



**Adjudication Forum succeeds in convergence of views and unifying concepts**

**Riyadh & Al Sharqiya Education Departments encourage participation in Hamdan Award**

**Kuwaiti MOE urge students, teachers & schools to apply**



**Hamdan Award review National Plan for Gifted at a conference in Germany**

**Best Practices Seminar deepens excellence culture and conveys ideas and opinions**





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## Issue and Correspondence:

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Monthly Educational Magazine

## OUR VISION

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

**Hamdan Award review National Plan for Gifted at a conference in Germany** 06

**Riyadh & Al Sharqiya Education Departments encourage participation in Hamdan Award** 07

**Kuwaiti MOE urge students, teachers & schools to apply** 07



**Best Practices Seminar deepens excellence culture and conveys ideas and opinions** 12



**Al Qutami views best practices of participants in the exhibition of 9th Seminar** 18



**Adjudication Forum succeeds in convergence of views and unifying concepts**

08

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# Introduction



## Starting Points in Cycle 15

\* The official invitation received by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance from UNESCO expresses a great gesture of appreciation from this international organization directed to His Highness as a leader figure in charitable and humanitarian work, especially in support of education and culture. In return, His Highness's response to the invitation by visiting UNESCO and the announcement of supporting it with new financial grant reflect His Highness's nobility and firm belief in the moral duties towards the human, whoever and wherever. May Allah bless you, Abu Rashid!

\* From 14 to 17 last July, Hamdan Award, under the auspices its patron, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid, and in cooperation with the Asian Talent Council, organized the 12th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness, which was held in Dubai in the presence of a group of international scientists and experts and a number of figures. Giftedness 2012 has achieved extraordinary success and was commended by the delegations of 43 participating countries. Its echo was reflected in the World Council for Gifted & Talented Children, which enriched the international reputation of the UAE in the field of conference organization and added to Hamdan Award a new experience that paves the way to specialize in holding scientific conferences and exhibitions.

\* The Ministry of Education started the implementation of the first phase of Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Smart Learning, launched by His Highness to make a quantum leap in the method of education, to take it out of the narrow knowledge environment to the vast IT horizons in pursuit of achieving its objectives and meeting the requirements of the utmost importance associated with the future of the UAE, and the future of its people. Definitely, such initiative is going to lessen the knowledge gap between the Emirati student and his counterparts in the developed countries, and will provide him access in the global system and make him interact with it flexibly, to enable him to compete, take advantage of opportunities, and achieve accomplishments and excellence. The project is pioneer by its urgent objectives of coping with the rapid changes of life and catching up with the educational development to prepare the generation qualified to perform its national role competently. No doubt that an educational transformative project of this size carries significant challenges for educational institutions. Since it is pure national project, all individuals and institutions are involved in it and responsible for interacting with it and providing it with assist and support, (either to be, but we must be).

**Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi**  
Chief Editor

We welcome your contributions and inquiries as to pursue communication with you.  
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## Annual Agenda for Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award For Distinguished Academic Performance - The Fifteenth Cycle 2012-2013

### National Competitions

Day	Date	Equivalent Hijri Date	Event
Tue	01/05/2012	10/06/1433	The commencement of Hamdan Award 15th Cycle 2012-2013
Wed	01/08/2012	13/09/1433	Distribution of the Award publications in the Educational zones and start the awareness and publicity campaign
Thu	15/11/2012	01/01/1434	Deadline for receipt of the Educational Research applications from the Arab Countries
Sun	18/11/2012	04/01/1434	Start the assessment of Award application forms in the Educational zones
Sun	09/12/2012	25/01/1434	Start receiving the application forms from Educational zones and Departments in the Ministry of Education
Sat	15/12/2012	02/02/1434	Adjudicating the applications of the Educational Research Award
Thu	20/12/2012	07/02/1434	Deadline for receipt of the Higher Education competition's applications
Sat	22/12/2012	09/02/1434	Training Workshop for the adjudication committees and commencement of the Central Adjudication
Sun	23/12/2012	10/02/1434	Central Adjudication (Phase I) Assessment of application forms
Thu	05/01/2013	23/02/1434	
Wed	02/01/2013	20/02/1434	Central Adjudication (Phase II)
Thu	31/01/2013	19/03/1434	Field visits and interviews
Tue	15/01/2013	03/02/1434	Receipt of the Winners' names in the Educational Research Award of the Arab countries from the adjudication committees
Thu	07/02/2013	26/03/1434	Receipt of the Winners' names in the local competitions from the adjudication committees
Thu	28/02/2013	28/04/1434	Deadline for receipt of the Education Supporting Organizations Award's applications
Wed	20/03/2013	08/05/1434	Certification and announcement of the Winner's names by the Award BOT
Tue	23/04/2013	13/06/1434	Rehearsal for the Closing Ceremony to honor the Award winners
Wen	24/04/2013	14/06/1434	The Closing Ceremony to honor the Award winners



## Gulf Countries Competitions

Day	Date	Equivalent Hijri Date	Event
Tue	01/05/2012	10/06/1433	The commencement of Hamdan Award 15th Cycle 2012-2013
Wed	01/08/2012	13/09/1433	Distribution of the Award publications in the Educational zones and start the awareness and publicity campaign
Thu	15/11/2012	01/01/1434	Deadline for receipt of the Educational Research applications from the Arab Countries
Sat	17/11/2012	03/01/1434	Submission of applications from schools to Award coordinators in Gulf Countries
sat	15/12/2012	02/01/1434	Adjudicating the applications for Educational Research Award
Sun	23/12/2012	10/02/1434	Central Adjudication (Phase I) Assessment of application forms
Thu	05/01/2013	23/02/1434	
Wed	02/01/2013	20/02/1434	Central Adjudication (Phase II)
Thu	31/01/2013	19/03/1434	Field visits and interviews
Tue	15/01/2013	03/02/1434	Receipt of the Winners' names in the Educational Research Award of the Arab countries from the adjudication committees
Thu	07/02/2013	26/03/1434	Receipt of the Winners' names in the local competitions from the adjudication committees
Wed	20\03\2013	08/05/1434	Certification and announcement of the Winner's names by the Award BOT
Tue	23\04\2013	13\06\1434	Rehearsal for the Closing Ceremony to honor the Award winners
Wen	24\04\2013	14/06/1434	The Closing Ceremony to honor the Award winners



## Arab Countries Competitions

Day	Date	Equivalent Hijri Date	Event
Tue	01/05/2012	10/06/1433	The commencement of Hamdan Award 14th Cycle 2012-2013
Wed	01/08/2012	13/09/1433	Distribution of the Award publications in the Educational zones and start the awareness and publicity campaign
Thu	15/11/2012	01/01/1434	Deadline for receipt of the Educational Research applications from the Arab Countries
sat	15/12/2012	02/01/1434	Adjudicating the applications for Educational Research Award
Tue	15/01/2013	03/02/1434	Receipt of the Winners' names in the Applied Educational Research Award of the Arab countries from the adjudication committees
Wed	20\03\2013	08/05/1434	Certification and announcement of the Winner's names by the Award BOT
Tue	23\04\2013	13\06\1434	Rehearsal for the Closing Ceremony to honor the Award winners
Wen	24\04\2013	14/06/1434	The Closing Ceremony to honor the Award winners

## Hamdan Award review National Plan for Gifted at a conference in Germany



### **Dubai - (Attamauz News):**

During its participation in the 13th International ECHA (European Council for High Ability) Conference on Giftedness which took place at Münster, Germany, a delegation of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance discussed the latest amendments made to the National Plan for Nurturing the Gifted since it has been established and how to improve its suggestions. Hamdan Award participated in the ECHA Conference in the project of nurturing the gifted to be implemented in the UAE schools in collaboration with

the Ministry of Education. Having composed of Khawla Bahloq, Educational Excellence Director, and Mariam Al Ghawi, Gifted Welfare Department Acting Director, the delegation met Prof. Dr. Heidrun Stöger and Professor Albert Ziegler. ECHA Conference praised the 12th edition of the Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness which was held in Dubai last July under the auspices of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, and was attended by more than 2,000 participants from different countries around the world.



# Riyadh & Al Sharqiya Education Departments encourage participation in Hamdan Award

## **Riyadh - (Attamauz News):**

Dr. Mohammed bin Abdul Aziz Al Sudairy, Assistant Director-General of Education and Educational Affairs for boys in Riyadh Education Department encouraged students, teachers and public schools to participate with their distinguished works in the 15th Cycle of Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance.

In the same context, Al Sharqiya Education Department urged the educational field to participate in Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in its 15th Cycle

in the Student, Teacher and School categories.

The Award aims to raise the standards of performance, creativity and mastery in the educational and academic field, to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and excellence in scientific and literary areas, to contribute to provide modern and developed educational and academic environment and conditions encouraging innovation, leadership and excellence, and honoring all categories and authorities relevant to educational sector in the GCC states, both institutions and individuals, that provide distinguished achievements and innovations.

The value of the Award amounts

to AED 20,000 for Distinguished Student, AED 30,000 for Distinguished Teacher, AED 100,000 for Distinguished School and \$ 20,000 for Educational Research, in addition to a certificate of appreciation and Excellence Shield.

Students wishing to participate in the Award should be enrolled in school for the current year in public education (government, private), and are citizens of the state from which they are nominated, with a minimum percentage of 90% of the total grades for each year of the last three years.

Whereas applicants in Teacher category are required to achieve excellent rating in the performance evaluation, the

subject that they teach is their major (specialization), and that they practice field work (as a teacher).

As for the Distinguished School, the school is required to be one of the public government schools. And the distinguished Educational Research shall be prepared by one of the citizens of the Arab countries, the researcher shall be working in the educational field, make the amendments recommended by the adjudicators, and submit an undertaking waiving the intellectual property rights in case of winning.

However, Al Sharqiya Education Department will honor applicant students with in kind prizes (iPad).

## **Kuwaiti MOE urge students, teachers & schools to apply**

### **Kuwait - (Attamauz News):**

Radhi Al Uwayed, Assistant Undersecretary for Student Activities in the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education, published a bulletin for all public, private and quality schools regarding application in the competitions of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance for the academic year 2012 – 2013 in its 15th Cycle.

Kuwaiti Ministry of Education is keen to support all efforts aiming to promote the educational process and the distinguished academic performance by means of spotting the outstanding individuals and successful educational practices, and introducing them as a model, and disseminating such practices among stakeholders in the educational field to benefit

from them in highlighting education and academic process in the State of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti MOE decided to participate in the competitions of the 15th Cycle of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in its three categories, namely, Distinguished Student, Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished School categories. Kuwaiti MOE hoped to ensure participation in the three categories of Hamdan Award out of its desire to raise the level of performance and innovation in the academic field, to encourage entrepreneurship and excellence in educational, scientific, literary, administrative and innovative areas. Thus, MOE advertised the Award in the media and school radio to urge everyone to participate.

As per the conditions and

rules of competition, only Kuwaiti national students in public and private secondary schools (Class 10, 11 and 12) may participate, they should have obtained a minimum percentage of 90% of the total grades for each year, not in the average of the grades, in the last three years, have never won the Award before, and to be recommended by the school administration, the social worker, and one of the teachers by three recommendation letters approved by the school administration. The applicant must adhere to the size limits of the submitted work; all the works not abiding by the standards will be excluded.

As for the Distinguished Teacher category, only Kuwaiti national teachers in kindergartens, government, private and quality education schools are entitled to par-

ticipate, the candidate should have obtained excellent evaluation (90 percent and above) for the last two academic years, practicing field work as a teacher in government, private and quality education schools, never won the Award before, have three approved recommendation letters, and should commit to the size limits of the submitted work; all the works not abiding by the standards will be excluded. Finally, concerning the category of Distinguished School and School Administration, all public schools of the three stages (primary, intermediate, secondary) are entitled to participate, provided that the school has never won the Award in previous cycles, in addition to the commitment of the size limits of the submitted work; all the works not abiding by the standards will be excluded.



5 interactive workshops with Distinguished Student standards

## Adjudication Forum succeeds in convergence of views and unifying concepts

**Samer Salah - Dubai**

**Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance held the seventh Adjudication Forum on Sunday 30th of September at Al Bustan Rotana Hotel in Dubai in the presence of Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Member of the Board of Trustees, General Coordinator of the Award adjudication committees and coordinators in the UAE and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states with a selection of the Award adjudicators.**

Dr. Al Suwaidi focused on the adherence to the number of attachments for each category of the Award, stressing that the number / size of attachments to the application form of each applicant should not exceed the stated limit of size / number, in both hardcopies and softcopies, to avoid the exclusion of the application later on.

Dr. Al Suwaidi had begun his

speech to the participants in the Adjudication Forum by thanking the trainers of the Award adjudicators for their exerted efforts and for their cooperation with the Award management in training the GCC adjudicators. As well, He praised the efforts of the GCC coordinators for their cooperation in organizing the courses in their states.

Dr. Al Suwaidi reminded the

coordinators with the importance of communication with the Award management, reporting the training needs of each state, and ensuring completion of administrative procedures before starting training.

He lauded the success of the Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness 2012 through which informative papers were delivered, and thanked all Arab and

Gulf states, and delegations that participated in the conference.

The Member of the Board of Trustees, General Coordinator of the Award adjudication committees browsed the developments of the Cycle 15, referring to the completion of Nurturing Excellence program only at the local level through the organization of the first camp for winner students in all cycles of the



Award, the establishment of a training program for a group of winner teachers to be qualified to participate in the Highly Distinguished Teacher, and launching a program to nurture winning projects and innovations in the Award previous cycle.

Dr. Al Suwaidi called the audience to participate in the category of Educational Research, whether applied or otherwise at the Arab states level. Also he called researchers in the UAE to participate in the local Educational Research by the presentation of any field problem in education and applying appropriate strategies to address such a problem.

Moreover, he urged the audience to interact with Hamdan Award page on Facebook, to display updates first-hand, and to receive enquiries and feedback from the educational field inside the UAE and abroad.

He also stressed that applicants continue to get application forms online, where each applicant takes a copy of the application for each category from the Award website, fills all the data online, and then saves and prints out the application to complete signatures, attachments and interpretative guides for submission to the Award coordinator in the region or the state.

He highlighted on encouraging and nominating community institutions in the educational zones to apply for the Award in the Education-Supporting Organizations category.

As for documentation, Dr. Al Suwaidi stressed on keeping limitation of the number of attachments for each category as follows: (Distinguished Student, 100 pages or 50 sheets of paper; University Student, 100 pages or 50 sheets of paper; Distinguished Teacher, 250 pages; Highly Distinguished Teacher, 250 pages; Distinguished School & School Administration, 500 pages; Best Applied Project, 100 pages; Best Scientific Innovation, 100 pages; Distinguished Social / Psychological Worker 250 pages; Distinguished Supervisor, 200 pages; Distinguished Family, 300 pages; and Education-Supporting Organizations, 50

pages).

Regarding training, Dr. Al Suwaidi noted that two training courses were organized in English in the Knowledge and Human Development Authority for both, Teacher and Social / Psychological Worker, during June 2012. A course was also held to introduce the Award categories for targeted groups at the Institute of Applied Technology in Dubai in July 2012. He explained that an introductory course was organized for categories of higher education at the University of Khalifa in Sharjah in February 2012, in addition to the Award's participation in the carnival of Khalifa University, pointing out that scientific article of training workshops accompanying the Forum, as well as a model of the Student's distinguished works will be put on the Award's Facebook page.

### **Adjudication and receiving applications**

As for adjudication and receiving application forms, Dr. Al Suwaidi emphasized that submitted works are deemed to be the property of Hamdan Award and all submitted works will be kept and will not be returned to participants. Thus, coordinators should make sure that applicants shall submit copies, not originals of their attached certificates and documents. The Award shall keep all presented works.

He called coordinators of the Award in the UAE and outside to take all necessary measures to guide the targeted groups to comply with the guidelines and the conditions of application for each category, such as educational certificates, annual reports, and the size of attachments, etc.

He called to complying with regional adjudication regulations when the adjudication committees and teams of Student are formed in the educational zones within the UAE, and when the adjudication teams of Student, Teacher, and School are formed in the GCC States.

Also he urged to provide advice and support for those wishing to participate in all categories of the Award, and to ensure



**Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi**

that the conditions of application for each category applies on the application forms before they are delivered to the Award management, as well as to stick to the date of receipt and delivery of participants' works to the Award management before the deadline, on December 10, 2012 for the GCC and UAE competitions.

### **Forum Objectives**

On the other hand, Maryam Al Shehhi, Head of Competitions and Adjudication Section in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance said: "The Adjudication Forum aims at upgrading the adjudication operations, and improve the performance of adjudicators centrally and regionally; it includes the local and GCC scales, with the purpose of training adjudicators of Distinguished Student category from the educational zones at the local and Gulf levels."

### **Organizing the first camp for winner students in all cycles of Hamdan Award**

### **Establishing a training program for winner teachers to be qualified to participate in the Highly Distinguished Teacher**

gushed Student category from the educational zones at the local and Gulf levels."

"The Forum also seeks to bring the views and unify the concepts and adjudication practices among the central and regional committees to communicate directly, and to create proper environment to support the relationship between the Award and its adjudicators at all levels, as well as to deliver the Award amendments for the new cycle and any other developments to the educational field", she added.

Further, she stated that the seventh Adjudication Forum comes as an annual tradition for the Award, as one of the important necessities and a natural result of the requirements of development, and in response to ongoing feedback, whether from the field, the adjudicators or any other direct and indirect interested people in the Award and its standards.

She explained that the forum comes within the framework of the officials in the Award management awareness of the importance of continuous performance development and improvement, in addition to their permanent trust in the importance of continuous training and sharing experiences, and their firm confidence in the importance of transparency, reading the reports, and taking notes where these factors compose important and key roles to the success of one of the essential roles of the Award, namely, the adjudication process.

She noted that based on this standpoint, adjudicators of the Student category were subject to training for several reasons, some of the most important reasons are that this category forms the largest proportion of the Award application, the large number of observations shown by results of the audit on random samples that are made upon adjudication, most of the observations received by the Award are related to this category, whether from applicants or coordinators, and usually parents supporting the student's participation may consider failure in such a case as a personal insult.



She stated that the idea of training this year depended on selecting random samples from the applications in various school stages. The samples were read and analyzed, and then a training paper was designed for adjudicators according to the observations made to those applications to be under study and training at the same time, and to be closer to the reality in order to attain the greatest possible consensus among adjudicators on criteria for standards on the one hand, and to achieve justice and equality among the Award applicants on the other.

She pointed out that such procedures are considered as an important element in the adjudication process and final results in order to reduce the variations among the results of adjudicators, to standardize adjudication practices, to identify the principles and criteria of adjudication and comparison among the applications, and to review, study and discuss the results of adjudication, in addition to make them subject to the group deliberations, to identify the extent of compatibility and differences among the adjudicators in the same category, whether at the level of regional or central adjudication, and to activate the adjudication regulations with their mechanisms and stages.

She said that the Forum this year is characterized by five

workshops for Distinguished Student standards involving the participation of Dr. Ousha Al Muhairi, Fatima Al Kaabi, Shamis Al Kindi, Fatima Al Khadim and Sultan Al Shehhi. Adjudicators were divided into groups. The workshops included the theoretical aspect to recognize the adjudication process workflow, the stages of the central adjudication, and the preparation for the adjudication process, as well as the practical aspect where the Student application conditions were tackled and some observations on each standard were listed. Besides, adjudicators studied a practical situation on each standard, adjudicated a practical sample for each standard that had already been adjudicated, and recorded the most important observations on the same standard.

### Workshops

Workshops denoted that the adjudication process in the category of Distinguished Student is performed in accordance with a schedule determined by the Award and the workshops stick to implement it thoroughly because of its importance in other adjudications workflow. Adjudication in Hamdan Award goes through several stages: The first is regional adjudication wherein the applications are collected, conditions are met and adjudicated, and support is provide for applicants

in the educational zones, so as to nominate the best applicants according to the percentages specified for each zone.

Whereas the second stage, theoretical adjudication, is carried out by the central adjudicators where, in light of its results, applicants who do not meet the stage requirements are excluded, and the remaining ones are qualified to enter the second stage of adjudication. The third stage, field adjudication, i.e. the personal interviews with qualifiers, is the stage which decides who are the winners of the competition.

Workshops clarified the adjudicator's roles before the start of actual adjudication as they receive from the head of the Committee the list of applicants' names enrolling the applicants' data, then they check if the names are matching with the list and the existing works, ensure whether applications are in the room of adjudication, audit the applications, and make sure they meet the requirements and instructions. In the case of any remark violating the conditions or instructions, such remark shall be recorded, and the head of the Committee shall be informed to act accordingly. In case of exclusion of any of the applications, an assessment form shall be filled stating the cause of exclusion and the head of the Committee shall be reported of the same. Adjudica-

**A program to nurture winning projects and innovations in the Award previous cycle**

**Emphasis on getting the application forms online**

**Necessity to adhere to the number of attachments for each category**

tors have to agree on the program of work and the method of implementation in light of the time available.

### Instructions and conditions of participation

The workshops reviewed the instructions and conditions of participation as they are essential for the adjudicator to accept or reject the application form, to qualify it to the theoretical adjudication stage or not; therefore, it is the duty of each adjudicator to check:

1. compatibility of the application form with the stage of the applicant to the Award.
2. that the attachments to the application forms contain the evidences and proofs supporting the applicants' answers.
3. availability of 'CD' or any similar device containing the student's introduction of himself.
4. authenticated recommendation letters.
5. no more than 100 pages, according to specified number.
6. seals and signatures on the application form (the school headmaster, the educational school, etc.).
7. the nominated student has earned a minimum percentage of 90% of the total grades for each year of the last three years.
8. evaluation in academic grade sheets in numerical values, not descriptive evaluations.
9. that two years should have passed since the student last won the Distinguished Student Award.
10. attach an electronic photo of the applicant.

Workshops noted that the coordinator is responsible for making sure that the conditions and the instructions are met before submitting applications to the Central Adjudication. The coordinator holds the responsibility of excluding applications as a result of failure to comply with conditions of participation or for non-compliance with the instructions. Adjudication shall not start without the previous actions, in particular the coordinator shall check meeting the instructions and conditions, fill out the remarks paper, and ap-



prove it by the head of the committee in case of exclusion.

The workshops indicated that theoretical adjudication includes individual assessment which means assessing the application form where each adjudicator separately examines the application form, and compares it with the accompanying documents and evidences, and then estimates its points in light of the criteria stated in the application. Later, each adjudicator, separately, fills out an "individual assessment form" by recording the scores, and what he thinks as points of excellence, points that need to be developed, and points that need a clear and specific explanation. The adjudicator is entitled to choose the appropriate circumstances - spatially and temporally - to carry out the individual assessment. Each application form is assessed individually by two to three adjudicators at least, keeping in mind that any application will be excluded in case the student has not acquired 90 percent or more for 3 consecutive years, and descriptive grades will not be accepted as a proof for the student excellence. No marks will be given to any certificate in this provision unless with a seal or signature with year of issuance.

### Leadership characteristics

With regard to the characteristics of leadership, introductory

workshops showed that the student's leadership characteristics are clarified through fluency and self-expression, which means the verbal ability of the student to express himself clearly and concisely, explaining his objectives and ambitions in life for himself, his family and his country. Such procedure is done by a documentary audio-visual recording not exceeding 5 minutes, and the adjudicator is to be bound by the terms contained in the questionnaire to assess this standard.

Workshops stressed that students should be involved in causes of his society and interactive with them, and when assessing this standard, the cause name must be taken into account and recorded in the specified field since some of the participants overlook it. Evidence and attachments shall be closely related to the cause which must be characterized with seriousness and modernity, and commensurate with the stage of the student.

Regarding noble attitudes in stage (1-5), this item serves as attitudes and causes for students of stage (6-12), which means measuring a student's ability to contribute to humanitarian and noble role, eagerness to help others. When assessing this standard, the attitude name must be taken into account and recorded in the specified field where some of the participants

overlook it. Evidence and attachments shall be closely related to the attitude in question. The attitude should be clear, not of the student's duties such as (helping parents in the housework), and commensurate with the stage.

In this respect, the workshops drew the attention that the decisive factor in determining the cause or situation is whether they have a clear meaning and concept and not to be left to conclusion; being interested to any cause is not to be limited to visit, distribution of brochures or gifts (autism, disabled, elderly), but it must focus on the role of spreading awareness of the cause to the society, and the attitude must be noble if not being from the functions and duties of the applicant. New and unusual attitudes are the best. The impact of the student is to be measured by the amount of work and activities he made to such groups, not by what he benefited from them. Courses, workshops and lectures which the applicant joined through the group do not reflect his impact on the group as much as they reflect their impact on them.

### Skill and hobby

Workshops stressed on the need to distinguish between skill and hobby. Points shall not be given to the name ability and skill, but on the methods of development, development methods shall be associated with the skill and ability, and the methods used to develop are to be logical, targeted and deliberate, and must be attached with logical evidences. The workshop noted that the adjudicator should ensure identification of the major talent clearly without any confusion, make sure that there is a relationship between the development methods and said talent, and make sure that the results are linked with the major talent of the student along with the diversify of methods of talent development. The adjudicator has also to ensure that there is a relationship between the development methods and the hobby, the diversification of development methods of the hobby, and not to repeat the evidences stated in the talent.

Al Qutami inaugurated 7th edition with participation of 400 students, teachers and educators,

## Best Practices Seminar deepens excellence culture and conveys ideas and opinions





**Samer Salah - Dubai**

**Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance organized the seventh Seminar of Best Practices in distinguished academic performance on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at Al Bustan Rotana Hotel. The Seminar was inaugurated by His Excellency Humaid Mohamed Al Qutami, Minister of Education and Chairman of Hamdan Award Board of Trustees, in the presence of a number of in the Ministry and Award officials, coordinators in the educational zones and the GCC states, and a number of educators, students and parents.**

**Dr. Al Muhairi:  
We are committed to partnership with <MOE> in implementation of programs supporting development of education**

H. E. Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary General of the Award underlined in the opening speech the Award commitment to effective partnership with the Ministry of Education in the implementation of the quality programs that support developmental trends in education, and especially performance improvement, noting the importance of disseminating distinguished practices and their role in promoting educational awareness in the culture of academic quality.

The Award Secretary General praised the response of the aca-

demic field in taking advantage of such programs, which reflects a serious desire to achieve the targeted mobility in the educational system to improve education.

Dr. Al Muhairi stated that Hamdan Award had launched its annual program of introducing best practices in the distinguished academic performance based on its commitment to its vision, namely, pioneering in driving academic performance excellence and nurturing the gifted, and to achieve its objectives in improving the quality of performance, creativity and mastery in the educational and

academic field, in addition to the facilitation of an academic environment encouraging innovation and excellence.

He added that this annual tradition in its developmental form based on the field feedback constitutes an opportunity to share ideas and opinions about the techniques of application and candidacy, authentication and winning mechanisms presented by winners of Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the previous cycle. Through the Seminar, real experiences and models that can be followed by the targeted are provided along



with the integration in the presentation of experiences in various aspects of educational performance.

Secretary General of the Award noted that the program could so far achieve a good effect in raising the awareness of the academic community toward distinguished educational practices and deepen the culture of excellence by showcasing and documenting the best practices in the standards of educational performance at the local and GCC levels. Further, he pointed out that at the level of the targeted groups, there was a shift in communication and increase in the association between the Award and the winners, which contributes to urge them to continue their excellence. This fact has encouraged talented to participate in competitions and programs of the Award.

#### Training workshops

On the other hand, Alia Mohammed Al Obaidali, Head of Excellence Program Section in Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance said that this year's Seminar is characterized by providing training workshops for the categories of Distinguished Student, Dis-

tinguished Teacher, and Distinguished School and School Administration.

She highlighted the Award keenness to provide the quality services that take into account all categories of applicants for the award upon having provided training workshops in the category of Distinguished Student in both Arabic and English languages.

She stated that the Seminar and training workshops witnessed a high turnout from all the emirates, and the number of audience exceeded expectations, especially with the availability of winners exhibition which presents a selection of the works of the winners of the previous cycle, and gives the public an opportunity to see some of the model works and files.

She noted that the Award had launched its annual program of introducing best practices in the distinguished academic performance in the context of its efforts to convey the culture of excellence and to disseminate it among the elements of educational community in a manner that allows the sharing of unique expertise and experiences, as well as enriching and developing with new quality visions adding new stocks to ex-

cellence and excellent people.

She stated that this annual tradition comes as an opportunity to share ideas and about the techniques of application and candidacy, authentication and winning mechanisms presented by winners of Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the previous cycle.

She explained that about 400 students, teachers and faculty and administration members in the UAE had participated in the Seminar, in addition to a number of educators and Award coordinators in the Gulf Cooperation Council states (GCC).

#### Papers

The activities of the Seminar included 3 main papers whereby the speakers reviewed their experiences with excellence, and highlighted the negative and positive impacts in achieving the goals of creativity and quality.

H. E. Sheikha Eissa Al Arai, Member of the Federal National Council spoke in the first paper. Dr. Eesa Mohammed Al Bastaki, Chairman of Emirates Scientific Club, Honorary Chairman of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) - UAE Section,

**Tribute to educational field response to take advantage of distinctive programs**

**Seminar is annual tradition depending on field feedback**

**Increasing awareness of academic community of distinguished practices**

**Training workshops accompany Seminar in Student, Teacher and School categories**



and Member of the Board of Directors of the Cultural and Scientific Association, showed in the second paper his practical experience that was culminated in excellence.

At the outset of his speech, he quoted a neologism by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai may Allah protect him, which stated: « I want you, young leaders, to be lions and work towards leading lions, who initiate, suggest, debate and achieve ».

Al Bastaki defined ambition as: «a key element of creativity, and then comes work to achieve the goal set by the vision» because the conditions for achieving ambition are to be purely for the sake of Almighty Allah then for the nation, and showing gratitude to ancestors, for the sake of present generation and generations to come; ambition shall be for the clarity of vision, armament with science, perseverance, not despair, and to learn from mistakes, and not to surrender to failure.

He cited, «The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it». Addressing the audience, he

said, «You miss 100% of the shots you didn't take», stressing not underestimate the value of an idea since every positive idea has within it potential for success if it is managed properly. He said: «We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things not because they are easy but because they are hard», pointing out that imagination is more important than knowledge, and that wealth flows directly from innovation, not optimization.

#### Education and Technology

Dr. Al Bastaki went into education, technology and learning, and stated that the elements of education and its components are summarized in the «Student», who is an active force to be qualified scientifically, as well as being the mainstay in the educational process- all axes are to be directed to his acquisition of knowledge and science. Digital Teacher also is one of the elements of education composing an intellectual and scientific tool and means in Education, in addition to loving the profession, developing their capabilities and skills and accepting beneficial change. He stated that the curriculum is also among elements of educa-

#### Awareness work harvest in schools and universities (2009 - 2011)

- 59 % decrease in traffic injuries among students.
- 17000 students benefited from the programs of Awareness Teams and Safety Bus.
- 74.4 % average rate of satisfaction of the targeted student.
- AED 50000 total of cash rewards in traffic film and research competitions.
- 3600 students participated in the competition of «Post Awareness» in 2010 and total rewards of the winners was AED 12000.
- 1700 students participated in public events and wrote letters to their parents about traffic issues.
- 75 soft and hard copies of publications directed to the educational environment.
- 1500 bus drivers and supervisors trained to maintain the students' safety from traffic accidents.
- 1000 mothers enrolled in a Child Safety program.
- 40 car child seats for children were distributed every year.
- 332000 total amount of money derived from the private sector companies who contributed to the traffic programs directed to the educational field.



tion, which is the way to acquire science, knowledge and modern teaching methods that are designated to improve and develop educational performance, and to substantiate learning in cooperation with the extracurricular approach - an approach which takes the learner out of the learning environment to make him discover himself, his abilities and creativity.

Furthermore, he touched on the technology and learning through an interactive curriculum, easy communication, access to supporting materials for education, facilitating the preparation of lessons and tests, effective communication with parents, easiness of measurement, updating information, and upbringing the generation on the knowledge economy.

He also talked about the elements of digital learning, which is the digital class including interactive computer, the interactive digital pad, applicable learning software, digital learning and communication, and digital citizen and digital immigrant, not to mention digital curriculum, which requires digital teacher, and digital parents.

### The digital age

He talked about the digital age, referring to the loaded digital space, the digital attack, the digital trap, the healthy digital environment and the psychological and dynamic changes, in addition to talking about information security and user protection, health security, and human factors (Ergonomics).

As well, he dealt with the dynamic system of productive learning creations, which includes teaching using an academically qualified workforce, planting love of learning in the hearts of young students, paving the way for them to higher education in the fields of future technology and science, and encouragement to seek advanced degrees in the fields related to future technologies and science. Al Bastaki mentioned that among the dynamic system of productive learning creations, there are basic and applied research, to be attained through funding basic and applied research in the field of future technology and science, empower-

ment of research institutions in both the academic and private sectors, creating an environment that supports the launch of applied thinking in the issues of technology of real and virtual world, and encouraging international institutions and companies to establish research and development centers in the UAE.

He also stated that the dynamic system of productive learning creations contain technology incubators, which include start-ups, through commercial success, funding incubators and their projects as well as public and private start-ups, and finding a supportive framework to convert ideas into commercial success, in addition to ensuring the innovation of house technologies and achieving market acceptance.

### The Future technology

He talked about the future of technology stating: «The technology that is miniaturizing, converging, integrating, going beyond the imaginative boundaries, penetrating the unknowns and emerging to unprecedented scientific innovations». Speaking in the dynamics of the future economy, i.e. technology, he cited that the proceeds of the telecommunications sector amounted to \$ 1325 billion in 2007, and has grown to \$ 1403 billion in 2008, and to \$ 1478 billion in 2009 and then to \$ 1560 billion in 2010.

He said: «One of the dynamics for the future economy is the smart systems, which are in constant evolution, where in the United States alone costs the diffusion of new technology amounted nearly to \$ 210 billion in 2011».

Al Bastaki mentioned real examples of promising practices, including the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Fund, which aims to improve the telecommunications sector and information technology in the UAE to become a pioneer in the Middle East by empowerment and adoption of sustainable innovation in this field.

One promising practices Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises,



Sheikha Eissa Al Arai



Dr. Eesa Mohammed Al Bastaki

## Attendance

### Dr. Eesa Mohammed Al Bastaki,

Honorary Chairman of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) - UAE Section Chairman of Emirates Scientific Club.

Ph.D. from the University of California (Irvine), areas of research are digital communications, coding, spread-spectrum communication, synchronization, and multi-entrance communication.

#### Awards:

- 1990 Sheikh Rashid Award for Academic Excellence.
- 1999 Certificate of Appreciation from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) - Communication Association.
- 2009 Emirates Appreciation Award in Science from His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may Allah protect him».

### Sheikha Eissa Al Arai

Member of the Federal National Council.

- Master's degree in Arabic language and grammar, 2006 (Faculty of Arab and Islamic Studies).
- educational Awards
- Outstanding Project Award Emirates Transport 2011
- Distinguished School Award Emirates Transport 2010
- Khalifa Award for Education - Outstanding Administration Khalifa Award for Education 2009
- Hamdan Award for Excellence Administration Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance 2008
- Sharjah Award for Outstanding Administration Sharjah Award for Excellence in Education 2007
- The Minister Comprehensive Quality Award Activities and Student Nurturing at the Ministry of Education 2005
- Sheikh Khalifa Award for Creative Teacher Khalifa Award for Education 2005.



with its tasks to take care and develop entrepreneurs, to encourage and support UAE nationals to participate actively in the economic growth of Dubai, and to facilitate the procedures for the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Al Bastaki said that promising practices also include Khalifa Fund, which aims to create a generation of national entrepreneurs, instilling and deepening the culture of investment among young nationals, in addition to supporting and developing small and medium-sized investments in the UAE, in addition to the National Authority for Scientific Research, which supports research activities that are performed at the highest level, aiming to create a research environment capable of international competition and an innovative system in the United Arab Emirates.

The Emirates Foundation for Youth Development, which seeks to motivate and inspire young people in the UAE, and to empower and direct them to ensure a sustainable future for their nation.

Also «twofour54», which is designated to develop Arab media and entertainment content in a world-class standard, for the Arabs, and by their hands. Majid Bin Mohammed Innovation Center In5 is another example; it seeks to be a key destination for start-ups and entrepreneurs in the field of telecommunications and information technology in the region through the adoption and empowerment of development in creations and start-ups in the field of telecommunications and IT by means of providing the right environment and the appropriate products for entrepreneurs.

### Traffic Awareness

Ms. Deema Hussein, Traffic Awareness Manager, RTA, talked about traffic awareness initiatives for school and university students in Dubai through a series of events carried out by Traffic & Roads Agency since 2006 in cooperation with the strategic partners at a total cost amounted during the past three years to more than 3 million Dirhams.

She stated that the objectives of



the initiative is to reduce traffic accidents and deaths caused by them within and surroundings schools, and to introduce students to traffic elements and how to deal properly with them, not to mention motivating students and turning them from recipients of the traffic message to contributors in disseminating it, and to prepare and develop awareness publications directed to students and the educational environment.

Ms. Deema listed major programs in traffic education, namely, by presenting of traffic elements, ascending and descending to buses for 4 to 12 year old students and awareness teams in cooperation with the students to implement multiple and continuous awareness events that includes 12 to 18 year old students, in addition to safety competition to encourage students to innovate intelligent ideas for traffic issues for ages 12 to 18 year old students, «Suf-araa» program to spread awareness traffic culture, and finally introducing safe driving for ages 18 to 24 year old students. She pointed out that several traffic campaigns has been organized- in the year 2009 – 2010, Safe Transportation campaign was launched; in 2010 – 2011, Schools Without Accidents campaign; in 2011 – 2012, a campaign was launched under the slogan (Let's protect our children from accidents), and the Traffic Safety campaign

for students in the 2012 - 2013 academic year.

She also talked about the publication which consist of «Salama» magazine that has 12 issues per year and printing 10 thousand copies per month, in addition to awareness cartoons and flash on local children TV channels and radio stations, E-publications («Salama» on iPhone, iPad), brochures, bulletins and posters.

As well, she mentioned school events such as «Back to School», «Security Education», «Mudhish City», the Family Seminar, Traffic Week and the Global Village.

### Supporting Initiatives

She talked about supporting initiatives like «Read More» to encourage students to read and gain the general culture, in addition to the technical procedures surrounding schools which included 247 schools, 160 bumps, 850 traffic signs, 36 crossing pedestrian, and traffic track so as to introduce students to the traffic elements in a realistic and smooth manner. There are other initiatives for people with special needs by designing awareness messages for students with special needs, such as (school safety guide) in Braille language.

In her speech, Ms. Hussein tackled the future scenarios about the launch of several

awareness software programs for students, and implementation of a program to educate children in kindergarten including traffic safety and public safety, increasing the number of education environment-oriented events by 20 percent annually, expanding the program «Child Safety» to include all large hospitals in Dubai where the birth operations happen, expanding programs and «awareness teams» and «Safety Friends» to include most of Dubai schools, and winning the Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the Education Supporting Organizations Category.

### Training Workshops

During the Seminar training workshops were held in the category of Distinguished Student, one in Arabic, delivered by Shamis Al Kindi in which he viewed the file of the student Sarah Al Ansari, winner of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, whereas the second workshop was for the Distinguished Student in English delivered by Dr. Qasim Bokhari and viewed the file the distinguished student, Simran Vedvyas.

Another workshop was also organized for the category of Distinguished Teacher by Samiah Majan, outlining the experience of the distinguished teacher, Munifa Al Joofi. In addition to a training workshop for Distinguished School and School Administration, presented by Rashid Al Muhairi, highlighting the file the distinguished Al Manar Model School - Aisha Al Mutawa.

During the Seminar, an exhibition was organized wherein some of the Award winners presented a number of their outstanding practices. Those distinguished students are Varnica Bajaj, Omar Juma Mohammed Saleh Al Hosani, Hamad Ibrahim Salim Ibrahim Salim Al Zaabi; in Distinguished Teacher, Abdullah Essam Lutfi Al Hamad, Bushra Ali Salim Ali and Sheikh Abdullah Saleh Abdullah Hammoud Al Zayyodi; and in Distinguished School and School Administration, Al Ibdaa Model School.



## Al Qutami views best practices of participants in the exhibition of 7th Seminar

His Excellency Humaid Mohammed Al Qutami, Minister of Education and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, reviewed best excellent practices in the exhibition on the sidelines of the Seminar.

His excellency, accompanied by senior audience of the Seminar stopped at the stand of the distinguished student, Varnica Bajaj, while she briefed them on the most distinct activities she carried out in addition to her talents and hobbies that enabled her to win Hamdan Award.

His Excellency was also briefed by the two distinguished students Omar Juma Mohammed Saleh Al Hosani, and Hamad Ibrahim Salim Ibrahim Salim Al Zaabi on the best of their outstanding practices and their distinguished talents, hobbies and participations in the national, social and religious events.

His Excellency also stopped at stands of the distinguished teachers Abdullah Essam Lutfi Al Hamad, Bushra Ali Salim Ali and Sheikha Abdullah Saleh Abdullah Hammoud Al Zayyodi; viewed their outstanding projects. As well, he stopped at Al Ibdaa Model School stand.



