



New Educational Initiative ..
Hamdan bin Rashid Innovation Center

Board of Trustees Adopts Strategy of Implementing Hamdan Educational Excellence Program

40 Parents of Talented Students Briefed on Methods of Discover and Raise Talents



Robot Attracts Talents of Winter Camp

'AIT News amayoz' in the Backstage of Central Adjudication to Discover Reasons of Excellent Applications

**2015
YEAR OF
INNOVATION**

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OUR VISION

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

Cover Story

AIT News amayoz

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UAE Fab Lab

Introduction

- The directive issued by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE naming 2015 as the Year of Innovation, and launching the National Innovation Strategy by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai have put the UAE community before the challenge of competition with itself, and led to rooting innovation approach in everyday practice, to change and interact with the developments, and to adapt the community's intellectual and skill potential to provide sustainable solutions and maintain being pioneers among other nations.

- The initiative of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum to establish a specialized center for innovation is certainly one of the initiatives with a great educational value and is an important step in directing the students' energies towards work, achievement, gaining and benefitting the community, in addition to motivating the institutions of education and other sectors to adopt the strategy of promoting innovation methodology and open the door for students to practice it. This includes equipping innovation laboratories (Fab labs) in all the schools and districts at the UAE level, which constitutes a great support for the educational system that is likely to turn into application according to the indicators of the successful experience of Applied Science Institutes as well as the wise leadership's trend towards the consolidation of 'innovation' word in the community culture as being a belief in thoughts and way of life in order to take innovation to the efficiency required for the future, and even to leading sustainable development in the region and adding something to the human civilization.

- The project of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Innovation Center has not overlooked the need of the UAE innovators represented in protecting the moral and material rights of their innovations, which might be the reason behind the frustration that terminated the aspirations of many of them, making the nation lose a lot of benefit. These quality services include patent registration, business and marketing sponsorship which the inventors are absolutely aware of. Thus, innovators will find services of this kind in this Center, not to mention the training, counseling, initial supplies and information.

Fab lab project is an initiative that deserves attention and support because it is one of the foundations of building the generation of innovation.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

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Launched by Award Patron in Response
to the Directives of Khalifa & Declaration of 2015
as Year of Innovation by Mohammed bin Rashid

New Educational Initiative .. Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Innovation Center

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

In response to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and the Declaration of 2015 as a Year of Innovation in the UAE by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and in line with the Integrated National Strategy for Innovation, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Secretary-General to Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance announced that his Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance, launched a new educational initiative under the umbrella of the Award of Distinguished Academic Performance. The initiative of “Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Innovation” is concerned with the support of government policies in the field of innovation.



“The initiative is an implementation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance, patron of the Award, regarding the support of the national plan for innovation and the cooperation with the Ministry of Education and its institutions in joint programs that enhance the chances of achieving the goals of the national strategy for innovation,” Al Muhairi cited.

Global Achievements

He stated that His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum expressed his pride in the global achievements made by the hands of the UAE nationals in the field of innovation. Thanks to the intellectual, cultural and educational potentials, the UAE society has obtained a good stage of scientific maturity. The society is full of minds of research, exploration and ability to excel in this area if the capabilities are available. Al Muhairi conveyed the vision of HH that “the goals of the Award include encouraging students to scientific research and stimulating their instinct of curiosity and discovery. This national orientation will boost the advanced position of the UAE globally.” HH commended the leadership’s great support for education and civilized orientation towards the consolidation of the creative approach in various fields.

“The Fab lab is the first laboratory which will be established in the UAE in accordance with the international standards and specifications for Fab labs. It will act as a community for our innovative students; especially that it keeps pace with the achievements made by the State in the Innovation Index, as the UAE ranked first in the Middle East in terms of the overall performance accord-



ing to the 2014 Global Innovation Index, the third among the countries of North Africa West Asia and ‘NAWA’, and the 36th globally according to the 2014 index,” added HH, praising the national plan for innovation which is expected to contribute significantly to the establishment of a sophisticated intellectual approach and contemporary management style that is able to adapt the data in favor of sustainable development, and to maintain the excellence that ensures the pioneering position of the UAE in the different sectors.

Attention and Blessing

Al Muhairi added that the initiative has gained the attention and blessing of HE Hussein Al

Hammadi, Minister of Education, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who stressed the great usefulness of the initiative in providing actual support to the implementation of the tracks specified in the national strategy for innovation, and upgrading the intellectual approach through training the individuals on the dynamics of dealing with the surrounding, positive interaction with problems, and continuous development of the tools and media linking it to the environment. All these points are reflected positively on the educational system which has begun shifting to the balance between the theoretical frameworks and applied moldings.

“The UAE Fab Lab project will provide two channels for innovation: the first one is the main Fab Lab which is affiliated directly to the Award, serving all segments of society by providing the opportunity for the use of the latest digital manufacturing hardware, software and equipment, and also providing training services by experts and specialists in this field. The other channel is centered on the establishment of micro Fab labs at schools in cooperation with the concerned parties, where their services are directed to students under the supervision of school administrations; they contain hardware, software and enrichment curricula required to promote innovation and manufacturing culture among students under the supervision of specialized teachers. The second channel is still under study as it requires great financial and technical capabilities to consider the opportunities available to accomplish it, especially the availability of community support from the government and private sectors,” the Secretary-General of the Award stated.

Deputy Ruler of Dubai: UAE society is full of minds of research, exploration and ability to excel

Appreciating the leadership’s support for education and cultural orientation towards the consolidation of the creative approach in various fields

Keeping Pace with Global Updates

He clarified that both channels are designated to keep up with the trends adopted by the UAE to attain the lead position internationally in innovation and spreading the culture of creativity, innovation and industrialization in all segments of the UAE society, in addition to the creation of innovation-stimulating environments, encouraging universities and schools to consolidate the methods of research, investigation and exploration in the new generations, and qualifying the future generations to break into the field of digital fabrication using the technology; the things which enhance the potential for building

national cadres who are capable of driving innovation in the future.

Fab lab Areas

As for the areas wherein the UAE Fab labs will work, Dr. Al Muhairi pointed out

that all the programs and services that will be provided via the Fab labs will serve the national strategy for innovation declared by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. They include renewable energy, transport, health, education, technology and water, in addition to the space industry.

He stressed that the main Fab lab will provide its services to the individuals in the age group of (12 years and above). While the targeted of the micro fab labs are school students from primary to secondary stages according to the conditions and criteria to be developed by the competent authorities in the Ministry of Education.

Quality Support

Dr. Ahmad Eid Al Mansouri, Director-General of Dubai Educational Zone praised the initiatives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum in support of education, especially Hamdan Award for Distinguished Academic Performance which has enriched the field of education locally and regionally, provided quality support to teachers in the world,

and developed the methods of educational research in the Arab world; the things which have contributed to supporting the educational decision-making.

Al Mansouri expressed his happiness with the collaboration with the Award in the implementation of the Fab lab project which will benefit students; especially that the education in the UAE is heading to the applied nature, in conjunction with the announcement of the government's strategy in innovation.

He stressed that Dubai Zone invests all its potential to support this project, and to proceed with the Award to develop a strategy for spreading Fab labs in Dubai schools in the coming years, as Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award will undertake building laboratories, their equipment and management in cooperation with the Zone He added that the next few days will see the conclusion of the mutual cooperation agreement between the Zone and Hamdan Award.

Development

Suleiman Al Ansari, Executive Director of the Award stated that Fab lab project is one of the services to be provided by Hamdan Innovation Center, besides the supporting services of registration of patents, developing, marketing and promotion of innovation prototypes, and providing consultation in innovation for the field, qualifying the technical staff responsible for

Fab lab management besides volunteers and teachers, in addition to training the Fab lab visitors on the



use of hardware and software based on the latest training portfolio adopted by the International Fab Lab Association, spreading the culture of creativity and innovation in the society, and the promotion of the Center and its services provided.

Al Ansari added that the project of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Innovation Center is one of the ambitious projects that serve students and community. It will contribute to bridging the knowledge gap in the field of innovation; especially that to Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, and by virtue of its partnership with the Ministry of Education and issuing the Best Innovation Award, has closely examined the needs of this segment of students who are excellent in the field of exploration and innovation. The provision of incubators equipped according to the international standards, and supplied with the latest technological and digital tools, in addition to containing an enrichment curriculum, specialized teachers, world-class guides, books, tools and training will ensure the quality of services to be provided to the beneficiaries, not to mention that the availability of direct channels of communication with the member states International Fab Lab Association will update the targeted of the latest developments step by step.

Gradual Spread

He stated that the Fab lab attendance at the outset of its implementation is expected to be great. However, the plan of gradual spread will be discussed with the concerned parties, as the vision of the Award is directed to encouraging and supporting the community efforts towards the establishment of micro labs at



schools and homes as well, so that the spirit of innovation prevails in all fields and turn into a lifestyle.

Al Ansari added that the equipment is expected to be completed in June, where the Fab lab will receive the targeted directly and support innovation and creativity practices in various fields.

The Executive Director of the Award announced that communication is being carried out with some stakeholders to take advantage of their expertise in support of the initiative; especially with the Applied Science Institutes which are among the distinct national educational institutions that can be benefitted from in counseling, curricula and training.

UAE Fab Lab Logo

The UAE Fab lab logo is de-

UAE Fab lab is the first laboratory in the UAE established according to the international standards and specifications

Fab lab will be a community for innovative students and keep pace with the UAE achievements in the innovation index

signed in harmony with the logo of the international Fab labs with some modification to reflect the UAE identity by introducing the colors of the UAE flag, and the geographical location of the State, which symbolizes Fab lab headquarters.

What is Fab Lab?

Fab lab is an abbreviation of two words (Fabrication Laboratory). The idea started in the industrialized countries where the Fab Foundation was established on February 9, 2009 to facilitate and support the growth of the international Fab lab network through the development of regional Fab Foundations and organizations.

The Fab Foundation is a US non-profit organization that emerged from MIT's Center by Prof. Neil Gershenfeld with the mission of providing access to the tools, the knowledge and the financial means to educate, innovate and invent using technology and digital fabrication.

The Foundation has established the Fab Lab Network, which is a community of fabricators, scientists, engineers, educators, students, ages 5 to 75, working in approximately 200 Fab labs located in more than 40 countries so far.



At Board of Trustees Meeting Chaired by Minister of Education Adopting Strategy of Implementing Hamdan Educational Excellence Program

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

The Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance adopted the implementation strategy of Hamdan Educational Excellence Program (HEEP) which includes a package of quality projects that Hamdan Award intends to carry out in the next strategic plan. The meeting was held in the new headquarters of the Award in Dubai under the chairmanship of HE Hussein Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, in the presence of Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Secretary-General of the Award, and the members of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Al Muhairi stated that HEEP includes a number of projects and initiatives targeting education and learners within the scope of the support and provision of quality services to the distinguished targeted. Al Muhairi declared that the most important of these projects include Fab Labs for innovation, Hamdan Center for Talents, Hamdan Model for Excellence and Academic Accreditation for Distinguished Institutions, Permanent Educational Exhibition, Media Center and the Knowledge Library.

“Through these projects and due to the strategic partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Award seeks to support educational institutions and supports the chances of success of their efforts in sustainable development of education in order to achieve the objectives of the community.” Al Muhairi cited. He stressed that the Award is currently attempting to develop its own model for educational excellence associated academic accreditation and formal certificate. It will be available for educational institutions seeking to obtain accredited certification for their quality.

Secretary-General of Hamdan Award commended the cognitive and cultural role of the information media and tools; therefore, through HEEP, the Award adopts three projects related to the spreading the culture of excellence, training the targeted to the standards of excellence, and doc-

umenting the history of educational excellence. These projects include the Media Center, Learning Resources Center and Permanent Educational Exhibition.

As for the UAE Fab Lab project, Al Muhairi said: “The Board of Trustees appreciated the initiative of the patron of the Award His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance to establish and operate the innovation laboratory (Fab Lab), which will provide students with many services, such as supplies, training, technical support and innovations sponsorship.”

He announced that the Board of Trustees instructed preparing a study on the ability of the establishment of Fab Labs at schools and neighborhoods to foster and encourage students to practice their creativity and to sponsor their innovations and creative intellectual or manufacturing products, just like Hamdan Center for Talents which will host gifted student, focusing on the development of their skill and abilities based on scientific foundations.

Hamdan Award launched ‘Fab Lab’ in the UAE, which is the first of its kind in the UAE to be established in accordance with the international Fab Lab standards and specifications. It will be a community for innovative students, especially as it keeps pace with the achievements made by the UAE in the field of innovation where the Country ranked

Discussing the establishment of Fab Labs at schools and neighborhoods to encourage innovation

Developing an educational excellence model associated with academic accreditation to be available for the concerned institutions in the UAE

first in the Middle East in terms of the overall performance in 2014 in the Global Innovation Index, the third among the countries of North Africa West Asia and ‘NAWA’, and the 36th globally according to the 2014 index. The UAE Fab Lab will provide channels for innovation: the first one is the main Fab Lab which is affiliated directly to the Award, serving all segments of society by making the use of the latest digital manufacturing hardware, software and equipment available, and also providing training services by experts and specialists in this field. The other channel is centered on the establishment of micro Fab Labs at schools in cooperation with the concerned parties, where their services are directed to students under the supervision of school administrations; it contains hardware, software and enrichment curricula required to promote innovation and manufacturing culture among students under the supervision of specialized teachers. The second channel is still under study as it requires great financial and technical potential to consider the opportunities available to accomplish it, especially the availability of community support from the government and private sectors. The meeting was attended by the members of the Board: Sultan Saeed, Dr. Ahmad Eid Al Mansouri, Dr. Khalifa Ali Al Suwaidi and Dr. Louay Belhoul, and Suleiman Al Ansari, Executive Director of the Award.





Education Minister Visits Hamdan Award Offices in Hudaiba

«Al Tamayoz News» – Dubai

His Excellency Hussein Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance visited the new offices of the Award at the Awards Complex building, in Hudaiba, Dubai, where HE stopped by the departments and sections of the Award, inspecting their functioning. His Excellency was accompanied by Dr. Ahmad Eid Al Mansouri, Member of the Board of Trustees, Director of Dubai Educational Zone, and Dr. Ali Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Member of the Board of Trustees, as well as Suleiman Al Ansari, Executive Director of Hamdan Award.





‘ **AIT** ^{News} **amayoz** ’ in the Backstage of Central Adjudication

Starting Interviews and Field Visits with 23% Increase in the Current Edition



Mohammed Ali

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance executed the first phase of Central Adjudication of local and Gulf States (GCC) competitions at the 17th session. Meanwhile, the interviews of the Distinguished Student and field visits to the remaining the categories started, while the results are scheduled to be announced in March and the prizes to be distributed to winners on 22nd of April.



The number of participations in the current cycle increased by 23% to 474 local participations: 12 in the Distinguished School & School Administration, 364 in the Distinguished Student, 56 in the Distinguished Teacher, 6 participations in the Social Specialist, 2 in the Distinguished Mentor, 5 in the Best Scientific Innovation, 6 in the Best Applied Project, 17 in the Educational Research and 6 participations in the category of Distinguished Family.

The number of GCC participations amounted to 74 nominations applications: out of which are 25 in the Distinguished Teacher, 2 in the Highly Distinguished Teacher, 16 in the Distinguished School & School Administration and 31 in the category of Distinguished Student.

Spirit of Competition

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary-General of the Award stated that the increased number of participations at the local and GCC



levels indicates that the Award standards have boosted the spirit of competition in the field of education among various groups; the thing which widely contributes to the development of the educational process.

He said that the continuous development of the Award standards contributes to the promotion of the culture of excellence, and dissemination of innovation and quality, in addition to highlighting the role of the supporting parties as the Award amended

5% of its standards in the current session.

Al Muhairi announced that the percentage of the participating students increased at 12%, teachers at 51%, while the participations from Sharjah Educational Zone increased at 24%, Ras Al Khaimah Educational Zone at 64%, Al Ain Educational Zone at 39%, while the participations of the educational zones across Dubai Educational Zone returned back as this category had seen reluctance in re-

cent editions.

Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, member of the Board of Trustees, General-Coordinator of the Award jury, stated that this is the first year in which the Ministry of Social Affairs participates with three nominations, whereas the application was previously restricted to employees of the Ministry of Education.

Development of Standards

Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, head of juries of Distinguished School & School Administration, Best Applied Project and Best Innovation cited: 'The number of applications from local schools amounted to 12 from across the UAE, while the number of GCC schools amounted to 16 schools: 6 from Qatar, 4 from Bahrain, 3 from Kuwait and 3 from Saudi Arabia.'

The projects nominated for the Best Applied Project amounted to 6 from various parts of the country, while the applications in the Best Innovation were 5 which contained solutions to problems and wonderful, new ideas.

Regarding the Distinguished School & School Administration, Dr. Al Kaabi called for the development and reformulation of the standards, pointing out that the participations in previous years had satisfied the standards better than this year; whereas the attached documents this year are better.

As for the participating projects, Dr. Al Kaabi stated that they are varied and received from different schools, pointing out that they contained innovative and excellent ideas, but some of them lack the implementation and measurement methodology and need more efforts and more training.

Al Kaabi recommended abiding by the application conditions in terms of the number of pages and planning for participation two years earlier to have time to prepare, collect and arrange documents better, in addition to taking advantage of the workshops and courses carried out by the Award.

Talent Development

Dr. Ousha Al Muhairi, head of the jury of local and GCC Dis-



tinguished Student cited: "The number of participations in the UAE amounted to 374 students in general education stage, 17 in university education and 31 students from the GCC states: 20 from Saudi Arabia, 8 from Bahrain and 3 from Kuwait," pointing out that the current session marked increased participations from students of private schools which attach great importance to the participation of their students.

Dr. Al Muhairi advised participating students to apply various methods for the development of their talents, hobbies and capabilities, to participate more in events, to adopt more humanitarian issues that have an impact in the community, to continue excellence and to participate in the courses and workshops or-

ganized by the Award without limiting the objective to participation alone.

She stated the GCC participations are the best compared to previous cycles, calling for compliance with the conditions, standards and explanatory guidelines, appealing the Award to intensify workshops at universities to attract more students and increase the percentage of participation.

Midst of Competition

Dr. Najeeb Mahfouz Belfaqih, head of juries of Distinguished Family and Distinguished Psychological – Social Specialist, stated that the current cycle has seen an increase in the number of applying families at 20% as 6 candidates passed to Central Adjudication from Abu Dhabi,

Dubai, Sharjah, Al Ain, Dibba Al Hisn and the Western Region. He added that the diversity of participations indicates that the families desire to compete according to the criteria set by the Hamdan Award. It also reflects that the families are convinced of the usefulness of applying to Hamdan Award and the benefit that would be gained therefrom, since mere participation means stepping forward on excellence road, which is an achievement for the family that strives to reach the levels required by the Award.

He said that the application to the Award allows the families to know the strengths and weaknesses in meeting the criteria to improve their performance and to re-apply for the Award later. He added that there are distinct

models of the applicant families, whether in terms of performance or documentation, while others need recommendations, pointing out that 5 families documented online and incorporated multimedia; on the other hand, some families have not completed documentation yet, but the door is still open for them during the field visits.

Belfaqih appealed for increasing the introductory workshops organized by the Award through field visits to schools and boards of parents in the educational zones to encourage families to participate.

He recommended communicating with the Online Advisor and the Award coordinator during the preparation of the file. The applicant should not be isolated from experts and former winners, should and avoid composition in the presentation. He also listed the means used and led to distinction of children to identify the best practices.

Documentation

Halima Khalifa, adjudicator in the Social Specialist, stated that the number of applicants in this category amounted to 6, pointing out that what distinguishes this year is the participation of specialists from the Ministry of Social Affairs.

She said that in some files, documentation was noticed to revolve in a vicious circle; in addition to the misplaced use of photos which is a non-meaningful way, while some files from use the compositional method excessively.

She recommended taking advantage of former experiences and the method of documentation, as well as communicating with the Award administration and sufficient awareness.

Organization

Dr. Ibrahim Al Mujaini, head of the juries of the Distinguished Teacher, Highly Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Mentor cited: "The number of participants in the Distinguished Teacher amounted to 56 local applications and 25 from the GCC countries, while the Highly Distinguished Teacher participants were 2 from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia with no ap-



Local Competitions

Best Educational Research	17	8 female and 9 male
Distinguished Teacher	56	
Distinguished Mentor	2	
Distinguished School & School Administration	12	
Best Applied Project	6	
Best Scientific Innovation	5	
Distinguished Student	347	
Distinguished Academic Student	17	
Social Specialist	6	
Distinguished Family	6	
Total	474	

GCC Competitions

Distinguished Student	31	
Distinguished School	16	6 from Qatar 4 from Bahrain 3 from Saudi Arabia 3 From Kuwait
Distinguished Teacher	25	4 from Bahrain 5 from Kuwait 16 from Saudi Arabia
Highly Distinguished Teacher	2	Kuwait and Saudi Arabia
Total	74	

plications in local competitions; and 2 applications in the Distinguished Mentor."

According to Dr. Al Mujaini, weak quality of the submitted applications was obvious, as some files indicate unfamiliarity with the standards and terms. Some depend on the application form without reference to the explanatory guidelines although some applicants have applied

more than once; others files lack organization.

He pointed out that there was mismanagement in some files from the educational zones, calling for the return of the regional adjudication as there are files that exceeded the specified number of attachments with 1000 pages. Some adjudicators also complained of the attachments that are not visible for the

standards, in addition to the failure to organize the files with the required things.

Dr. Al Mujaini recommended reading the standards well, benefiting from experts in this regard and enrollment in training courses and workshops organized by the Award in various categories, calling for a good understanding of the standards and reading the explanatory guidelines.

As for the GCC participations in the Distinguished Teacher where 25 participations were applied, including 16 from Saudi Arabia, 5 from Kuwait and 4 from Bahrain, Al Mujaini stated that the nature of adjudicating the Highly Distinguished Teacher is difficult; the thing which is reflected on grades achieved, as the applicant should have necessarily won the category of Distinguished Teacher, and still has what distinguishes him/her to apply for the Highly Distinguished Teacher category.

Different Tasks

As for the Distinguished Mentor at level of local competition, where 2 mentors applied, the developed standards reflect the functions of the mentor at work. However, in recent years, the functions and standards associated with the old functions have changed, but still not reflected in the terms and standards.

Moreover, he called the coordinators of the zones for making efforts to spread the Award and introduce its standards, pointing out that such actions will be reflected on the volume of participations, whether in increase or decrease.

Al Mujaini appealed for studying the reasons behind the decline in the quality of participations of Distinguished Teacher and Highly Distinguished Teacher, as well as reformulating some of the explanatory standards and regulations, since they serve as a road map for applicants.

Finally, Dr. Hamza Dodin, head of the jury of the Best Applied Educational Research, stated that the numbers of participations in this category increased in comparison with the previous sessions, where the number of applications amounted to 17, received from 8 female researchers and 9 researchers.



Winter Camp Participants Express Gratitude for the Award and its Patron

Robot Attracts Talents and Communication Skills Reveal Young Journalists

Mohammed Ali

The students participating in the winter camp for talents stated that they enjoyed and benefitted from the activities of the camp which was organized by Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. They also said that they have gained various benefits that have enriched their personalities and developed their skills, praising the support of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the patron of the Award.

Talented students appealed for extending the camp period and introducing a variety of activities and events in future so that they can obtain as much knowledge as possible, pointing out that the spirit of cooperation that emerged during the activities was the most prominent benefits they actually gained in the camp in addition to the best methods of communication with others. Fatima Ali Al Kaabi cited: "I have benefitted greatly from participating in the camp activities. I knew about healthy nutrition and the negatives of eating unhealthy food. The supervisors taught us how to read food labels and deduce the mass and natural weight of the human body. We also participated in workshops and competitions." "I have trained on the robot and its sequential movement, realized the importance of teamwork and the need for cooperation within the team, as well as knowing how to develop personality and being effective in the community, not to men-

tion the communication skills I gained. They even call me 'the young journalist'," she added. Al Kaabi appealed for extending the period of the camp to maximize benefit, and not to be restricted to the leave days, calling for introducing a variety of activities, especially for those who have participated before. She thanked the patron of the Award, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance.

Benefit and Knowledge

Alia, Fatima's sister, stated that she enjoyed the camp atmosphere where she benefitted and spent time acquiring knowledge, pointing out that the activity she liked most was meeting the robot and learning how it is manufactured and used. Maitha Obaid Rashid believes that suspense and excitement were prevailing in the winter camp. She realized the need to work within a team because teamwork strengthens the spirit





of cooperation that must be available in all the works performed by teams.

Ahmad Mohammed Yusuf and Omar Mohammed Omar expressed their pleasure to participate in the camp, saying: "In the robot workshop we identified the sequent reaction. We were also briefed on the importance of a healthy nutrition and the need of having fewer calories in food, and were warned of the risk of eating donuts that contain too much calories."

"The most important thing we benefitted from was the teamwork and the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation prevailing among the participants in the camp. These values were enhanced in us by Award during the workshops and activities," they added

Food Label

Hamdan Ali Amer believes that

the most important thing they gained in the camp was the communication skills and how to install and integrate the robot parts. He also got familiar with the best styles of speech, how to interpret the food label and the information contained therein. Aisha Abbas thanked His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, pointing out that the camp allowed her to know a lot of things that she has been ignorant of. It also gave her the opportunity to share experiences with her distinguished peers. She appealed extending the camp more days because it would lead to the development of personality and talent. Mira Suleiman believes that the camp drew her attention to the personal development tools, how to program the robot, as well as the methods and means of sound and healthy nutrition to build a strong body free of disease.

Tribute & Acknowledgement

Aisha Abdullah shared Mira's opinion, expressing gratitude to Hamdan Award and His Highness the patron of the Award for providing the opportunity to join the winter camp where her knowledge has grown. She stated that she shared information with the camp participants.

Mariam Matar Al Ketbi appreciated the attention paid by the camp supervisors, stating: "I have become aware of information related to the human body, healthy food, how to stay away from harmful things and focusing on sport. We have learned that a healthy body produces sound mind."

Aisha Obaid Mohammed Al Zahmi stated that it is her first time to participate in the winter camp, pointing out that she has developed her skills through the camp activities which allowed her to communicate with the talented and

Suspense and excitement prevail in the winter camp

Strengthening teamwork through cooperative activities



distinguished students who provided her with a lot of experiences.

Mariam Saeed Al Awadi described her participation in the camp as 'wonderful', because she found pleasure and benefit through her involvement in the camp activities. She appealed for extending the camp in the future and the introduction of a variety of events to maximize the benefit.

Mariam's older brother, Ahmad, stated that he was captivated by the way of manufacturing and connecting the robot, highlighting the spirit of teamwork existed among the camp participants, and the pleasure he felt during his participation in workshops. He cannot stand looking forward for the camp each year.

The trainer in the camp, Sheikha Ahmad Abdul-Rahman, stated that she trained talented students on the basic skills in

building relationships for the most effective people, noting that the general objective was to provide practical strategies to build relationships, support the communication and promote the individual's identity.

She added that other objectives of the program was to reinforce the students' confidence of themselves, support the students' motivation towards the positive building of their personalities, enable them to the enhanced strategies of communication, provide the students with the basic skills in the selection of good companionship and train the participants on the practical application of communication patterns.

She pointed out that the workshop themes on the first day were 'why you exist', 'the world around us', 'a reading in the human map of the world', 'a global journey (write your message)' and 'discover your-

self'. The second day of the program focused on 'the human relations (concepts, stories and practical applications)', 'how Islam considers the individual (a play)', 'how to achieve the highest degree of success in our relations', 'successful personality: rights and duties (game)' and 'what belonging to the community mean (identity and initiatives)'.

She added that the third day tackled instilling positive beliefs, how to maintain the gains and 10 smart methods for effective communication.

She stressed that the program focused on providing the talented students with the values of brotherhood, self-initiative, tolerance, effective communication, altruism, open-mindedness and loyalty, pointing out that she adopted three methods in the program: practical exercises, training games and mind maps.

Talented students acquire the values of brotherhood, self-initiative, tolerance, open-mindedness and loyalty



Praising the Efforts of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid .. Parents to ‘AIT^{News} amayoz’: What We Gained in the Training Program Will Help us to Raise our Gifted Children

Faten Matar

The parents of gifted students participating in the first Counseling Program held by Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance stressed that the knowledge they have acquired will help them to raise their children and provide them with the suitable atmosphere to develop their talents.

They expressed their gratitude for the Award and its patron for the opportunity they had to identify the emotional, mental and social needs of gifted children, pointing out that this training program which was held in the Regional Centre for Educational Planning – UNESCO (RCEP) in Sharjah has introduced to them the ways to solve the problems that they may

face, allowing them to share experiences with the participants. The Award organized the first Counseling Program for parents of gifted students within the consulting unit in the field of talent in order to spread the culture of talent and raise community awareness towards talented people, in order to update and keep up with the educational developments, and to achieve

the best educational outcomes in the field of the taking care of gifted students in the UAE.

The program was attended by 40 of the parents of the students participating in the second winter program for gifted students, which is organized by the Award annually within the unit of enrichment activities. The program aims to provide codified scientific opportunities for talented students to practice their hobbies, and develop and invest their capabilities by guiding them within an attractive and distinct educational environment that suits their abilities and meets their needs in accordance with the scientific bases and criteria adopted by the Award. The winter program

and continued for one week at the Etisalat Academy in Muhaisnah, Dubai.

Mariam Al Ghawi, Director of the Department of Gifted Welfare at Hamdan Award, stated that launching the counseling program for parents of gifted students will effectively contribute to guiding the parents towards dealing with the social, psychological, mental and personal needs of their children, pointing out that the counseling program will be adopted by the consulting unit as an activity associated with the unit of enrichment activities. The parents of students were divided into two groups: one for childhood, which focuses on the parents of the students from grades 4 to 6, and the other



for adolescence for the parents of the students from grades 7 to 9. Dr. Mona Al Ameri, expert in the field of psychological counseling, provided instructions that included psychological, mental and social needs of gifted students.

Attributes

Umm Hani Al Ulama, a mother for two talented students, said that she has learned more about the attributes and needs of talented students through the workshop which focused on how to differentiate between a talented person and others. She has also been briefed on the ways to identify their psychology and how to be closer to them. She added that the workshop made her familiar with the ways to solve the problems that she could encounter as a mother of a gifted children, in addition to the method of discovering them as they are in the adolescence stage and are different from their counterparts in the same age. Moreover, she stated that she shared experiences with the participants in the training program where she was briefed on the

methods they follow with their children to solve their problems, pointing out that the gifted children's attributes include asking a lot of questions, love of knowledge and something of stubbornness, so people should not be afraid of these traits since they are indicators of gifted children. She called parents to identify more ways of discovering gifted children, their attributes and how to develop their talents, in addition to providing the suitable atmosphere for triggering off their talents, answering questions all their questions and not complaining about their requests. Observing these methods will result in gifted students who are beneficial for their family, community and country. Umm Hani praised the efforts exerted towards nurturing talents by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, as well as the role of HH's Award in spotting and supporting them.

Problem Solving

Moza Obaid, a mother of a gifted student, believes that

the participation in such training courses makes the parents aware of how to deal with gifted children, and briefs them on the methods of discovering talents and the ways to solve the problems encountered in raising them because gifted students need special attention. She called parents to meet the needs of gifted children, and not to disregard what they do because the benefit of taking care of them will be reflected on everyone, demanding people to attend the training courses and workshops organized by the Award in order to be fully aware of the effective methods in taking care of their gifted children. Moza Obaid appealed for paying an increased attention to the gifted students at schools, creating optimal methods for giving them care and attention, and making them participate in competitions overseas. She thanked Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award and HH the patron of the Award for their care and attention to the segment talented people, for all what they offer in introducing to the community and parents the

importance of this segment and the methods of its discovery and sponsorship.

Positives

Maitha Obaid Rashid believes that the training workshops brief parents on how to deal with gifted children. " I discovered that the things which I thought of as negatives in my children are actually positives; such as: too much speaking, complaining, and asking questions, as well as showing interest in certain things other than the things attracting their peers. These are attributes of gifted children," she cited. She called parents to learn more about the traits of gifted children, how to deal with them, and the methods of supporting them and developing their talents, by means of reading the books that tackle these issues and attending the relevant courses and workshops. She thanked the patron of the Award, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, for the opportunity given to their children to develop their talents, and for enabling her to participate in the training program for parents.