

“Concerning attachments and Guides, Electronic documentation is preferred provided that number of pages does not exceed the specified number of paper documentation, and that the applicant uses widespread and easy to use software.” Al Muhairi added. He also said: “In its effort to get the best participations and to get as much participations as possible, the Award opened the way for willing to participate to be in direct contact with it. Besides, The Hamdan Award will offer advices and guidelines.”

As for organizational structure, Dr. Muhairi replied: “The Office Internal Audit and Follow up was innovated; its duty is

to observe activities within the Hamdan Award and to comply with its objectives along with general policy-making and compiling annual achievements in a booklet to be published at the end of each session.”

Dr. Muhairi uncovered that the Hamdan Award is preparing new five-year plan for the years 2013-2018. It focuses on adding new features for the Award and using modern methods, other than Competitions, its major characteristic. He noted that starting the new strategy will be preceded by training and evaluation of employees on planning procedures. Hamdan Award is seeking to obtain ISO, membership in European Organization of Quality (EOQ), and renewing its membership in Dubai Quality Group (DQG)

Owned by the Award

Dr. Muhairi mentioned that all

Doubling Saudi Arabia Award Winning Share up to 12

Limitations on the Number and Size of Attachments for Each Category

Electronic Attachments and Explanatory Guides are Preferred



presented works are deemed to be owned by the Hamdan Award and will not be returned to participants. Thus, participants should make sure that they submit copies, not originals of their works. The Award shall keep all presented works; members of executive committee shall take procedures to clarify this point to the targeted groups.

Moreover, He referred to page of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance on (Facebook), which is created for the purpose of increasing communication with targeted and interested people.

As for the 'UNESCO-Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers' which started its 2nd Session at the same time with the 14th Session of the Award, Dr. Muhairi expected increment in application forms number, and that the first stage of arbitration will start at the end of this month. He added that a lot of inquiries from all over the world have been received about the Award, its standards, and how to apply for.

He clarified that the initial sorting Committee is supervised by the Permanent Committee of the International Award, followed by international arbitration with experts from different parts of the world. The arbitrators will be hosted in Dubai next November.

No new Categories

Answering on a question of his evaluation of the last session, the Secretary General said: "Although in the last session participations were 9% less than the previous one, they were serious and distinguished. This was clear in the fact that the percentage of winners increased 67% in comparison with applicants." He pointed out that for the time being, no new category will be added to the Award.

Besides, he said that for the fourth year in a row, the absence of Central Administrations was noticeable, despite instruction of the leadership in the Ministry of Education to the importance of participation in the Award. He invited them to join the Award this year, and drew the attention to the distinguished participation of Sharjah Education Zone in the standard of cooperation with Environment and working with Local Community, the thing which broke the barrier of non-joining Educational Zones in preceding sessions.

Dr. Muhairi referred that there was lack of participations of applied technology institutions last year. This lack demanded looking for new and unconventional methods to deal with this problem, and to attract and utilize diligent participants. He explained that the Award is still aspired after more participation, especially from Higher Education; there is also a trend to invent new methods to attract more participants by means of edification in universities, particularly Khalifa University which comprises faculties of Engineering- the appropriate environment of Best Scientific Innovation and Best Applied Project.

Electronic Training

With regard to training, Electronic Training was adopted nationally. It is an interactive system which depends on Multi Media and use of latest technology. The system will be distributed over educational zones and will be available for the vast majority of willing to participate.

On the Gulf side, arbitrators of Teacher and School Awards were trained, too. The standards of targeted category will be explained as axes; the trainer in each axis explains the most important things that the targeted might see problematic, then the trainer answers these questions and listens to recommendations of participating people.





Winning the “Best Applied Project” in the 13th Session Tchoukball Enriches Curriculums by a Sport with Healthy and Educational Benefit

Dubai . (Attamauz News):

Supervisors of (Tchoukball) in Sharjah Educational Zone assured that the project has enriched physical education course by a new sport that is very beneficial to health and education. The game was popularized in public and private schools and in educational institutions by means of training workshops and courses.

They added that the project, which won Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance as the Best Applied Project, aims at increasing the number of practitioners and adopting schools, as well as raising

teacher’s professional competence and establishment of training center for distinguished tchoukball players. Moreover, they mentioned that the purpose of the project is to enter new sport that can open new horizons for students, give them more choices of the sport they like to practise, and provide them with a chance to expose their talents and innovations to join different championships in Asia and the world, and represent Emirates in the best way possible.

The Project Objectives

They also stated that the near-term objectives are to enlarge the basis of practitioners, increase the number of participating schools, improve the professional skills of teachers by holding courses and work-





shops in training and arbitrating at Sharjah level, promote Tchoukball, and organize local championships.

Whereas the long-term goals are to list Tchoukball in the physical education course, increase the number of training centers for the talented, intensify training and arbitration courses and workshops, popularize the project to the other emirates. Other goals are the declaration of an association or union for the game that would be the first in the Arab World, contribution in making the game popular among Gulf and Arab countries, organization of friendlies locally, internationally, and on Asian level, and joining Asian and international championships.

About the targeted group, Sharjah supervisors said: (The targeted group has been identified as the private and public school students, teaching staffs who are going to deal with the practical side of the project, administrative staffs who are going to watch carrying the project out, and local community institutions in Sharjah and other educational zones.)

Concerning other gained benefit, the supervisors mentioned that a new beneficial sport has

been added to Sports domain, encouraged the field of education to execute local developing projects, the Tchoukball was listed and popularized in the physical education course, consolidating practitioners' health, familiarity with the experience of the advanced countries and utilizing it, discovering, nurturing, and improving the gifted people's skills by means of specialized training centres to put them together for training, moving from national competitions to international ones by forming a school team, participating in Asian and

World championships, improving the teachers' professionalism, raising their competence for the reason of rising the educational output, and developing the Tchoukball players' physical and skilful aspects by national championships.

Project Fruits

The Supervisors referred that the achieved outcome of the project lies in the facts that Tchoukball has already become part of physical education course, added a new sport with healthy and educational benefit, become popular in private and

public schools and in educational institutions through many training courses and workshops, increased the number from 30 students at the dawn of the project up to 2537 practitioner, increased the students' awareness to practise sports and integrating it with their lifestyle, increased the number of applying educational institutions, promoted it in several Arabic and International forums. They also mentioned formal recognition in the competitions of Department of Physical Education, nurturing the gifted and formation of the first Tchoukball team in the Arab World and attended 4 international championships in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and India, representing Emirates in the global forums and flying the flag high, getting the 5th order of Asia and the 17th of the world in a very short time in the history of the team. In addition to improvement of the physical fitness related to the students' health according to evaluation of body performance, advance in carrying out the basic Tchoukball skills along with the sentimental and moral aspect of students, and establishment of the first Tchoukball centre in the Arab World.

About Tchoukball

Tchoukball is developed in the 1970s by Swiss doctor Hermann Brandt. The idea was to develop a team sport which did not involve the horrific injuries which he viewed during his job in sports medicine as a Consultant orthopaedic surgeon and in sports team treatment. So he thought of a team sport that keeps players away from injuries, a game that everyone can practise regardless of age or other aspects.

Just like other team sports, Tchoukball has its own principles and rules. It combines elements of handball, as it seeks shooting the opponent goal, and volleyball, as the defending team must prevent the ball from falling and there is no contact with the players of the other team.