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participations are subject  
to central adjudication**



**The Award area attracts visitors  
of Dubai Heritage Village**

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with 14 applications**

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to Central Arbitration**





# January 2012

Issue 69

## Issue and Correspondence:

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance

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Monthly Educational Magazine

## OUR VISION

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

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# Introduction



## Internationalization of experience

\* UNESCO has chosen the United Arab Emirates as one of several other countries to experience UNESCO's international program of improving the quality of education under the supervision of international experts in order to measure the results before applying them worldwide. This choice was the result of firm conviction of UNESCO after the UAE has made remarkable progress at the level of UNESCO objectives in the field of Education for All and the six strategic objectives of Dakar Declaration of 2000. Ministry of Education is now given a great opportunity to support its expertise in the development of programs of quality and excellence; especially that the monitoring and evaluation process will be carried out by an international body neutrally and objectively. Certainly, the standards that were set by the International Committee after discussions and deliberations which took place in three meetings held in China, South Africa and the UAE will be scientific and accurate; especially as these standards will be subject to review and assessment of the educational field.

\* Out of its national duty, Hamdan Award has provided many high quality initiatives of education and has become one of the leading institutions in the field of excellence and quality education in the region. As a strategic partner to the Ministry of Education in the field of excellence and quality education, the Award is interested in this qualitative project and wants to be part of it since it corresponds with its fundamental objectives; not only because it is looking for a role to play, but also because it is a national institution that is specialized in educational excellence with good experience in the field of quality education. Besides, it is a strategic partner of the Ministry of Education in the development of educational performance and it has the scientific cumulative knowledge which enables it to contribute positively to the enrichment of the program. So, we believe it is important that the Award should benefit or be benefitted from by either investment of its potential and experience, or giving it the opportunity to benefit from the program in enrichment of its performance in whatever capacity, advisory, regulatory, arbitral or honorary or otherwise. This will necessarily lead to informational outcome that can be internationalized and employed in refinement of global education.

**Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi**  
Chief Editor

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In the framework of the 40th National Day celebrations,  
**The Award area attracts visitors  
of Dubai Heritage Village**





**Dubai . (Attamauz News):**

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance has participated in the events to mark the 40th UAE National Day with a number of government institutions at the Heritage Village in Shindagha, Dubai. The Award area at the Village has received students from the Millennium Primary School from Dubai Educational Zone. The Students participated in the Award activities of free drawing studio, taking commemorative photos with 'the Spirit of the Union' mural, and other cultural competitions.

The celebration 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 commemorative photo for visitors with the mural, competition to the audience on the theatre, instant cash Awards and other gifts.

Ismail Al Mulla, Head of Public Relations Section in Hamdan Award, distributed souvenirs to the students. He pointed out that Hamdan Award has formed a committee to participate in the celebrations of the State National Day themed 'the spirit of the Union'. A daily competition was organized for five days from 27 November to 1 December at 'Noor Dubai' radio station; there were 3 questions every day with a prize of AED 1,000 each question. Another competition was organized on the Award website for the best 6 photos that reflect the celebration of National Day; the value of each prize is AED 1000. In addition, Hamdan Award held honoring party at the level of management on this occasion.

The Award also presented many Financial and other prizes and presents in this precious occasion. The celebration was at the level of the Award and has been held in the presence of Dr Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary General of the Award. Several events were organized, as well.





## Bahrain participates with 14 applications

### Manama . (Attamauz News):

Khalifa Al Hooti, the Kingdom of Bahrain Coordinator of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, said: "The number of candidates to central arbitration is 14. They are 5 in 'Distinguished School & School Administration', 4 in 'Distinguished Teacher', and 5 in 'Distinguished Student'.

He added that the activities of local arbitration for all participating categories in Bahrain began after receiving all applications and attached guides and documents in accordance with the developments of the Award for the current cycle. There were workshops to ensure that applications had met all required conditions.

He pointed out that a national jury was formed from experts in the field of education who evaluated all cat-



egories. Meetings to explain the mechanism agreed upon has also been held, as well as training courses in cooperation with the Award management for the categories of Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished School.

Al Hooti clarified that the courses aimed at introducing the standards of Hamdan Award, unifying central and local arbitration mechanisms, exchanging experi-

ences with regard to documentation of the Award and arbitration mechanisms, and looking into the latest developments.

He noted the increase in application forms of the Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished School compared to their number in the previous cycle which indicates awareness and interest of schools and teachers to adopt the criteria of the Award as one of

the ways leading to progress and dissemination of excellence culture in the field and institutions of education. On the other hand, the number of applicants in the category of Distinguished Student decreased compared to the previous cycle, which requires knowing the reasons by means of taking some evaluative procedures such as meetings and questionnaires.

## Dr. Al Muhairi attended geography exhibition at UAEU



Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, the Secretary General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, recently attended an exhibition organized by the Department of Geography and Urban Planning in the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) under the title 'Geographic Poster and Urban Planning Day'. The exhibition was also attended by Dr. Wyatt Hume, Provost, Chief Academic Officer & Chief Operations Officer of UAEU, and Dr Fatima Al Shamsi, Secretary General of UAEU, and a number of officials in the University.

During the exhibition, students reviewed their research and studies before the guests. The exhibition has revealed students' creativity in the study and review of different problems faced by different regions in the state. It showed the students' tendency towards discovery of the problems facing their environment and their desire to find innovative solutions by means of a range of new ideas and promising plans to change for the best in order to achieve the concept of the ideal urban environment.

The exhibition aims at introducing various concepts on the

applications of geographic information systems, examining contributions of companies of geographic information systems, and increasing cooperation and interaction between the Department of Geography and the specialized companies. Other objectives contain providing job opportunities for students of the Department of Geography and Urban Planning, encouraging students to continue production of research to support scientific research in the University, as well as urging them to present their research in local and international conferences. (WAM)

## 16 Kuwaiti files subject to Central Arbitration

### Kuwait . (Attamauz News):

Essa Bu Rahmah, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Kuwait, said that 16 files have passed to central arbitration. They are 6 in 'Distinguished School & School Administration', 5 in 'Distinguished Teacher' - out of the 15 applications where 14 were by female teachers, and 5 in 'Distinguished Student' - 3 for girl students and 2 for boys.

Bu Rahmah clarified that participating schools at the 14th Cycle were visited in order to investigate their work, to answer their inquiries, to make the working team follow-up the participating schools intensively, and to communicate with schools throughout the preparation period.

He pointed out that the team in charge of the follow-up of schools sought to disseminate Hamdan Award among many schools, which had a great effect to make some of schools show willingness to participate in the 2012-2013 cycle. These schools were advised to print the Interpretative Guides to be familiar with it. The group also



itemized schools whose work is to be investigated after the delivery of their participations to the General Coordinator of the Award; they are Qurtoba Secondary School for girls, Ibn Al Ameer Secondary School for boys, Al Jazaer Secondary School for girls, Ahmed Shihab Al Din Secondary School for boys, Latifa Al Shamali Secondary School for girls.

Bu Rahmah said that several meetings were held for the local jury members of the 'Distinguished Teacher' category and people who wish to participate in Hamdan Award.

About the mechanism of arbitration, he said: "Arbitration

of participating files was done by three members - they studied the soft copy, evaluated it, wrote notes about deficiencies, and allocated their marks."

As for obstacles, he said that despite the efforts made by the team for the dissemination of excellence culture, communication with all schools, and meetings organized by the Award Committee last October, yet participations came late. The reason was that students could not complete award criteria; so, their participation has been postponed until next cycle and the team will observe them starting from this January.

Concerning the team's plan

for the next cycle, Bu Rahmah stated that the next cycle is planned better by the follow-up of students who did not complete their work in the previous cycle. Samples were sent to all secondary and intermediate schools (grades 8 and 9) to select Coordinators for the Award in the school so that we communicate with them to document their work first-hand, and to hold meetings between those Coordinators and students participating in

the 15th Cycle with our team where the Award criteria will be explained in accordance with the Interpretive Guide during next March. Another meeting for students participating in the award will be held during next May and after the exams of the third period to monitor their works. We will constantly communicate with the coordinators of the Award in the schools, and will print brochures of the award conditions and the documentation process and will distribute them to participating students during the next May. In addition, we will hold a meeting in April for students who were not lucky at the 14th Cycle to prepare them for participation in the 15th.

## End of the first phase of applications assessment, 400 UAE and GCC participations are subject to central adjudication

Dubai - Samer Salah

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance has received 400 participations for the 14th Cycle, 330 of them are local and 70 from the Gulf States. Meanwhile, adjudication committees in the UAE educational zones and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries have finished the first phase of assessment of applications in the Distinguished Student category as well as initial screening for the rest of categories. The Award has also commenced central adjudication phase in the 24th of December, and will continue until the 1st of January.





The Award coordinators in the UAE educational zones stressed the importance to prolong the period of application to the Award until the end of December or early January, noting that the decrease in number of participations in some educational zones is due to the preoccupation of the majority of students and families with preparation for the first semester exams.

Maryam Jumaa Al Shehhi, Head of Competitions & Adjudication Section in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, said that 400 participations were qualified to central adjudication in the 14th Cycle, including 330 at the local level and 70 at the Gulf level.

Al Shehhi added that Dubai Education Zone topped the number of participations at the local level with 88 participations, followed by Abu Dhabi Educational Zone with 85 ones, and Sharjah Educational Bureau came third with 48 participations. She pointed out that local participations were 267 participations in the category of Distinguished Student, 10 in Distinguished School & School Administration, 20 in Distinguished Teacher, 12 in Best Applied Educational Research, 2 in Distinguished Social Worker, 3 in Distinguished Supervisor, 3 in Best Innovation, 7 in Best Applied Project, and 5 participations in the category of Distinguished Family. As for GCC competition, Saudi Arabia topped the number of participations with 36 ones, followed by Kuwait with 16, Bahrain with 14, and 4 participations in Qatar. In terms of categories, the Distinguished Student came first with 30 participations, followed by the Distinguished Teacher with 21, and Distinguished School & School Administration with 19 ones.

Al Shehhi noted the increase in number of participations in some educational zones such as Sharjah Educational Bureau,

but decrease in others compared with the last year. She attributed the withdrawal of some people from participation to the preoccupation of students and teachers with exams of the first semester, and the three-semester system which is adopted for the second academic year.

She notified that what distinguishes the 14th Cycle of the diversity of participations, especially after the return of the Best Scientific Innovation to competition, whether at school or university levels, after an absence of two years, as well as the research number is more than last year.

In details, Abu Dhabi Education Council submitted 108 participations to Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance at its 14th Cycle after adjudication and initial screening. It included 85 participations from Abu Dhabi, 14 from Al Ain and 9 from the Western Region out of the 1064 participants, with an increase of 25 percent from the last year. Submitted projects included educational initiatives that have been implemented in the schools of the Council. In addition, there were candidates from various categories that had been won by the Council five cycles in a row by virtue of the conviction and strive of educational leaders to participate in educational awards, especially Hamdan Award.

### Creativity and innovation

Mohammad Salem Al Dhaheri, Executive Director of school operations at the Council, said: "Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance promotes creativity and innovation of education in schools through categories which are intended to release innovating administrators, teachers, students and schools in various areas. It is also intended to encourage them to apply their ideas and translate them into practice."





## 10 Participations in Ras Al Khaimah

Nadir Al Mandous, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Ras Al Khaimah Educational Zone, said that 10 participations were nominated to central adjudication, 9 of which are in the category of Distinguished Student and one in Distinguished Supervisor.

Al Mandous clarified that participations in the current Cycle are less than in the last year despite that the Zone coordination organized workshops in schools, and despite its commitment to offering advice for those wishing to participate. He attributed the decline in numbers to the weakness of Advertising of Awards in the media, and the fact that some of the winners of the Award do not acquire additional merits and raises. You find a teacher who won several educational awards and still teaches twenty classes per week, with the burden of being one of the 'distinguished'. This means that some winners did not receive moral appreciation, and no authority to adopt them.

He called on the Ministry of Education and educational Awards to the adoption of incentive policies in order to disseminate the culture of excellence in the field practically, and to look into the causes of reluctance seriously.

Al Dhaheri explained that Abu Dhabi Education Council has spared no effort to encourage schools in the three regions: Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western to participate in the Award competitions which have gone beyond local borders to the Arab and international horizons.

He mentioned that the jury in Abu Dhabi Education Council began checking candidates' files for the 14th Cycle on 13 November last year, and supported files in three successive stages, and then the Council conducted personal interviews and nominated the best files to compete at the state level.

He said that there are three participations in the 'School Administration' category. These schools are: Lulu Primary School, Abu Dhabi Rehabilitation & Care Center for People with Special Needs, and Al Areej Kindergarten.

Al Dhaheri stated that Lulu School has provided safe and attractive school environment to all students. It has implemented several projects including: increased communication and cooperation with parents, security and safety on buses and at fire, the project of 'Sehhtai', 'Leader Student', 'Development of Future Leaders' (Grade II), the buds of Qur'an (Rattel wa Irtaqui). The school provided courses in English and computer for students' mothers. It also welcomes the mothers to use the library to help their daughters every Thursday.

### Specialized services

Abu Dhabi Rehabilitation & Care Center for People with Special Needs provides specialized services for people with disabilities at the headquarters of the Center in Mafraq. It is based primarily on the service of education and academic training, in addition to the pre-academic and kindergartens. The Center is serving about 700 students with various disabilities in the academic year 2011 - 2012,

distributed on 7 specialized and global standards services which are: the comprehensive assessment, early intervention, education and training, rehabilitation and workshops, therapeutic services, health care, and academic integration. In regard to Al Areej Kindergarten, it has participated in many meetings and workshops related to educational awards. It has highly excellent teachers who have won educational prizes in the category of Distinguished Teacher, and children with advanced positions in different competitions, The Kindergarten implement various projects for children and mothers, as well.

Al Dhaheri made an inspection tour to the jury in the context of ongoing motivation and encouragement to participate in the Hamdan bin Rashid Education Award.

### Delay of files submission

Rashid Al Abdouly, coordinator of the Award at Abu Dhabi Educational Zone, said: "Many of the categories, especially the Distinguished Teacher wanted to delay the submission of files until after the leave of the first semester". He pointed out that the adjudication processes at Abu Dhabi Office have gone well, and that candidates' files were adjudicated three times. There were interviews with students and visits to teachers in their schools, too.

Al Abdouly mentioned the use of a team of outstanding adjudicators including: Mohammad Saad Abdul Qader, Chairman of the Jury; Mohammad Mahmoud Awad, academic subject supporter; Abdul Rahman Haikal, sociologists at the Ajbam School; Raafat Rakha, teacher of special education at Abdul Jalil Al Fahim School; Ibrahim Abdul Hamid, sociologists at Irshad Center; Magdy Ammar Abdul Tawab, English teacher at Al Jazeera Academy; Omar Ali Sayed Farghal, mathematics teacher at Abdullah bin Rawaahah School; Hamza Shehadat, Field Teacher at



Hammouda bin Ali School; Mohammad Morsi Abdel Karim, mathematics teacher at Ghazali School; Nawal Bashir Mohammad, teacher of Physical Education at Al Butain School; Khadija Obaid Al Shakai, Assistant Director of Al Fateh School; Ibtihal Jumaa Hosni, a teacher of Art Education at Halima Al Saadia School; Fatima Hassan Al Hammadi, academic subject supporter; Manal Rifaat Husain, teacher of Islamic Education at Lulu School; Hiba Muhib Ismail, teacher of music education at Al Reem School; Afaf Radi Ghanem, teacher of Information Technology at Al Dhabianiah School; and Iman Sayid Ali, Arabic teacher at Al Dhabianiah School.

#### Selecting adjudicators

Mohammad Saad Abdul Qader, Chairman of the Jury at the Council, said: "We select voluntary adjudicators from winners of the previous cycles based on their scientific competence, and the percentage of winner forms that were nomi-

nated by their committee in the previous cycle." He pointed out that the Coordination Office is making great efforts to maintain its leadership in educational awards through the organization of field visits to schools to encourage them to participate in different categories. We also organize events and practical and training workshops to make participants acquire skills to prepare their initiatives and projects for the Award. We resorted to winners in previous cycles to transfer their expertise to candidates in the current Cycle and provide appropriate guidance, as well.

He stated that the Coordinating Committee of the Award organized training courses and workshops targeting all categories in the Award. Coordinating Office organized four courses for the Distinguished Student, two for the Distinguished Teacher, one for each of Distinguished Social Worker, Best Applied Project, Distinguished School Administration, and training courses for

the categories of Distinguished Family and Best Applied Educational Research.

#### Adjudication preparations

Rawda Mohammed Obaid Al Rashash, General Coordinator of Excellence in Education Awards, and Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid at Al Ain Education Office, said that the preparations for adjudication started with setting the date of submitting files of students participating with Hamdan Award at its 14th Cycle, sending circulars to all public and private schools, in addition to sending text messages to the mobiles of participants. Students were encouraged to deliver the files to be audited, and then returned to them for modification and completion of deficiencies. Preparations also included assignment of adjudicators, informing them of the latest developments, and preparation of the location with necessary equipment and stationery as the audit and assessment takes place during the evening period, and giving

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**Al Dhaheri: Hamdan Award promotes academic innovation and creativity in schools**

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**Sharjah Educational Bureau: The Award is among the biggest incentives that generate educational liveliness**

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**Abu Dhabi Education Council participates with 108 applications in current Cycle**

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**48 applications for the second phase in Sharjah Educational Bureau schools**

**16 participations in Fujairah to final adjudication**

files back to their owners upon completion of checking so that participants could make the required amendments by having enough time before final submission.

Al Rashash noted that adjudication at Al Ain Educational Office has been implemented in two stages: the first one by checking data, seals and attachments in order to identify deficiencies; while the second one was to make sure that the required modifications were made properly and to verify electronic attachments and their size.

In addition, she stated that a training workshop was held for participating teachers in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance at Al Ain Educational Theatre. It was held by the section of Excellence Awards to inform participants in the category of Distinguished Teacher of the developments of the 14th Cycle and the instructions of the

preparation of their files before submission, review and checking in accordance with the instructions of the Award management.

According to Al Rashash, the section of Excellence Awards at the Office organized a work-

shop for students participating in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance to provide them with the necessary instructions, and to inform them of the developments in the Award in terms of

the number of pages contained in the file, and how to document, number pages, and index attachments in accordance with the standards as well as to draw their attention to compliance with the conditions of participation that are available on the Award website.

**41 participations in Sharjah**

Mona Al Busmeit, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the Sharjah Education Zone, said that 41 participations had been qualified to central adjudication: 31 files in the category of Distinguished Student, 4 in Distinguished Teacher, 4 also in Distinguished School & School Administration, and one participation in each of the categories of Distinguished Supervisor and the Best Applied Project. She referred to the decline in the number of the current Cycle compared to the last one.

She added that the reason behind the withdrawal of some files was that the period for submission was very short, and the first semester exams have prevented the participation of others, in addition to the preoccupation of those concerned, whether students or teachers, with the 40th National Day celebrations.

She stated that the adjudication for students was implemented only by the Region's supervisors who were selected based on their experience in this area.

**Fujairah Zone**

On the other hand, Mariam Saqr Al Smahi, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Fujairah Education Zone said that 15 files have qualified to central adjudication which are: 11 participations in Distinguished Student with the exclusion of 8 applications for the non-applicability of some of the conditions and criteria for participation, 3 in Distinguished Teacher out of 5, and one participation in each of Distinguished Family and Distinguished Social Worker.

"The Jury of Distinguished Student has completed the as-



assessment of the 14th Cycle. All applications issued by the schools willing to participate in the Award categories were received. At the beginning of the Cycle, they were 40 participations: 27 participations in the category of Distinguished Student, 5 in Distinguished Teacher, one in each of Distinguished School & School Administration and Best Applied Project, two in each of Distinguished Family, Distinguished Social Worker and Distinguished Supervisor.” Al Smahi cited.

She added that despite the ongoing communication, and the efforts made by the coordination of the Award in the Educational Zone and the Award officials in the educational field, we noted that some people wanted to withdraw or postpone participation, which led to a reduction of received application forms.

#### **Cause reluctance**

She explained that the partici-

pants and those interested in Hamdan Award stressed that the reason for their reluctance or postponement to participate now is due to more than one factor that caused them psychological stress and a significant burden, especially schools or families that want to participate with more than one student or in more than one category.

She pointed out that one of the main factors of delay in completing the requirements of submission is that submission time in December was very short. It is necessary to delay the date to the end of the December or the beginning of January, because the majority of students in all grades are busy celebrating UAE 40th National Day. Another factor was the preparation of students, teachers and the majority of families for examination of the first semester which began in early December, immediately after the leave. This preparation caused the withdrawal

of students and distinguished teachers for their preoccupation with grades assessment, especially that submission date occurred at the same time.

Al Smahi said that some people attributed the delay of participation to lack of some of the Award standards guides because of the delayed payment of the certificates or letters of thanks and participation from the authority of the event. Others attributed it to their dissatisfaction with the number of pages allowed in the majority of the categories, arguing that the guides and attachments are large, numerous and varied, and that most of them are modern but they cannot attach them.

She said: “The decline in participation is not new in the current Cycle; it was noted in previous Cycles. It was not only at the level of the Region, but also at the state level, perhaps it was due to the schedule of submission as the educational zones determine the date of

#### **5 participations in Umm Al Quwain with 3 in Distinguished Student**

#### **Some people attributed delay of participation to lack of the Award standards guide**



**The number of applicants for the Award in the Abu Dhabi Education Council**

No. of Applicants	Category
953	Distinguished Student
52	Distinguished Teacher
9	Distinguished School & School Administration
8	Distinguished Social Worker
11	Distinguished Family
14	Best Applied Project - Scientific Innovation
18	Best Educational Research
2	Distinguished Supervisor
3	Highly Distinguished Teacher
4	Oldest Adult Learner
1074	Total

receipt for the educational field to deliver participations in the category of Distinguished Student to be adjudicated later. The rest of the categories are received one day before the deadline so that everyone gets time to finish. Channels of communication are set between the coordination of the Award and former experienced adjudicators, and sections of educational field who want to participate in different categories to answer their questions, to receive their comments and opinions, especially that the Award adopted online applications at the current Cycle, and defined the number of pages for each category, which helped to facilitate the task of the jury, and reduce the number of employees who are assigned to adjudication.”

**The growing burden**

She explained that the categories that have relatively decreased in comparison with last cycles are Distinguished Student and Distinguished Teacher, especially because of

the weary school day and the increased burdens and after changing the academic system. On the other hand, new categories were introduced for the first time such as Distinguished Family and Distinguished Social Worker.

As for adjudication, she referred that a committee was formed of 4 members: Ghalib Ahmad Ataya, Geography and Social Studies Supervisor; Dr. Abdul Hakim Ismael Khatib, Islamic

Education Supervisor; Dr. Mahmoud Abdallah Darwish, the Arabic Language Supervisor; and Ali Saleh Abul-Fateh Art Education Supervisor. The adjudication committee is considered the main committee that has the same members for the second year in a row in addition to the experience of old members with them.

She added that the jury has checked submitted works in Distinguished Student, provided students with feedback, and communicated with families to identify the most important amendments that should be carried out. There has also been meetings and workshops held by the committee for students and parents to familiarize them with the most important conditions and criteria for participation in this category.

She noted that one of the actions that the coordination of the Award has taken to prepare the adjudicators to the assessment process included request for a course or a training program in coordination with the Award Secretariat to provide a

sample selected from supervisors, former winners and some items in the field of education to be trained on the proper basis of assessing files, and how to calculate acquired grades according to the approved parameters that are estimated by the Award, to be an action core in the educational zone. We sought the nomination of this ‘core’ to attend Arbitration Forum and Best Practices Seminar so that they get information and take advantage of workshops and presented practices. ‘Excellence Association’ was proposed for the winners of educational prizes, adjudication committees and interested people were asked to designate an online gate with e-mail addresses, so that education field will be able to communicate with them to take advantage of their experience and views in this domain. This was setup by the team of technical coordination at Fujairah Education Zone.

**Similar numbers**

Moreover, Fawzia Al Mahrazi,

Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance at Umm Al Quwain Educational Zone, said that the number of candidates for this Cycle is similar to the previous one. That is to say, 5 participations: 3 in the category of Distinguished Student and one in each of Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Supervisor. The latter was absent from previous Cycles.

She noted that the adjudication proceeded smoothly, and that they resorted to supervisors in adjudication (Arabic, English and Islamic Education Supervisors), noting that they were chosen on the basis of participation in previous cycles, attending the 6th Arbitration Forum in Hamdan Award, and joining workshops.

#### **Educational liveliness**

On the other hand Sharjah Educational Bureau in the Eastern Region finished adjudication and applications of schools of Khor Fakkan, Kalba and Dibba Al Hosn, which are going to participate in competitions in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance at its 14th Cycle.

Ahmed Salem Al Mansouri, Director of Sharjah Educational Bureau, mentioned that Sharjah schools sent 100 participations, 48 of them were qualified to central adjudication: 40 participations in the category of Distinguished Student, 4 in Distinguished Teacher, one in each of Distinguished Family and Best Educational Research, and two in Best Applied Project.

He added that the Award is one of the most important educational incentives that generate educational liveliness, and that the schools of Sharjah Bureau keep to participate in educational awards to encourage the culture of excellence and to appreciate the efforts of excellent people in the field of education. Abu Bakr Al Meshteghel, Head of Human Resources in





the Bureau, and General Coordinator of the Award said: “40 participations have been qualified to central adjudication in the category of Distinguished Student. This number came after examining all participations in accordance with regulations and standards, and the exclusion of incomplete applications and qualifying participations which meet the terms and instructions of the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance.”

Al Meshteghel added that participations in the current Cycle have remarkably increased. Last year, there were 36 participations in all categories. This year, the Bureau has received 67 participations in the category of Distinguished Student, 30 ones were nominated; out of 9 participations in Distinguished Teacher, 3

were tested; out of 5 Best Applied Project, only one was tested; and only one participation in Best Educational Research was tested out of 5.

He noted that the reason behind the increased number of candidates in comparison to last year is the spread of the culture of excellence in the community and education field, and encouragement of the Bureau management and coordination of the Award for the targeted groups. Another factor is the encouragement of coordinating teachers in schools to students to document their work in addition to the financial earnings that can be obtained by the students in case of winning the Award.

#### **Adjudicators of Sharjah Bureau**

Adel Allam, Coordinator of the Awards and Competitions

in the Bureau, said: “We assigned the task of organization of a workshop to teachers who have previously won in Hamdan Award to enlighten applicants of the Award for the first time. After the Zone management asked schools to send names of candidates and application forms, specialized supervisors in each category organized workshops for applicants. Schools also named their Coordinator of the Award. The Zone management arranged a meeting with the adjudicators who are specialized supervisors, as well. The Bureau management and coordination of the Award monitored applicants and candidates, and helped them to overcome the obstacles by means of advice, guidance and communication with them.”

The Bureau management cir-

culated the Award publications and interpretative guides of all categories, and sent circular asking schools to attend the Sixth Seminar of Best Practices of distinguished academic performance which was held recently.

“As for adjudication, the Bureau formed committees to assess applications. They were selected on the basis of their experience in adjudication of various competitions and prizes on the state-level. The committees also included people with experience and efficiency in adjudication and who are known for their competence in these areas.” Allam cited.

We held meetings with the adjudicators to inform them of developments in Hamdan Award, and to review criteria for application in each form through meetings, courses and workshops.



## The number of participations in Educational Regions and Central Departments at the 14<sup>th</sup> Cycle 2011-2012

Category	School	Student	Teacher	Highly	Social W	Psychological W	Supervisor	Innovation	Project	Research	Family	Edu. Region	Central Dept.	Total
Abu Dhabi	2	72	4						1	5	1			85
Al Ain		10	2						2					14
Western	1	4								4				9
Dubai	3	77	1		1			1	1	2	2			88
Sharjah	4	31	4				1		1					41
Sharjah Bureau		40	4						2	1	1			48
Ajman		6	1											7
Umm AlQuwain		3	1				1							5
RAK		9					1							10
Fujairah		11	3		1						1			16
University		4						2						6
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>330</b>

## The number of participations in GCC States at the 14th Cycle 2011-2012

State	Student		Teacher		School		Total
	male	female	male	female	male	female	
Bahrain	1	4	0	4	0	5	14
Qatar	0	2	0	0	0	2	4
Saudi Arabia	10	8	8	4	3	3	36
Kuwait	2	3	5		6		16
Total of category	13	17	13	8	9	10	