



# التقارير أخبار

جائزة حمدان بن راشد آل مكتوم للأداء التعليمي المتميز  
Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award For Distinguished Academic Performance  
Newsletter - issue 68 December 2011

**Hamdan Award approves implementation plan of 'Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness'**

**Educational Zones begin receiving applications and arbitration of 'Distinguished Student' in early December**

**UNESCO-Hamdan Prize finishes adjudication of 21 nomination letters**

**Hamdan Award participate in the Sharjah Book Fair**

**40<sup>th</sup> National Day...**  
UAE continue the march  
of development and evolution



# December 2011

Issue 68

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Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance

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Monthly Educational Magazine

## OUR VISION

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

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# Introduction



## Education and the sustainability of development

\* During these forty years, since the announcement of establishment of our beloved Country, building human being was a priority in the plans and strategies of our government. This rational vision has made education accounts for the lion's share of attention, care and support of our ambitious leadership, whether the early founders, or their successors. Thus, 'quality and quantity' and 'form and content' development was the dominant feature of the transitional stages of education. This development in education was able to keep up the State's needs and requirements of different phases in the process of establishment, construction, development and continuance. Great national accomplishments were achieved by its virtue, locally and internationally.

\* The citizen, who experienced this educational system, undertook his national role and responsibilities, and became the Man who drives and implements and participates in the national development process. Not a secret that most of our national leaders of political, economic, social and educational institutions are, proudly, the product of education in UAE.

\* This educational achievement is worth to continue; especially that educational system in the UAE has the ingredients to meet the requirements of sustainable development, particularly the social, economic, political and environmental dimensions. All educational experts stress the importance of these dimensions. In this context, UNESCO has identified four main pillars of Education for obtaining sustainable development: to improve the quality of primary education, to give the curricula new tendencies, to increase public awareness, and to provide training. The four factors require partnership among all the sectors of community, sharing distinguished practices, encouraging the complementary roles, and hard work to raise educational awareness. They are the requirements of the next stage of Emirati education that ensure the sustainability of development in our precious country.

May Allah save Emirates and its glory under our leadership!

**Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi**  
Chief Editor

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## 40<sup>th</sup> National Day... UAE continue the march of development and evolution

Dubai . (Attamauz News):

UAE celebrates the 40th National Day of Union on the 2nd of December as a state of advanced ranking not only on level of Arab Countries, but also on the world level. This is true! The United Arab Emirates ranked 30 in the index of UN Human Development Report and the top Arab and regional country.





Since it was established, Emirates has placed a high priority to promote the social development sectors, including education, health, housing, infrastructure and social welfare, as part of ambitious strategies to achieve the progress of the country and the welfare and prosperity of citizens.

The Federal Government budget for the year 2012 has focused on social services sector which has been allocated 19 billion and 700 million dirhams. On top of services is the education sector which accounted for 20% of the total budget, that is 8 billion and AED 200 million to complete the implementation of development of education strategy in the state.

The number of public and private schools in the academic year (2009 - 2010) was about 1245 schools, with

about 700,000 students, compared with 74 schools with only 22,800 students when the Emirates unified in the academic year (1971-1972).

Education became universal with its various national and foreign curricula which amounted to 18, all are taught under the umbrella of Ministry of Education in United Arab Emirates.

According to the Ministry of Education, through its website, education went through four types of developments that characterized the UAE throughout its long and rich history. First Type: In this type of education, which was the common method of education for a long time, where old male and female teachers, called “mutawwa” and “mutawaa” handled the teaching of all subjects for all the children of the neighborhoods. These

**“Despite the educational achievements, the educational process is an ever-growing challenge in need of meticulous planning and rigorous efforts of program development in order to keep up with modern technology and the fast-paced technological advancement”**

**“We are working continuously to improve educational and social services, to develop agricultural sector, to take an interest in youth welfare, to support facilities of transportation, and to establish airports, modern roads and advanced ports”**

**Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**





**“Man is the real wealth of this country before and after oil, and the National interests is the goal that we work for day and night”**

**Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

teachers relied on memorizing the Holy Quran and the prophet's Hadeeth (sayings), in addition to writing and calligraphy, Islamic rituals and duties. Many varieties of Mutawwa education appeared later as a result of the differences in teaching methods and personal differences between the educators themselves. This phenomenon continued until it was totally replaced by a more advanced schooling system. Second Type: Scientific Circle Education: This type of education was practiced by few scientists, scholars and intellectuals who had a lot of knowledge in religious education, history

and grammar . It was held in mosque's corners or in a private place in the house of the scholar himself or one of the merchants or an important person in the town. Circles and lessons prospered in the UAE for a long time, but the most famous circle was the one that included some Najdian scientists who lived in Ras Al Khaimah during the last British Expedition of 1819. UAE Cities witnessed many educational hallways that were lead by large scientists who visited the country and taught bright students. Scientific circles and religious lessons were the source of knowledge and reli-

gious education for the community. The first UAE pioneers have graduated from such scientific and religious circles. This system vanished once the modern schooling system took over and herald the beginning of modern schools. Third Type: Developed education or semi systematic: In the period between 1907 to 1953 , the developed education began when pearl merchants (tawaweesh) were influenced by the Arabian reform and awakening waves. They opened enlightening schools in cities and brought scholars to run, manage, and supervise education in these schools. One of the





**“In an effort to successfully build our nation, a large portion of this country’s income is invested in compensating opportunities for progress that may have passed us by, and in moving along with the progress of the developed countries in order to support our main aim of advancing the UAE and the UAE national.”**

**Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

popular developed schools in Sharjah was the Taimia Mahmoudia in 1907 and the reforming school in 1935. While in Dubai, a famous school was Al Ahmadiya which was established in 1912, Salmia 1923, Alsada 1925 and Al Falah 1926. Since 1936, the evolutionary education in Dubai witnessed a noticeable development with the foundation of the Department of Knowledge. It was the first knowledge department in the UAE headed by Sheikh Mansour bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the leader of reform in the thirties. Al Otaiba School was founded in Abu Dhabi in 1930, and later other

similar schools were opened in other Emirates. Evolutionary education continued until the end of forties where many factors such as the commercial recession that took place after the introduction of artificial pearls, the effects of 2nd World War on commercial exchanges in the Gulf, which in its turn reflected on such schools and led them to suspend their operations. Al Qassemia Reformation School that was founded in Sharjah in 1935 helped with its distinctive curriculum in developing education and turned it into a more systematic process. On the ruins of this particular school, the first

UAE systematic school –Al Qassemia - was founded in Sharjah.

Finally, Fourth Type: Modern Systematic Education: This type of education started with Al Qassemia School in Sharjah -1953/1954 which marked the first academic year in formal education in the UAE. This education was organized and furnished a number of schools and classes along with proper curriculum with testing standards and certification for the students at the end of each academic year. Systematic education developed in the UAE in two stages; the first was handled by local governments and knowledge departments that were founded in the sixties.

Whereas the grand launch of the schooling system took place in the second of December 1971, which marks the declaration of the Federation of the seven Emirates. Local Ministries were established, and the Federal Ministry of Education & Youth was in charge of all education related issues. Many public schools were built according to modern standards, and equipped by novel tools and instruments. Teachers were brought in from different Arab Countries to contribute to the development of education. This era took the UAE to a brighter age with the increase of literacy and an ambition to eradicate illiteracy.



## Hamdan Award celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> National Day in Dubai Heritage Village

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in activities to mark UAE 40th National Day which occurs on 2nd of December each year. Hamdan Award celebrated with a number of government institutions in Heritage Village in Shindagha, Dubai. Abdul Noor Al Hashimi, Head of Public Media & Relations Department and Chairman of the Organizing Committee to celebrate the 40th National Day, said: “The events included: construction of a drawing studio for the public in which they use various means (watercolor, oil color, wax, coal and sand), a competition for the best painting, making a stereograph of the 40th National Day logo ‘the Spirit of the Union’. It also included memorial photo for visitors with the mural, competition to the audience on the theatre, instant cash prizes and other gifts.” “We organized daily radio competition for five days from 27 November to 1 December at ‘Noor Dubai’ station. There was 3 questions every day with a prize of AED 1,000 each question.” Al Hashimi added. He also said that another competition was organized on the Award website for best 6 photos that reflect the celebration of National Day; the value of each prize is AED 1000. On this occasion, Hamdan Award also held honoring party at the level of management.



## Hamdan Award approves implementation plan of ‘Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness’

Dubai . (Attamauz News):

**Board of Trustees in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance approved the implementation plan of ‘12th edition of the Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness’. Themed ‘Nurturing Talent, Growing Potential’, the Conference will be hosted by the UAE from 14 to 18 July, 2012 in Dubai, under the supervision of Asian Talent Council. The approval came after a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, which was held on November 24th at the Ministry of Education in Dubai under the chairmanship of His Excellency Humaid Mohamed Al Qutami, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Award Board of Trustees, with the presence of Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Council and the Secretary General of the Award, and the members of the Board of Trustees.**

His Excellency the Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees expressed his pride in the prestige that the UAE has got by virtue of to the wise policy of the Government of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan UAE President, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and their Highnesses Members of Supreme Council, the Rulers of the Emirates. This policy earned the respect of the international community and was reflected on the strong reputation of the state in international forums, and generated confidence in its abil-

ity to contribute effectively to international issues, especially educational and cultural ones. It raised UAE to the top of candidates to participate in UN efforts which aim at achieving the welfare and development of human life.

His Excellency affirmed that the selection of the UAE to organize this Conference is a

precedent in the Middle East and Arab countries. It adds another achievement to our national credit in organization of international conferences, and indicates the improvement of national efforts in the field of education.

The Minister of Education mentioned that the conference is a great scientific manifes-



tation. It will be attended by approximately two thousand scientists, academics and researchers. This will provide the state and region with academic importance. It gives an opportunity for a large number of experts in teaching talent in the world to exchange views on the future of talented. It also gives the Ministry of Education and the Hamdan Award an actual chance to test their vision in the application of the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted which is supported by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, sponsor of the award.

His Excellency expected that the conference will attract the attention of educational institutions and communities towards the culture of talent and talented students whose energies have not been invested. He said that he is confident that Dubai Conference will lead to effective results that will be reflected positively on the plans of improving talented sector at the level of Asia and the countries of the Pacific Ocean. His Excellency Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Secretary General of the Award of the Chairman of Steering Committee of Gifted-



**Al Qutami:**  
The conference attracts the attention of educational institutions and communities towards 'talent' culture

ness 2012, said that the plan of implementation of the Conference has been reviewed the at the meeting of the Board of Trustees. They have been informed of the details of organization, themes and objectives of the Conference, expectations for the level of participation, methods of registration, organization of Student Forum, media, campaigns, mar-



**Dr. Muhairi:**  
500 students taking part 'Children and Youth Committee'

keting, and all other related things. He referred to that coordination and cooperation with concerned institutions and government agencies will be at the highest level to ensure the quality of organization, and to achieve the objectives of the Conference. He declared that this event will be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre. The Conference is gaining in-

ternational importance because of the fact that it is specialized in talent, it is supervised by Asian Talent Council, and that there is widening base of participation. Al Muhairi added that the conference schedule will include major seminars, presentations, workshops, meetings, talk shows, discussions. In addition to 'Children and Youth Committee' that will be attended by 500 students from different countries of Asia and the Pacific. He announced that the Conference will present several important issues in the field of talent for debate and discussion in regard to detection and measurement, curriculum and teaching, social and psychological needs, and the best environment of creative learning and thinking. According to Dr. Muhairi, the Scientific Committee, headed by Dr. Mohammed Al Baili, Vice President of the Asian Talent Council, began procedures gather the main speakers, seminar presenters, and participating delegations. A webpage of the Conference in Arabic and English has been launched; it provides adequate information about the event with registration and participation services. The website is:

[www.giftedness2012.com](http://www.giftedness2012.com)

Starting field visits in this December,

# UNESCO-Hamdan Prize finishes adjudication of 21 nomination letters



**By: Samer Salah**

UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers has finished adjudication of 21 letters of nomination, which is the second and final stage of adjudication of the international Prize. Whereas field visits to the winning nomination letters commence in the first of this December to examine the actual application of practices.

Dr. Khalifa Ali AlSuwaidi, Representative of Board of Trustees in the Permanent Jury of the International Prize, said: "The adjudication process went smoothly with understanding and harmony among members of the jury. It also contained deep discussions about contentions that may exist in some files in order to reach a formula agreed upon by everyone."

"UNESCO-Hamdan Prize aims to support, encourage and benefit people working to enhance the performance and effectiveness of teachers towards Education for All. It also aims to facilitate the global sharing and dissemination of outstanding practices regarding teachers." He added. The Permanent Jury Member of the international Prize stated that adjudication and grading were performed in the presence of members of the Permanent Committee who are: a representative of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, a representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO), and the General Coordinator of the International Prize.

Dr. AlSuwaidi also thanked the jury members for their effort made to the successful conduct of the adjudication and to ensure its transparency, noting that UNESCO-Hamdan Prize is the only UNESCO prize that is adjudicated outside the international organization, which is evidence of confidence given to it.



**AlSuwaidi: Adjudication went smoothly with understanding and harmony among jury members**

#### **Geographical representation**

Dr. Ali Saeed AlKaabi, General Coordinator of the Prize and Permanent Jury Member, said: "In the second stage in the adjudication process, the selection of Prize Winners is conducted by an International Jury. This International Jury is composed of the Permanent Committee and the Non-Permanent Committee. The Permanent Committee

is composed of three Permanent Members, who are the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, a representative of the Board of Trustees of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and the General Coordinator. Whereas the Non-Permanent Committee is composed of five Non-Permanent Members, who are distinguished professionals with a high level of knowledge and experience of teacher-related issues. The Jury membership shall reflect the global nature of the Prize, with geographical representation of all UNESCO regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America and Latin American and the Caribbean). Gender balance will also be a key consideration.

Concerning the process of approval and selection of the Prize Winners Dr. AlKaabi clarified: "It is carried out by preparing an initial shortlist following examination of the Letters of Nomination of eligible applications. Then a final list of 3 Prize Winners is established based on a further examination of all shortlisted applications, including all additional material provided by the shortlisted Candidates. If the difference between two Candidates is no more than 5%, then geographical rep-

resentation of the Prize Winners will be taken into consideration. The final list of Prize Winners is validated by the Permanent Committee, keeping in mind geographical representation.

#### **Important partner**

Mr. Edem Adubra, Representative of UNESCO in the Permanent Jury, said: "It is an honor for the UNESCO to deal with the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. It is one of the important partners who are interested in; we can get education only by distinguished teachers."

"All awards are adjudicated inside UNESCO except Hamdan International Prize because we are partners and there is a lot of confidence given to this institution," Mr. Adubra added noting that the Prize, its procedures, regulations and systems, are in cooperation with the Hamdan Award, UNESCO and the Executive Board, and in continual coordination at all stages of the adjudication, from letters of nomination submission to jury nomination and adjudication itself.

Mr. Adubra mentioned that governments are responsible for supporting education in any country, some fail to do so because of lack of resources. He also appreciated the support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, patron of the award, saying: "We have to express our gratitude to HH Sheikh Hamdan for providing education for all, whether locally or internationally; and we appreciate his great work. He is a great model for other leaders and organizations in the private sector. Education is the foundation not only for development, but also for peace and global understanding. His Highness's support of education is continuing despite the global economic crisis."

## **Members of Permanent and Non-Permanent Jury**

Dr. Ali Khalifa Ali AlSuwaidi, Representative of the Board of Trustees in the Permanent Jury. Dr. Ali Saeed AlKaabi, General Coordinator of the Prize and Permanent Jury Member. Mr. Edem Adubra, UNESCO Representative in the Permanent Jury. Prof. Beatrice Avalos-Bevan, Non-Permanent Jury Member and Representative of Latin America and the Caribbean. Prof. Pavel Zgaga, Non-Permanent Jury Member and Representative of Europe and North America. Prof. Therese Mungah Shalo Tchombe, Non-Permanent Jury Member and Representative of Africa. Prof. Ora Wai-Yu Kow, Non-Permanent Jury Member and Representative of Asia and the Pacific.

## Adjudicators of the International Prize:

# Hamdan bin Rashid is a leader whose vision is to change the world for the better

Jury of UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers have affirmed that the Prize has been deepening by support of education throughout the world and that it helps development of teachers to continue. They lauded the support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, and Patron of the Prize, saying: “He is a wonderful leader with an unlimited vision to change the world for the better.”

Prof. Therese Mungah Shalo Tchombe, Non-Permanent Jury Member and Representative of Africa said: “This is my first experience in adjudication of UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers. I believe that anything given to teachers is good strategy because they are the heart of

educational process. We respond to global issues such as Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals to support education because teachers translate the objectives of the educational process by means of actual work in the classroom.”

“We are in the globalization era; and UNESCO-Hamdan Prize goes deeper in support of education in continents of the

world. This Prize will help the sustainability of development for teachers because we are in an era of continual changes.” She said. “We consider His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid as an outstanding leader with a vision and a humanitarian mission. By means of this Prize, he is capable of changing; and his vision is ambitious and is based on changing the world for the better.”

She added commending His Highness’s patronage of the Prize.

She noted that there are nomination letters that met the objectives of the Prize. They will be visited in early December to check their actual practices. Others did not match the required level, but as a whole they were interested in programs that are based on the development of teachers.





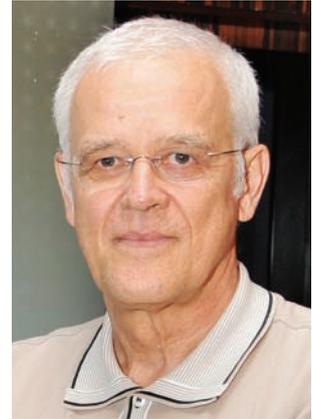
**Tchombe:** UNESCO-Hamdan Prize helps development of teachers to continue



**Kow:** Dissemination of best practices is important and distinguishes UNESCO-Hamdan Prize



**Bevan:** The Prize brings peoples together and reflects a beautiful image of Arabs and their interest in education



**Zgaga:** Participations are various and excellent ones reached field visits stage

#### A good step

Prof. Ora Wai-Yu Kow, Non-Permanent Jury Member and Representative of Asia and the Pacific appreciated His Highness's impressive intellect who aims to influence the world through supporting and promoting education saying: "Cooperation between UNESCO and the Prize is a good step since UNESCO-Hamdan is an important channel to consolidate education." She added "One of the Prize objectives is propagation of best practices which is an important and distinguished point. The competition is like as a seed that grows into a ripe and fruitful tree." As well, she stated that submitted works this year are various- only 25% of them did not fit the Prize goals, while the rest reached required level.

#### Focus on projects

Prof. Beatrice Avalos-Bevan, Non-Permanent Jury Member and Representative of Latin America and the Caribbean cited: "UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers

is very important because it focuses on projects related to teachers, not necessarily huge projects. No other prizes are interested in teacher this way. Presented works are many and various which is an important characteristic since UNESCO-Hamdan Prize is interested in variety of practices in enhancing the effectiveness of teachers."

"Education is the axis of progress in any society. This interest in education came from Arab country as the UAE; and, historically, Arabs' attention of education it is not a secret. The Prize brings peoples together and reflects beautiful image of Arabs, their culture and interest in education." She added.

In addition, Prof. Pavel Zgaga, Non-Permanent Jury Member and Representative of Europe and North America extolled the support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum of education in all parts of the world through the Prize launched by His Highness. In addition, he referred that the participations this year are varied and that some of them have reached field visits stage.

#### Prizes are an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of education

Marina Farzani, employee at UNESCO, stated: "Prizes are an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of education, teachers, and problems and challenges facing them. It is important for international educational institutions and teachers to know about this Prize and what it offers. It is also important for UNESCO because of UNESCO's direct relationship with teachers and their affairs." Regarding the method of selecting the winners, Farzani said: "The



procedures are clear and transparent, and was explained to the adjudicators. There have been discussions so that selecting the winner will be based on satisfaction on all adjudicators; the discussions are useful to all Members of the Jury to clarify the differences in viewpoints and to agree on one opinion." Farzani commended the Prize and its expansion from national to GCC, Arab and international levels and said: "There are regional and local awards but the only international one for teachers is UNESCO-Hamdan Prize." She added that there is no superficial letter of nomination in the current cycle, but there are some files that are more convenient to the prize criteria than others. The amount of innovations in the field of teachers in the world is remarkable; it is wise to provide summaries of all submissions so that everyone knows what are the problems and outstanding work in these works. We congratulate all the 21 participating files.

"We highly appreciate the support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid of the educational process. There is a wise leader behind the Prize. Other than UNESCO-Hamdan Prize, leaders usually do not care about such Prizes." Farzani said.



## Holding training workshops and courses for participants in Cycle 14, **Educational Zones begin receiving applications and arbitration of ‘Distinguished Student’ in early December**

**By: Samer Salah**

**UAE Educational Zones started receiving application forms of the 14th Cycle of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance at the same time of preparation of ‘Distinguished Student’ arbitration in early December. Educational Zones have witnessed training courses and workshops at the beginning of the Cycle to guide applicants how to document, fill out the application form, and to answer their questions. Educational Zones have also experienced field visits to public and private schools in order to motivate and encourage people to participate in various categories of the award.**

Rashid Mohammed Salim Saeed, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Abu Dhabi Educational Zone, cited: “After the result of 13th Cycle and Abu Dhabi Office retention of the first position, Abu Dhabi Education Council kept encouraging schools to participate. Certificates were also handed over to the winners and participants in the activities of the previous Cycle. The office website was updated to include the names of winners of Cycle 13; a balanced plan was worked out for all the educational awards for the sake of maintaining the lead in the awards competition. Hamdan Award website was sent out to public and private schools.” “We observed answering all

the questions of a lot of participants. We also prepared educational field for some groups that have not achieved the desired result in the previous Cycle by implementing some training courses, and asked schools to form a committee (composed of the school principal, social worker, and 3 teachers including school radio supervisor) with the aim of support the award with its different categories. Objectives and tasks of the Committee were defined; there is moral support of the Coordinating Office of members of committees. Schools have been addressed make the best students, teachers and projects ready for participate. In addition, we set a timetable in line with Education Office plan regarding the implementa-



tion of courses, distributed the publications, and prepared the educational field for the current Cycle.” Mr. Saeed added The Coordinator of Hamdan Award in Abu Dhabi Educational Zone said that field visits to public and private schools were organized for motivation and encouragement of people to participate in the various categories of the Award, and for urging the new candidates to stick to the rules of the interpretative guide. We launched a Competition of Best Committee for the Activation of Educational Awards; we count the names of the participants in all categories of the Award, provide them with appropriate support, and monitor them. Furthermore, we provide technical support to all candidates by the Coordinating office of Educational Awards.

#### **Courses and workshops**

Mohammed Saad, Chairman of the Award arbitrators in Abu Dhabi Educational Zone, said: “All activities of the Award, both courses and lectures, were covered. We started of arbitration between the zones and delivering the files of candidates for the management of the

Award through print media. All publications of the Award were distributed to schools of the Zone.”

“13 training courses and workshops were held by the Coordinating Office of the Award as of September 2011 targeting applicants of all categories for the Award. 4 courses were organized to the category of Distinguished Student, 4 courses to the Arabic and English Distinguished Teacher, and one course in each of the categories: Best Applied Project, Distinguished School Administration Distinguished Family, Best Applied Educational Research and Distinguished Supervisor.” Saad added.

Saad said that all inquiries have been answered, and that Coordinating Office complied with making Arbitration Committees guide applicants to excellence, and provide with the necessary advice. Arbitration Committees members attended the 6th Arbitration Forum which was held by the Award last October, and there was emphasis on strengthening files appropriately and utilizing the winners.

Saad suggested studying the causes behind the low level of

participation in Distinguished Social / Psychological Worker category and the withdrawal of some people after showing willingness to participate and delivering their files. He also suggested electronic distribution of the next Cycle’s publications starting from next May, and studying raising the value of the reward for the winners in all categories to be equivalent with other awards.

#### **Developments**

Rawda Mohammed Obaid, General Coordinator of Excellence in Education Awards, and Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Al Ain Education Office, said: “The Excellence in Education Awards Section in the Office organized a workshop for teachers participating in the 14th Cycle of Hamdan Award at Amuriyah Primary School for Girls on 16 November. The workshop was implemented by Salha Mubarak Al Balushi and Sheikha Al Balushi, winners of the Award in previous Cycles, and was attended by Mohammed Nasser Al Ghaithi Training Supervisor in Excellence in

### **Organizing 13 training courses and workshops in Abu Dhabi Educational Zone**

### **Studying causes of the low level participations in ‘Distinguished Social Worker’**

### **Campaigns for schools and providing support and assistance in Sharjah Education Office**



## Sharjah to start arbitration of 'Distinguished Student'

Mona Busmait, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the Sharjah Education Zone, affirmed that Arbitration Committees in Sharjah Education Zone started evaluation of applications for 'Distinguished Student' category on 20 November after the Zone completed receiving participations in Hamdan Award.

"The Management of Sharjah Education Zone sent Interpretative Guides and publications of the Award out to public and private schools in the Zone. It also sent specifications and conditions to be met in the attached documents of application forms and the annual calendar of events. It asked the schools to send candidates' names for all categories. Sharjah Education Zone also issued a circular for naming coordinators of awards in each school, and an administrative decision for the foundation of the Permanent Committee for Excellence in Education in the Zone. This Committee establishes Nurturing Distinguished Committee, which in turn monitors applicants, and directly communicates with all groups to provide support and clarify the criteria for participation," Busmait cited.

She added: "In addition, Sharjah Education Zone issued an administrative decision regarding the selection of arbitration committees for the category of 'Distinguished Student'. There was a meeting for the committee members where publications of the Award and Interpretative Guides of Distinguished Student were distributed. Arbitration Committee Members were invited to attend Arbitration Forum and the 6th Annual Seminar of Best Practices. Another circular was issued regarding the attendance of the 6 workshops of all categories which was organized by Nurturing Distinguished Committee that was established by Permanent Committee for Excellence in Education."

Education Awards."

Obaid said that this workshop comes within the framework of preparations for Hamdan Award competitions, and providing the necessary support to participants in Distinguished Teacher category. It aims at informing them of the developments approved by the management of the Award, as well as notifying them of the requirements of submitting files and dates for the conduct of the audit and follow-up process. She mentioned that the date of submitting participations was circulated earlier with the date of receiving the technical reports and all required documents for participation. She said that there is preparation to hold additional workshops for the participants to provide them with the necessary instructions and facilities.

In addition, the Section held a workshop for participant students on the theatre of the Zone to inform interested people of the conditions and criteria of the Award, as well as developments approved by the Award management in its plan for the new year. Executors of this workshop discussed some winner files in the previous cycles, so that participants will be able to recognize authentication and numbering method which is adopted by the Award management. They also provided support for participating students.

### The Western Region Forum

Jamila Salem Ibrahim Al Dhahri, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the 'Western Educational Zone, stated: "The 4th edition of the Annual Forum of Educational Awards was organized in Al-Marfa; it aimed at familiarizing new participating teachers and students with the conditions and necessary standards to enter the competition and how to participate. During the Forum, some models of winning research were presented with the methods and mechanisms used by the winners in each field so that they were able to get the high degrees which enabled them to win."

"Holding the Forum came un-

der the plan of Coordination Office of Educational Awards for this academic year in order to support participations in the three Education Awards: Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Academic Performance, the Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education, and Khalifa Award for Education." Al Dhahri said and stressed the readiness the Office to hold meetings for people wishing to participate in the awards.

### Educational liveliness

Abu Bakr Al Mushtaghel, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Sharjah Educational Office, said: "Because of the Award educational and social liveliness in the community and educational field, and in order to make Sharjah Educational Office to take advantage of this movement to raise the efficiency of the workers, and to activate the potential of participating groups and to develop the spirit of fair competition, we promoted the 14th Cycle by the distribution of the award publications in prominent places in the Office and schools. We also held a meeting for the coordinators of the award in schools to encourage them to organize continuous awareness campaign, and to utilize the school radio in those campaigns. In the first meeting of the school administrations with the Office management, we urged school administrations to participate in competitions and awards, especially Hamdan Award."

According to Al Mushtaghel: "We also circulated instructions to launch campaigns for schools to participate in the award seriously, to provide whoever wishes with support and assistance, to set a training program for people by winning participants and other professionals. We also asked for making use of the Office website to promote the Award, and demanded school administrations to do the same. As well, we asked them participate in Distinguished School Administration to communicate with parents to encourage their children to participate, and draw the attention of parents to



participate with Distinguished Family.”

The coordinator of Hamdan Award in the Sharjah Education Office cited that: “Categories and standards of application were introduced in a simple way so that participants recognize how it is easy to participate despite the high level of award. Support and assistance were provided by composing a committee to visit schools and encourage everyone to participate, and announce honoring the participants the Award regardless of their result. We advised to utilize the school radio in promoting the Award and encouraging students and the educational field to participate, along with the issuance of a booklet at the end of each year which contains the pictures and their names participants and winners of Hamdan Award, and announce the names of the participants in mass media.”

In regard to courses and workshops Al Mushtaghel mentioned that workshops have been organized in the categories of Distinguished Student, Best Applied Project, Distinguished Social Worker, Best Scientific Innovation, Best Applied Educational Research and Distinguished School Administration. Moreover, he mentioned that in course of the Office preparations to begin the arbitration, the Office met with supervisors, especially those who have

experienced in arbitration of competitions, and the formed of an arbitration panel in the Office composed of specialist and experienced supervisors. The Office also distributed the interpretative guide of the award criteria, and allocated arbitration criteria to the specialized supervisor. It agreed on steps and timetable of arbitration to complete it and deliver the results, and to provide the proper place for arbitration and supply it with computers.

#### Early preparations

Mariam Saqr Mohammed Al Smahi, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Fujairah Education Zone stated: “The Award Coordination Fujairah Educational Zone has finished prepa-

rations to support and nurture talented people who are willing to participate in the Award different categories. We began preparation for this Cycle at the end of the 13th Cycle by counting people who wish to join the competition, and following-up who did not win. Hamdan bin Rashid Award is one of the most prominent awards where Outstanding competencies, academic and educational leaders, and student compete, so we set an organized plan to support and strengthen all participations.”

“Based on statistics and outstanding results gained from participation our Educational Zone in the Award during the last two years, and the importance of organized work, the Educational Zone has issued a manifest of organization of

participations in the educational awards, and circulated it to all schools. The manifest contains the conditions and instructions to be followed for submitting applications to participate in any of educational awards, including Hamdan bin Rashid Award. It clarifies the conditions of participation, the role of the management of the Educational Zone, represented by the work of the Coordinator of educational awards in the Educational Zone and the school, the role of the participant and the school, and the instructions for files involved for each award, as well as the matters of coordination educational awards.” Al Smahi added.

Al Smahi said that the Competition of Best Award Coordinator in Schools has been launched with the aim of activating the role of coordinators of the awards in the field of education. Their role is not only transfer and delivery of participations but also holding training introductory workshops for all awards; it is an effective link between participants of the school and coordination of educational awards in the Educational Zone in order to create some kind of fair competition between managements and coordinators of the awards. Conditions and criteria for such participations have been identified and explained.

She stated that there was com-

## Honoring

Fawzia Mohamed Khalifa Al Mahrazi, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Umm Al Quwain Educational Zone, said: “We organized closing ceremony of the Award in Umm Al Quwain Zone where honored by the arbitrators, winners and participants in the 13th Cycle were honored. The Zone made a decision of assigning supervisors to help the people who want to participate in the Award for the current Cycle, having in mind the need to increase the number of participations in of Umm Al Quwain Zone.” Al Mahrazi added that workshops have been organized for whoever wishing to apply for the Award where many of their questions regarding the application form were answered. They learned about the adopted authentication method, as well.



munication with all winners of all categories in all awards, especially the leader ones, and with members of the jury to get their agreement to put their emails on the Educational Zone website under the title 'Excellence Association'. This 'Association' aims to create a center of specialized consulting in educational awards to facilitate providing technical advice for applicants. The 'Association' contained the email General Coordinators of each award in the Educational Zone.

As for the preparations and activities developed to support the participations of the educational field, Coordinator of the Award in Fujairah Education Zone cited: "there was a schedule for holding workshops the awards; it was generalized to the coordinators of the awards in schools, and put on the website of the Zone. The target and the candidates to attend this workshop were also selected by the technical supervision and school administrations in coordination with the Educational Zone. We also limited the number of candidates for each workshop that the number does not to exceed 20 teachers in order to take advantage and focus on a certain segment to start with them in facilitating their participation." "Within the activities of the workshops that have been implemented under the supervision of the Coordination of the Award in the Educational Zone, we held a workshop for

Distinguished Family and Distinguished Specialist in collaboration with Hamdan bin Rashid Award. It was carried out by Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz from the UAE University, one of the Award arbitrators. The Award Secretariat was asked to provide consultative workshop rather than a training one for Distinguished Family category. 6 families were nominated to inform us with their preparations for participating in the Award; we discussed difficulties and obstacles. We looked forward to recognize and identify the most important solutions that can be invented to support families that we seek to activate their participation." Al Smahi added.

Al Smahi said that, according to a specific schedule that has been circulated to the field of education, 3 workshops were held by the winning teachers of the previous Cycle. We contacted candidates by phone calls and SMS's to attend the workshops. We also held a special workshop for foreign schools that wanted to participate in the category of Distinguished Student, and asked the Chairman of Arbitration Committee to present the workshop, and the allocated companion of the school management to translate the material before the workshop and urged the field of education to attend. As well, we provided transport for cities of Fujairah and Dibba Fujairah to transfer attendants to the Seminar of Best Practices to benefit

and learn from the best works and winning applications.

Moreover, Coordinator of Hamdan Award in Fujairah Education Zone cited: "We prepared to the stage of the arbitration between the zones by the nomination of a number of supervisor to attend the 6th Arbitration Forum to benefit and learn about the main difficulties and obstacles that hinder the work of Central Arbitration Committees of Hamdan Award. We established the Committee of arbitration and follow-up for the works that are expected to be received from all sectors in education field. We held a meeting with the Committee of Arbitration of Distinguished Student to inform them of the most prominent conditions and the steps that must be met in the works submitted for the Award like the sizes of participations, and the quality of works."

With respect to the conditions and standards of participation, Al Smahi mentioned that the education field was instructed to be familiar with them, and to abide by them from the beginning of end, and post them on the Award website. In order to prepare for the delivery of the final participations on time as specified by the General Secretariat of the Award, the time of submission and the arbitration of all groups participating in this Cycle were defined.

#### Field visits

Nada Mohammed Buftaim, Co-

ordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Ajman Educational Zone, said: "Ajman Zone is keen to stimulate the field of education and school administrations to participate in the Award through regular meetings, field visits and visits by members of the technical supervision. In preparation for the 14th Cycle, latest updates and developments have been circulated to all concerned people, and all publications were distributed. In addition, we held a meeting with the coordinators of educational awards in schools to inform them of these developments, and then they will inform whoever wants to apply for the Award from their schools so that these developments are to be taken into account when submitting application forms."

Field visits to public and private schools were organized to know about their participation and encourage them to increase the number of participants. Interpretative counseling gathering were also held with participants to help them with their queries about the application forms. Training workshops in preparation for the organization of arbitration process were organized, as well. We established arbitration committees and provided them with a copy of application form and interpretative guide to review it as a first step of preparation for the arbitration process for the category of Distinguished Student." Buftaim stated.



## Saudi Arabia to inform arbitrators of developments the Award

**Riyadh . (Attamauz News):** Jamal Al Fayezi, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Saudi Arabia said: "The Ministry of Education in the Kingdom has established a course targeting 80 arbitrators from different Educational Zones in the Kingdom to inform them of the Award most important developments in the terms of the Award arbitration in its current Cycle in the three categories (Distinguished School & School Administration, Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Student)". He explained that the course aimed to develop the skills of evaluation of arbitrators, to make them know about the developments and updates of

the award, and to exchange views and ideas. Other courses were held with the attendance of Yousef Al Khalfan and Mohammed Al Hamdan. Fayezi said: "With the pursuit of the Ministry of Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to activate Hamdan bin Rashid Award Al Maktoum for Educational Excellence in the field of education, The Ministry promoted the Award through a circular sent to schools to introduce the Award, and another circular to introduce it in Educational forums of the Educational Departments in the Kingdom, and through spreading Excellence culture in the education field."

With regard to the followed steps to encourage people to participate in the Award,

Fayezi mentioned that the Saudi Ministry of Education has followed two approaches: the first is to count applicants who are ready for competition in coordination with the Department of Student Activities to nominate excellent students, with the school administration to nominate distinguished schools, and with the heads of departments of school subjects under the supervision of educational supervision management to nominate distinguished people. They have been contacted via mobile and e-mail, and have been provided with training courses for the categories of the Award.

Fayezi added that the second approach was through the observatory visits to appli-

cants, providing technical support by the visits of the applicants in their schools, watching and evaluating their work, and supporting the applicant's profile. About the preparations of the Saudi Arabia for the launch of arbitration, he said: "Due to the desire of Ministry of Education in Saudi Arabia to qualify the Award arbitrators, the Ministry has pursued two points: first, qualification and training of the Award arbitrators in the departments of Education. The second is to provide central arbitrators with required knowledge and expertise in central arbitration by letting them attend the 6th Arbitration Forum and the Best Practices Seminar of the Award in its 14th edition."



## Kuwaiti preparations to start counting and auditing applications for Cycle 14

**Kuwait . (Attamauz News):** Kuwait is preparing to begin the screening and auditing process of applications to participate in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. The Sub-Committees exercise this process along with observation and guiding applicants, according to Essa Mohammed Bu Rahmah Coordinator of Hamdan Award in the State of Kuwait. Bu Rahmah said: “With the launch of Cycle 14, we composed the Award Committee and team, distributed tasks to them, and met members of the team in order to provide them with instruction, perceptions and developments of the Award. Weekly meetings of team members

continued with the Award Coordinator; and we communicated with people willing to participate.” He stated that a bulletin was released to all schools explaining different stages of the Award and asking them to participate. We depended on of the Assistant Undersecretary for Student Activities who allocated an email for each of three categories: (Distinguished School & School Administration, Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Student). We requested people wishing to participate to prepare e-mails for each category in order to communicate with the Sub-Committee. Bu Rahmah said that there was coordination with the Assistant Undersecretary for

Student Activities, Duajj Hamad Al-Duajj, and the team leader to address Educational Zones in order to assign places and dates for visits and meetings with delegates from all schools. The delegates are principal assistants, teachers, specialists, social workers and supervisors of activities. Those were representatives of all groups to participate in the Award. He said that with the launch of the academic year, we visited the six Educational Zones. Over almost two-week visits, we noticed the people response by attendance, discussion and inquiries. They received publications and posters of the award and distributed them to all schools in the Educational Zones. People wishing

to participate have been in direct contact with the Coordinator of the Award and the team leaders. Bu Rahmah mentioned that Kuwait welcomed Hassan Al Hammadi, ‘Distinguished Teacher’ instructor, and Abdullah Al Shanasi, ‘Distinguished School & School Administration’ instructor. We arranged training centers and the course agenda which included the most important developments and technical and administrative issues, intermediated by workshops, discussions and answering questions. They clarified many of points in the application form and interpretative guide. Response and harmony of the trainers and trainees were excellent.

## Hamdan Award participate in the Sharjah Book Fair

### Dubai . (Attamauz News):

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in the proceedings of the 30th session of Sharjah Book Fair. The fair was held in the Expo Center, from 16 to 26 November, with the participation of 894 Arab and international publishers, including 37 local publisher. There were nearly 300,000 book titles; the total number of titles offered at the stands as a whole is 260,000 titles.

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi Secretary General of the Award stated: "Participation in the Book Fair comes in line with the strategic objectives of the Award. Holding fairs is part of promotion of the Award because it helps with intensification of media pro-

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

The Award stand attracted visitors from different nationalities. There was a big turnout of visitors who viewed the award publications and documentary films which increased their desire to know more about the activities of the award, and its role in supporting the talented and gifted. Directors of the stand distributed brochures and souvenirs for the public, students and teachers.



## Hamdan Award Participates in EFQM Forum in Munich

### Dubai . (Attamauz News):

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance joined the annual Forum of the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM). Themed "Taking Responsibility for a Sustainable Future", the Forum was held in Munich, Germany at

the end of last October, Hamdan Award was represented by Fatima Al Hashemi, head of Assessment & Design Section. She said that this participation is the consequence of the Award membership in the international organization which is one of the institutions interested in the propagation of the knowledge of quality and

the culture of excellence. Al Hashemi added that EFQM is a global non-for-profit membership foundation based in Brussels, Belgium. With more than 500 members covering more than 55 countries and 50 industries, EFQM provides a unique platform for organizations to learn from each other and improve their performance.

In addition, she stated that the organization is the custodian of the EFQM Excellence Model, a business model which is helping over 30 000 organizations around the world to strive for Sustainable Excellence. This Model is the factor which contributed in making Hamdan Award obtain the membership in the international organization.

