

**Mohammed bin
Rashid:**
Our Flag .. Symbol
of our Union and
Strength of Unity



AIT News AITamayoz

Newsletter - November 2015 - issue 95

**International Conference
of Arab Civilization Honors
HH Patron of the Award**



**In Recognition of HH's Initiatives in Education
Hamdan bin Rashid is Guest
of Honor in UNESCO General Conference**

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OUR VISION

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

Cover Story



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Our Flag .. Symbol of our Union
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Forbear Teachers

● Our belief of refusing corporal punishment in schools, and our solidarity with the voices against beating students should not take us far from studying the causes of 'hystericalization' of teachers in the cases that we have seen while they beat junior students who succeeded in provoking them. By the above preface, we do not condemn a teacher, student or school administration. Rather, our objective is to maintain the teacher's respect and appreciation, and to make all parties to the system adhere to education as a method whereby good, positive and effective humans are qualified. Our objective is also to develop the philosophy of the school punishment from the traditional perspective which believes that corporal punishment is useful to a modern vision that considers the variables of this era, understanding its features, comprehending the new culture, and taking education out of the traditional stereotype of the teacher who had found himself prominent in the society, respected by adults and feared by children in the small closed community and duplicate generations, wherein education methods had been repeated since they were a demand at that time.

● But today the situation is completely different. The student has no longer been that recipient, submissive boy, or the inactive learner. The student has been affected by globalization and cultural openness, and has begun to have thinking, planning and simulation skills, as well as learning from multiple knowledge sources, including beneficial and otherwise, especially as the nature of the student in the advanced ages is dominated by recklessness, stubbornness and self-assertion.

● The community has no longer been tribal and simple, governed by norms. It has turned into a state of law, so we believe that dealing with this matter must be based on several facts, on top of which is that teaching is not an ordinary profession. Teaching requires faculties, skills and special nature that is capable of analysis, adaptation and good investment for the energies of the learner which may sometimes exceed the limits of civility and decency. As educators and teachers, we have to deal intelligently with that segment of brat boys and girls through dialogue and discussion. Those students should be involved in school activities allowing them to show their potential, in order to gain self-respect and bring them balance in the school environment.

Finally, we say "Be kind to teachers."

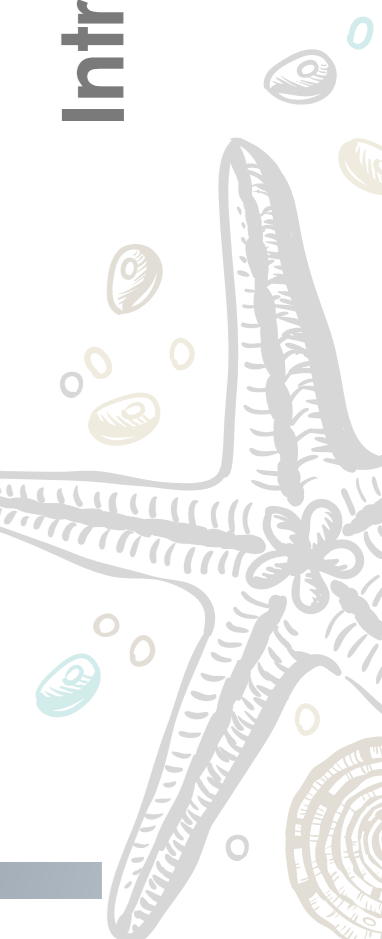
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Introduction



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Hoisting UAE Flag with 5,000 students from 100 nationalities

Mohammed bin Rashid: Our Flag .. Symbol of our Union and Strength of Unity



WAM – Dubai

With the flag fluttering on the government buildings and homes on 3rd November, the UAE celebrated Flag Day, which is also coincides with the anniversary of accession to the Presidency by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, hoisted the UAE National Flag at noon in the Dubai Creek Park, with the participation of 5,000 students from Dubai schools, representing more than 100 nationalities.

Patriotic Implications

Speaking on the occasion, His Highness stressed the importance of the event in symbolizing patriotic values and fueling the spirit of loyalty for the country. "It reminds us of our duty towards our country and our commitment to the flag, to do what we can to keep it flying in pride and dignity, motivate us to further our work and diligence in the glory of our country, and always maintain its position among the ranks of the greatest countries," Sheikh Mohammed said.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum stated: "I gave directions for our national flag to be raised at the same time, and in doing so I wanted to emphasize the important fact that we are all one in the UAE, We confirm our belonging to one nation, work to achieve the one goal which



UAE Vice President: On Flag Day we consolidate loyalty to Sheikh Khalifa and promise Allah Almighty to keep our flag always flown high

Our duty is to keep our flag a towering beacon of our dignity among nations

Our flag will always be high in pride of our country and unity of its people



is glory, and consolidate our loyalty to the leader of the march of development, President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, promising Allah Almighty to forever keep our flag always flown high in pride of our country and the unity of its people."

Beacon

His Highness added: "Our flag is a symbol of union and the strength of our unity. It is our duty to keep it a towering beacon of our dignity among nations. As part of our responsibilities, we all need to work harder, strive for greater achievements and commit to protecting them through hard and diligent work. It is our duty to constantly strive for



greater excellence, and put the flag in front of us as a motive for excellence in various fields.”

Addressing the children participating in hoisting the flag in Creek Park, the Ruler of Dubai said, “You are the future and who will shape the future. Celebrating Flag Day is not only by using your hands but by using your minds, ideas and creativity, because the flag is a symbol more than a banner. Safeguarding the flag and the noble values it symbolizes requires knowledge and education. You have to work hard in your studies and always contribute your innovative ideas, and we will always work on ensuring that you can achieve this. We want you to be successful and outstanding so you can occupy positions of leadership in the future.”

National Anthem

The celebrations marking Flag Day in Creek Park included playing the newly recorded UAE national anthem, which was approved recently by Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid with the aim to strengthen government identification at all federal and local authorities in line with the state identity in various activities and official events. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum invited for a popular campaign to mark Flag Day, instructing all federal and local government entities to raise the UAE flag at the same time on Tuesday, 3 of November, at 12 noon, reflecting the unity of the UAE people to unanimously celebrate such an important



Science and knowledge are elements for future generations to preserve values symbolized by the flag

patriotic occasion encompassing many key symbols and connotations for a greater national coherence and cohesion, which is the shield of the UAE.

Broad Interaction

The scene of broad interaction and bright image formed by Emiratis, being individuals, institutions, government and leadership, waving the UAE

flag has reflected the values of allegiance to this country which provides its citizens with decent life and paves their way to the future. The UAE provides citizens with full care not only at homeland, but also in any place they go, bestowing them with respect and appreciation all over the world. This image has expressed their pride of this flag, un-

der which all these achievements have been and is being realized. It is the symbol that brings them together as one man towards one goal to which they do not hesitate to sacrifice their lives in order to keep their flag towering. On this occasion, the Emiratis reflected their loyalty for their country by hoisting the flag on this great day, showing faith in the wise leadership, led by

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler Dubai; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces; and their brothers Rulers of

the Emirates. Emiratis have, thus, confirmed their faithfulness to the wise leadership that has made the UAE flag a symbol of pride, strength and progress not only in the eyes of Emiratis, but also in front of all the peoples in the region and the world.

Schools Celebrate

On the other hand, schools held a variety of events to

mark Flag Day which is a symbolic provoking all the meanings and values of loyalty, faithfulness and pride in the UAE and its leadership. Students started their school day playing the national anthem and songs fueling their hearts with enthusiasm.

Schools adorned with flags, writings and banners about patriotism and the great achievements witnessed by the UAE, with the unprecedented cultural development in the various aspects of life, thanks to the leadership that harnessed all the means to accomplish achievements one after the other.

Pride

The effect of this occasion was remarkable on the students who stood in pride to salute the flag which symbolizes unity, dignity and glory, gathering the UAE people around the leadership in a scene reflecting national cohesion at its best. Students competed to express their joy with such a prestigious occasion.

The Ministry of Education has reaffirmed that Flag Day is national event dear to the hearts of Emiratis due to its significance and meaning increasing the sense of belonging to this great country, as well as loyalty and gratitude for the leadership.

Schools interaction has been noticed by a variety of activities marking Flag Day. Students have been keen to participate in these events, specifically the flag-hoist, as an expression of their gratitude and love for this country and its prudent leadership.

Participating in UNESCO Conference for Development of Education

Hamdan bin Rashid: UAE Develops Sustainable Solutions for Current Problems

Paris – WAM

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance delivered a speech at the General Conference of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO) held at its headquarters in Paris. During his speech, Sheikh Hamdan conveyed to the Conference the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai and Their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council of the Federation, and their wishes for the Conference to achieve its objectives of developing education in disadvantaged and poor areas around the world, especially in the Third World countries.

Addressing the conference, which was attended by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, President of the 38th Conference and representatives of more than 150 member states of the United Nations, Sheikh Hamdan stressed that the UAE harnesses all human, material and cultural potential, in order to consolidate noble human values in communities and develop sustainable solutions to current problems, especially poverty, ignorance, diseases, natural disasters and crises.

Aids

“Our country supports all international efforts to help the displaced, disaster relief, sheltering the homeless, treatment of patients, support of education and provision of learning opportunities for children in the poorer and poorest coun-

tries” His Highness stated.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum reminded of the value of humanitarian and development aids provided by the United Arab Emirates for the eligible states. These aids amounted to more than \$5 billion in 2013 where roughly 137 countries around the world benefited from.

Initiatives

In this context, His Highness named many of the initiatives launched by Emiratis, on top of which is the initiative of His Highness President of the UAE provided through Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, and the initiative of His Highness Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai represented by the international initiatives of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, which is one of the largest organizations in support of humanitarian development.

He commended the efforts made by UNESCO in the education sector and support for local, regional and global initiatives in order to build knowledge societies in which human values and noble meanings prevail.

Education in the UAE .. Quality steps towards transition to smart education

UAE’s potential used for consolidation of noble human values in communities

Quality Steps

In his speech delivered in acceptance of the invitation of the Conference presidency and the Director-General of UNESCO, the Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance demonstrated that education in the UAE is carrying out qualitative steps towards the transition to smart education, thanks to government support and community initiatives, especially Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. These steps are also supported by the successful model of partnership and cooperation between the Award and UNESCO in order to reward the outstanding practices in the area of improving and upgrading teachers’ performance level. Reports indicate the high quality of education in many areas thanks to the knowledge culture and encouraging awards initiated by Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance over about 17 years.

HH called on intensifying and unifying efforts for a brighter and more prosperous future for humankind as a whole, wishing success for the Conference in the service of science and education in the world, especially in poorer countries.

The speech of His Highness was received warmly by the presidency and members of Conference. They unanimously agreed on the role of the government and community and civil institutions of United Arab Emirates supporting, promoting and developing education in poorer communities as well as the aids granted in this area.





Two Agreements with UNESCO

On the sidelines of the Conference, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum witnessed the execution of two agreements between Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and the UNESCO, signed by His Excellency Hussein bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education, and Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General. The subject of the first agreement is restoration and renovation works of Hall 1 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris by the Award, while the second agreement is related to the launch of the diploma program for curriculum reform and development in the Arab countries. His Highness welcomed the agreements, expressing that the Award is ready for further work and cooperation with UNESCO for the sake of education and its development, in addition to improving the performance of faculty, curriculum reform and other elements of quality education and smart education.



Attendees

The signing ceremony was attended by Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Al Maktoum Foundation; His Excellency Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed Al Owais, Minister of Health; HE Humaid Mohammed Al Qatami, Director-General of Dubai Health Authority; Juma Al Majid, President and Founder of Juma Al Majid Center for Culture and Heritage; Saeed Mohammed Al Ghandi; Hussein Nasser Lootah, Director-General of Dubai Municipality; Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, CEO and Managing Director of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority; and Ahmed bin Humaidan, Deputy General-Director of the Office of His Highness the Ruler of Dubai; in addition a number of officials and members of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance as well as Madhed Hareb Mughir Al Khailli UAE Ambassador to France.





\$6 million grant for UNESCO

WAM – New York

A statement of the United Nations announced that His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance donated a grant to UNESCO amounting to US \$6 million, when he visited the organization.

The agreement was executed by the UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova and HE Hussein bin Ibrahim Al Hammedi Minister of Education in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

In this context, Bokova stated: “this vision of cooperation strengthens UNESCO at its headquarters, and supports our work in an area of key priority in the work fields. It also reflects the commitment of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the United Arab Emirates to the values of UNESCO we share, as well as to the objectives we



hold in common, for which I am deeply grateful.” These two agreements formalize the donation of \$1.2 million for the project ‘Implementing the Postgraduate Diploma in Curriculum Design and Development in the Arab Region’ and \$5 million for the renovation and improvement of Hall 1, the main assembly hall at UNESCO headquarters. In his speech before the General Conference, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum said, “The desire of the United Arab Emirates drives us toward working more and exerting our efforts, in cooperation with UNESCO, to provide more opportunities to reward outstanding practices of teachers in developing countries.” These two donations are in the spirit of the successful cooperation established between UNESCO and Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of teachers since 2008.

Award Delegation Visits Fab Lab France



Presided by Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary-General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, a delegation of the Award visited the headquarters of Fab Lab France. The delegation toured throughout the fabrication laboratory center which provides the tools and knowledge required to spread the culture of innovation and invention using technology digital and fabrication.

In Recognition of his Efforts in Consolidation of Global Concept of Arab and Islamic Civilization

Hamdan bin Rashid Honored at an International Conference



His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, patron of Al Maktoum Foundation and Hamdan Medical Award was honored at the first International Conference of Arab Civilization and Islamic Arts, and the province of South Sinai, Egypt, in recognition of the efforts made by His Highness in the consolidation of the global concept of Arab civilization and Islamic arts, as well as in highlighting their global philanthropy and supporting the march of scientific research aimed at discovering and conservation of the innermost of Arab civilization. The tribute took place at the opening ceremony of the first International Conference of Arab Civilization and Islamic Arts supported by the Al Maktoum Foundation, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Medical Sciences, and the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization 'ISESCO' held in Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre, Egypt.

Organized by the Arab Association of Civilization and Islamic Arts, the 3-day conference was held under the auspices of the Egyptian Prime Minister on the 'Cultural & Civilizational Heritage between Tradition and Modernity in Islamic Art'.

Shield

Dr. Ahmad Al Hashemi, member of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Medical Sciences, representative of the Medical Award and Al Maktoum Foundation received the Conference honor shields from Maj. Gen. Abdel Fattah Helmi, deputy governor of South Sinai, and Dr. Mohammed Ali Zenhom President of the Conference and President of the Arab Association of Civilization and Islamic Arts.

In turn, Dr. Ahmad Al Hashemi handed the commemorative shields presented by the Al Maktoum Foundation to the South Sinai Governorate, ISESCO, Arab Association of Civilization and Islamic Arts, and the Conference, in recognition of the Conference's regional and international role in the introduction of the Islamic and Arab civilization and their position in the cultural fabric of the Muslim world.

Cooperation

In his speech during the opening ceremony, Dr. Ahmad Al Hashemi stated that the support of Al Maktoum Foundation and Hamdan Medical Award for the Conference consolidates the brotherly Emirati-Egyptian relations, which were established by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President and Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of Egypt. The conference serves as an embodiment of the mutual cooperation between the two countries in all political, economic and cultural aspects.

"HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, patron of Al Maktoum Foundation and Hamdan Medical Award is one of the UAE's most prestigious figures. HH focused on the support and care of Arab and Islamic civilization,

Mainstreaming Scientific Concept of Arab Civilization

The International Conference of Arab Civilization and Islamic Arts discussed a valuable range of research submitted by more 10 Arab and Islamic countries, with the objective of mainstreaming and consolidating the scientific concept of the Arab civilization, spotting the subjective and objective characteristics of this prestigious civilization, and discussing the ways to recover its role in interacting and keeping pace with contemporary human civilization. The Conference was concluded with the announcement of Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration, which included an invitation to preserve the Arab and Islamic cultural heritage, to promote the spirit of belonging to it, and to encourage research movement to preserve the same.

promoting their positive attitude globally," he added.

Efforts

Al Hashemi lauded HH's pioneer efforts in the revival of the Arab heritage sports, not only on the Arab level, but also globally. HH also highlighted the essential role of Arab creative minds in improving human civilization in all scientific, medical, educational and environmental fields. Moreover, HH founded the Islamic Cultural Centre in Ireland and the Al Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Scotland, along with his continued support for the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 'UNESCO', which is a UN organization that pays great attention to the protection of the Arab, Muslim and World Heritage.

Talking about the Islamic civilization, he stressed that it is one of the most important civilizations known to peoples and nations throughout history, where its arts spread in many countries around the world, constituting a fundamental part of their histories and the culture of their people.

Ancient civilization

He pointed to the ongoing attempts to blur the features of this ancient civilization and tamper its capabilities, the thing which maximizes the responsibility of Arabs and Muslims to maximize their efforts in order to highlight the civilized role of the Arab and Islamic nation, and to introduce

HH supported the march of scientific research aimed at discovering the innermost of Arab civilization

The UAE is prepared to open international museums contributing to the conservation of archaeological collectibles

The UAE is model for justice and equality, embracing hundreds of cultures, civilizations and religions

Strong relations with Egypt in all political, economic and cultural fields

its authentic values which call for tolerance and peaceful coexistence with the other.

Dr. Al Hashemi reported that the UAE has been an example in justice and equality. It is an Arab country with Islamic identity that welcomes hundreds of cultures, civilizations and religions where everyone lives in wonderful harmony and peaceful coexistence.

"The UAE is keen to promote its Islamic and Arabic identity through the strong presence of the Islamic architecture and decoration in mosques and modern buildings. It is also committed to the maintenance of monuments and manuscripts and preservation of the precious pieces of art. Furthermore, the UAE has persisted on improving the world stereotypical image toward Arabs and Muslims by organizing many key global events aiming at highlighting the brighter side of the Arab and Islamic humanitarian heritage," he cited

Preservation of Antiquities

Dr. Ahmad Al Hashemi announced that the UAE is preparing to open a chain of huge international museums that will contribute to the preservation of archaeological collections and display of the Islamic and Arab heritage arts, in order to expand the fan base of these arts and encourage researchers to tackle them in their studies.

He wished success to the participants in the Conference, hoping to come up with realistic recommendations that can contribute to the revival of authentic arts of Islamic civilization in our modern Arabic societies, the thing which meets the requirements of sustainable development in these societies and enhance the status of Arab and Islamic civilization at the regional and international levels.

On the other hand, the speech of the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization 'ISESCO' stressed the importance of the Conference and its recommendations that will contribute to the development of the ISESCO programs and projects relating to the mainstreaming of Islamic Arts in the member states and encouragement of youth creativity therein. (WAM)

Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Secretary-General of Hamdan Award Tells ‘AIT^{News} Tamayoz’:

Update & Review of Categories and UNESCO Adopts Hamdan Prize for Second Term

Interviewer: Hassan Mohamed

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary-General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance announced updates and reviews for the categories of (Distinguished Student 3-5, Distinguished Student 6-12, Distinguished School & School Administration, and Best Scientific Innovation).

In an interview with ‘Al Tamayoz News’ magazine, he declared that the participation of UNESCO-Hamdan Prize has been renewed for a second term by the re-adoption of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at the beginning of the fourth session of the Prize. As well, the standards and requirements of participation in the Prize have been updated in order to cope with the developments and strategic and global objectives of UNESCO.



Here is text of the interview:

*** Is there an increase in the number of the Award categories in the current session?**

- The number of categories in the current session (18th session) is the same. The Highly Distinguished Teacher was added to the GCC competitions last session. Right now there are 21 categories at the local, Gulf, Arab and international levels.

*** Have you made amendments to the standards of any categories in the current session?**

- Yes, we have been updated and reviewed the categories of Distinguished Student 3-5, Distinguished Student 6-12, Distinguished School & School Administration, and Best Scientific Innovation.

Events

*** What are the main events you participated or will participate in, or those intended to be organized?**

- In Competition Department, we participated in the events of the World Teachers’ Day during the celebrations of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in October, and we also participate in the 38th UNESCO Biennial General Conference in November at the UNESCO’s headquarters, in the presence of Executive Board members and representatives of Member States from about 200 countries.

It is expected to participate in the annual meeting of international team of teachers for Education for All to be held in December 2015 in Caracas,

Venezuela.

Meanwhile, in Excellence Programs Department, we have guidance programs for the categories of Student, Teacher and School Administration, in addition to the student camp, cultural pluralism programs, postgraduate grants program for the Master’s Degree and Best Practices Seminar.

UNESCO-Hamdan Prize

*** Could you please tell us about the International Prize at the current session?**

- We have successfully renewed the participation in UNESCO-Hamdan Prize for improving the performance of teachers for a second term with the adoption of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) at the beginning of the fourth session of the Prize with effect from 2015 – 2016. The standards and requirements for participation in the Prize have been updated in order to cope with the developments and strategic and global objectives of UNESCO. We received inquiries and applications; the application deadline was 30 of October 30.

This international award has provided an opportunity to engage in many activities and partnerships with UNESCO including: the membership in the international team of teachers for Education for All, and the project of ‘building the capacity of teachers and teacher trainers in support of the curriculum reform initiatives’, in addition to participating in many international confer-



ences on education around the world, most recently the World Education Forum (WEF) in South Korea.

Procedures
*** Are there any new procedures regarding adjudication at the current session, and for what objective(s)?**

- Every year the Award organizes the Annual Adjudication Forum and invites the Award coordinators and jury from the UAE and abroad to give them the opportunity to share experiences and get updated on the latest developments, in order to raise the level of adjudication, improve the performance of adjudicators and standardize adjudication practices in the UAE and GCC States.

Workshops for the adjudicators were also implemented to develop their performance. A regulation to adjudication processes has been developed at the zone and central levels to standardize adjudication practices and the converge views among the adjudicators.

*** The great importance of**

social media and modern techniques has been highlighted, what is your evaluation of their use effectiveness, and do you intend to increase depending on them?

- Social media is a modern and excellent method to communicate directly with the public and targeted. Its impact is obvious, especially upon the announcement of the training programs, workshops and other events.

Social media has contributed to the introduction of the events of the Excellence Programs Department and publication of all its news and images. This has had a good effect, which we hope to continue. Social media has also contributed to the online consultations, via the Online Advisor using social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp) and e-mail.

Training

*** Training has great significance; could you please elaborate this important aspect?**



21 categories at the local, GCC, Arab and international levels

Hamdan Prize participates in the 38th General Conference of UNESCO

Regulation of adjudication processes at the zone and central levels

- At each session, the coordinators in the educational zones are contacted directly to deduce the training programs required by the targeted based on the reports of the previous session. Then, a training program is to be designed in the various categories of the Award, and the training programs are announced by the coordinators, on the website and via social media.

*** Where are you now in the**

Fab Lab UAE project?

Three quality sub-projects have been adopted in the Fab Lab: the main Fab Lab center, Omar bin Al Khattab Model School Fab Lab, and mobile Fab Lab. The main Fab Lab center is located at the headquarters of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance; it is considered the main kernel supporting the other branches of the Fab Lab project.

Central Fab Lab was inaugurated in October, where a package of training programs and introduction workshops were launched in order to spread digital innovation and manufacturing culture in the community. Omar bin Al Khattab Fab Lab will be officially launched in November with a package of innovative activities which will be implemented in the Innovation Week. On the other hand, Mobile Fab Lab is a promotional program aiming at encouraging the community to participate in the activities of Central Fab Lab and Omar bin Al Khattab Model School Fab Lab.



Organized by Hamdan Award in its 10th Edition

Best Practices Seminar ..

A Platform for Sharing Featured Ideas

Dubai - Muhammad Ali

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance held the 10th Seminar of Best Practices in Distinguished Educational Performance at Al Bustan Rotana Hotel, in the presence of a number of experts and leading figures in the educational and social work and a number of students, administrative bodies and faculties in public and private education sector.

This annual tradition endeavors to share ideas and opinions presented by the winners in the previous session of Hamdan Award on the techniques of application, nomination and mechanisms of documentation, by displaying distinguished experiences and models to the targeted, along with the integration in the presentation of experiences in various aspects of educational performance.

The Seminar's objectives are represented in increasing the awareness of academic community towards distinguished practices, spreading and sharing knowledge and distinguished experience, deepening excellence culture by means of displaying and documenting the best experiences according to the standards of the academ-

ic performance, honoring and identifying distinguished educational achievements. It also aims at spreading the culture of excellent performance, crowning winners' effort and motivating them to proceed on the excellence way, encouraging distinguished people to apply for the Award, expanding the scope of targeted and introduc-

ing the competitions of higher education in the UAE.

In his opening speech, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary-General of Hamdan Award stated that the submission of applications in the new cycle of the Award will be online. The applicant shall download a copy of the relative category from the

Dr. Al Muhairi to participants: You are the best support to assume educational excellence and spread its culture

The Seminar is manifestation in educational excellence community and abundant feeder to enhance win chances





Award website, fill in and saves all the details online, then print the application and to complete it with signatures, attachments and explanatory guides in order to submit it to the Award coordinator in the educational zone or state.

Best Support

Dr. Al Muhairi welcomed the attendees and conveyed the greetings of His Excellency Hussein bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Board of Trustees and members of the Board, and wished good luck and success to the attendees.

He expressed the pride of the Award of the participants in the Seminar, describing them as the Award's best support to assume the mission of educational ex-

cellence, spreading its culture, supporting its seekers and motivating its followers.

Al Muhairi stated that the Best Practices Seminar is one of the key educational manifestations in the academic excellence community. It is one of the abundant feeders in enhancing the chances of participation in and winning of the Award. This helps the Award's efforts to achieve the noble goals behind its launch by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, especially the efforts in support of the Ministry of Education and teaching institutions to provide opportunities to benefit from the educational initiatives, improve the quality of educational services, and ensure the availability of educa-

tional activities that develop the knowledge and skills of students in various fields.

He pointed out, "the success of the Seminar invites us to further involvement with the stakeholders in order to develop the program and its leadership to broader horizons and enable it to provide better services."

Dr. Khaled bin Saleh bin Ibrahim Al Muneef, managerial psychologist and certified trainer in self-development delivered a work paper entitled 'Six Steps to Excellence' in which he talked about the characteristics of excellence, and how to achieve success and excellence in scientific and practical life. He also talked about the effective methods and tools assisting to highlight and develop distinguished student's potential.

Increased awareness by educational community to distinctive practices and circulation of experiences

Al Muneef talks about effective methods and tools to highlight and develop students' potential



Adjudication Forum Focuses on Accuracy in Audit and Benchmarking
Al Suwaidi: Hamdan Award Adjudicators .. The Best Regionally

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance organized the 10th Adjudication Forum of Cycle 18 at Al Bustan Rotana Hotel, Dubai in the presence of the coordinators of the Award in educational zones and GCC states, and sub-adjudicators of the Award competitions (Student category only) at the GCC level, in addition to the sub-adjudicators of the Award competitions (Student category) at the local level.



Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi



Policies

The annual Forum is held to clarify the policies and directives of the Award in the new session and everything related to adjudication. Workshops are also organized to explain the most prominent standards in the Distinguished Student category adopted in the second phase of adjudication (personal interviews with students) and how to deal with them so that adjudicator reflects a good image of adjudication in the Award.

The Forum aims to raise the level of adjudication processes, improve the performance of adjudicators centrally and at the zones level including local and GCC scopes, raise awareness of the importance of personal interviews with students after passing the first stage of evaluation upon which it is determined whether the student may qualify to the central adjudication or not. In addition, the Forum's objectives include training adjudicators from educational zones at the local and GCC levels, bringing viewpoints even closer and unifying adjudication practices and concepts among the members of the jury, as well as introducing notes and update on the new cycle in terms of competition, adjudication and any other developments, not to mention di-

rect communication and creating appropriate environments to support the relationship between the Award and its adjudicators at all levels.

Meeting

The Forum included a meeting with Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Member of the Board of Trustees, Coordinator-General of the jury, Head of UNESCO-Hamdan Prize Committee, and training workshops provided by a number of adjudication experts.

Al Suwaidi commended the adjudicators for their performance, praising the level of their adjudication and accuracy in auditing and benchmarking processes, stressing that the adjudicators of Hamdan Award are the best in the region and they can adjudicate any works related to quality education. In conclusion, he extended his thanks to the central adjudicators at the local, GCC and international levels.

Student Category

The Forum also included a workshop in the category of Distinguished Student delivered by Kaltham Ali Al Bawadi, because this category forms

the largest proportion of participations in the Award and due to the huge number of observations shown by the audit results on random samples made after the adjudication process. Likewise, most of the feedback received by the Award is related to this category, whether from applicants or coordinators, and the student participation is often conducted by a parent who may take failure in this case personally.

Al Bawadi said, "the aim of the workshop is to unify adjudication practices, identify the principles and criteria of the adjudication and the preferences among the applications, display, study and discuss adjudication results, in addition to tackle them in group deliberations, as well as to identify the consistency and differences among the adjudicators in the same category, at the central and zone adjudication, and enforce the adjudication regulation with the stages and mechanisms therein."

Guidelines and Requirements

Al Bawadi reaffirmed the guidelines and requirements for participation saying, "the application form shall be con-

sistent with the stage of the applicant to the Award, and the applicant shall provide a CD or any similar device containing the student's introduction of himself/herself with length of few minutes maximum, and the student shall ensure its validity and avoid pasting any stickers thereon. Authenticated recommendation letters shall be available. However, the number of pages may not exceed 100, whether documentation is in hardcopy or softcopy. Each page may not contain more than one attachment and stamps and signatures shall be affixed on the application form (the school principal, the educational zone, etc.). The nominated student shall have obtained a minimum percentage of 90% of the total grades for each year of the last three years. GPA shall be stated in numerical values, not descriptive evaluations. Two years shall have passed since the student won Distinguished Student Award last time," pointing out that the attached certificates with no stamp from the issuing authority or date of issue will lose the right of assessment.