

2016
Reading Year

**UAE President:
Reading is fundamental skill for generation of scientists, thinkers, researchers and innovators**

**Notable Participation
by Hamdan Award
in Innovation Week**

**Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi
to 'AIT News
amayoz':**

**Hamdan Centre ..
Integrated Environment
Welcoming and Nurturing
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**Fab Lab UAE..
Bring your Ideas
to Life**



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OUR VISION

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



Monthly Educational Magazine

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Reading is fundamental skill for generation of scientists, thinkers, researchers and innovators

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Innovation and Promotion of Excellence

● The superiority of the United Arab Emirates in global competitiveness for 2015 – 2016 according to the report of the World Economic Forum 'Davos' proves the leading thought of the dignitaries of the UAE leadership and their ability to provide an investment-friendly infrastructure for innovation, especially that the report has revealed that we have maintained rank 18th among nations in the index of "Internet Connection to Schools", 11th in the index of "Quality of Math and Science Education", and ranked 12th in both indexes of "Quality of Educational System" and "Efficiency of Training Teaching Staff". These numbers reflect the distinction of the administrative system in the United Arab Emirates in the industry of innovative and creative thinking as well as the system's ability to drive human resources towards development and excellence. This necessitates to convey such philosophy and belief to the heart of education, especially that the governmental and social support is at its highest, particularly for those logistic initiatives that focus on the establishment of incubators for innovative practices such as the unique projects of Hamdan Award including Fab Lab UAE, Mobile Fab Lab, Hamdan Center for Creativity and others which are in the planning and implementation phases. In fact these are models of the leading initiatives that should capture great interest in the agenda of corporate partnerships, especially that their investment nature enhances the competitive position of the UAE in the world.

It is an ambition that must be achieved in the near future, God willing.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

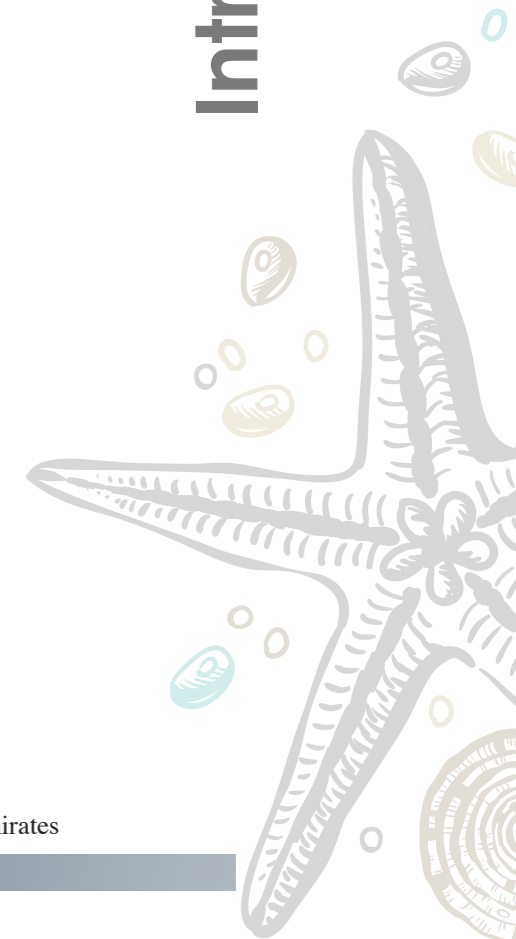
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Introduction



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Reading Year

Establishing Generation of Readers, and UAE as Capital of Content, Culture and Knowledge

On the directive of the President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE Cabinet has approved the declaration of 2016 as 'Reading Year.' The cabinet has issued directives to start preparing an integrated national literacy strategy and a framework to produce a reading generation and establish the UAE as the capital of content, culture and knowledge. According to Sheikh Khalifa, reading is a fundamental skill required for building a generation of scientists, thinkers, researchers and innovators. He added that establishing an economy based on knowledge, and changing the course of development to be based on science and innovation and achieving sustainable prosperity in the UAE will be achieved not by habitually importing expertise from abroad but by sowing the seeds of expertise at home and nurturing them in order to establish an educated and well-informed society is an immunized and advanced society that keeps pace with the surrounding world as well as of and the best ideas and the latest theories.

UAE President:
Reading is fundamental skill for generation of scientists, thinkers, researchers and innovators

Mohammed bin Rashid:
Scientists, thinkers, researchers and innovators erect their high stature from the ground up

His Highness the President said, «Reading opens minds, promotes tolerance, openness and communication, and prepares an educated, informed and open-minded people, veering them away from extremism and impenetrability. Our goal is to establish the UAE as a world cultural capital with distinction, in addition to bringing about lifelong behavioral change and immune next generations culturally.» Sheikh Khalifa added, «The key to prosperity will always be knowledge and the key to knowledge will always be reading. The first message from God to Earth will always be 'Iqra', or 'Read'.»

Capital of Content

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, gave directions to start implementing UAE President's directives by preparing an integrated national literacy framework and establish the UAE as a capital of content, culture and knowledge. Sheikh Mohammed said, «We celebrate literacy with fairs, cultural festivals, writers' and poets' awards as well as initiatives to promote and encourage reading in Arabic. We can build the UAE as a capital of culture, reading, knowledge and content.»



Integrated Strategic Plan & Comprehensive National Framework to Encourage Reading

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum called for the formation of a supreme committee to supervise various activities to mark the Reading Year. Members of the committee will include relevant government entities such as the Ministry of Culture and Community Development and the Ministry of Education, the Emirates Writers' Union among others. It will also include key figures from various national spheres of culture and innovation and will lead the drive to spread the culture of reading and build stronger Arabic language publishing sector and literacy. All of this will be under the chairmanship of Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister for Cabinet Affairs. The Committee will implement a comprehensive national literacy strategy and framework to encourage reading and usher in a societal and behavioral change to spread the culture of reading in all walks of life in the UAE. The Committee will also coordinate all efforts and will launch initiatives in order to establish the UAE as a capital of content and knowledge in the region in addition to implementing the directives of the president of the UAE to produce a well-informed reader generation that can lead the process of development based on knowledge in the UAE.

He noted that the UAE has set a goal for the next phase to change the course of development. This course should be based on science, knowledge and innovation. The preparation of such cadres requires a societal and behavioral change to urge these generations towards reading and knowledge in the development of new generations of scientists and researchers. «Scientists, thinkers, research-

ers and innovators do not come down from the sky; rather they erect their high stature from the ground up, where the most powerful soil that nurtures them is their love for reading and a passion for gaining knowledge. Our current generation suffers from lack of reading and knowledge, which is a crisis, and we are not flattering ourselves when it comes to developing this generation. The government is com-

mitted to help produce a generation of readers who are well informed linguistically, culturally and intellectually.» Sheikh Mohammed commented. «Reading makes minds more civilized and souls more tolerant, elevates thought and expands perception. A reading employee is better than one who does not. A student who reads largely excels over a student who does not; an educated and well-informed society is an immunized and advanced society that keeps pace with the surrounding world.» He also stated, «We want to promote reading to each and every household and family, child and youngster, ministry, institution, authority or private company, and of course to schools, universities, malls and transportation means, and we want it to be in all languages and for all nationalities. Our objective is to be an advanced reader community. Reading is the fundamental skill for any nation that seeks the development of its individual and increasing their knowledge all the time.» Sheikh Mohammed concluded, «We want the UAE to be a beacon of science and knowledge, just as Andalusia, Granada, Baghdad and other Arab nations were sources of enlightenment and knowledge for centuries. And we are capable, ready and sure of our ability to achieve that.»



Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi to 'AIT News amayoz':

Hamdan Centre .. Integrated Environment Welcoming and Nurturing Creativity



Interviewer: Mohammed Ali

In line with the consistent transformation of projects into reality, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance launched in November 'Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Creativity', in conjunction with the Innovation Week. In his interview with 'Al Tamayoz News', Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary-General of the Award, stated that Hamdan Center represents an integrated environment to take care of talents and embrace innovations. The Center is an attractive place to spot and nurture talents as well as to generate, implement and evaluate ideas for the purpose of continuous improvement which would develop future capital.

He added that talented students are a wealth that needs unified efforts to take care for them; thus, the Award launched the Center to build the capacities of talented students, spread the culture of talent, creativity and innovation, and establish a modern environment empowering and encouraging for innovation.

Here is text of the interview:
• At the end of last month, in conjunction with the Innovation Week, you launched

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Creativity, one of the initiatives of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, what are the reasons behind the establishment of this Center? Hamdan Center for Talent and Creativity is a modern environment empowering and encouraging for innovation and supportive for talents. Gifted students are the real wealth of the nation. To be nurtured, they need unified efforts by



parents, educational institutions and the community. This project is consistent with the vision of the leadership of the UAE and the vision of Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. It serves as an umbrella that covers all the programs, activities and services sponsoring talented students, which are provided by the Department of Gifted Welfare in the Award.

Hamdan Center for Creativity aims to provide the necessary care for gifted students in an attractive and distinct educational environment meeting their needs and suitable for their capabilities according to scientific principles and standards. It provides gifted students with specialized enrichment programs in addition to counseling and guidance programs intended for both students and parents.

Through this unique program, Hamdan Award seeks providing the gifted students with the latest scientific and engineering technologies in several areas such as robotics, aeronautical engineering, space industry, mathematics and science. This also targets various training programs and scientific and knowledge activities that assist in the development of personal, scientific and leadership aspects of students, enhancing self-learning, creative thinking and social networking, and enriching their critical thinking and time management skills.

Hamdan Centre for Creativity aims to meet the educational, psychological, and social needs of gifted students in order to develop their personalities altogether so that they become productive members of their community. It also aims to increase learning opportunities for gifted students outside the classroom, provide them with specialized programs aimed at supporting their special abilities and support their interests as well as to provide an attractive learning environment for them, raise the level of awareness among the public and provide learning opportunities for par-



ents of those students.

• Which segment is targeted by the Center to provide its services to?

The Center targets UAE national students from grade 4 to 12 who pass the test of spotting talents, in addition to the parents and teacher of member students.

Services

• What are the main services provided by Hamdan Center for Creativity?

The Center seeks to discover talented students, provide specialized scientific programs and enrichment activities to them, in addition to the individual and group guidance sessions, and specialized programs for their parents and teachers. It also aims at the education and awareness of society in the field of talent.

• What is the nature of the activities provided by the Center?

The Center provides seasonal programs in conjunction with school holidays (winter, spring and summer), as well as the weekend programs, scientific competitions, training workshops and consulting services for parents and teachers of gifted students.

Requirements

• Are there certain requirements to enroll students in the Center?

The student shall be a UAE citizen, in grades 4 to 12, with outstanding intelligence and notable talent in one of the following areas: (science, math, technology, engineering, languages or leadership), in addition to passing the adopted measures and interview with Hamdan Award.

Projects & Programs

• What are the main projects of Hamdan Center for Creativity?

There are scientific programs which specialize in science, technology, engineering and math. They include the following:

- Trundle Wheel
- Straw Structure and Rocket Lanching



- Gear Racer
- Wind Mill
- Story Starter
- Consecutive Reaction Machine

Held workshops included:

- Self-Initiative Industry
- The Genius of Body (How to Maintain the Health Fitness?)
- Skills of Building Relationships of Highly Effective People
- Future Leadership Lab
- Education in Future

Innovation and Competitiveness

Participations of students during the workshop were positive and high motivational. The workshop produced more than 30 innovative ideas to improve the product. Students also presented nearly 40 ideas about innovations. Topics of the workshop include:

- Human Services and Community Values:
- Green City

Definitions

Creativity: Mental processes that lead to concrete or abstract outputs characterized by novelty and importance.

Talent: Extraordinary preparations and potential possessed by the individual, and excelling the peers with more general mental ability, specialized academic attainment and / or creative thinking.

Directing: A set of broad and inclusive planned services, including the process of counseling to the talented student and their parents, teachers, friends and community.

Guidance: The practical procedural side specialized in the field directing.

Contributions

• What are the main contributions of the Center to nurturing talents?

Learning and innovation skills support students to deal with a more complex and competitive life by focusing on creativity, thinking and communication for the future. They include the

skills of critical thinking, communication, dialogue cooperation, creativity and innovation. They are applied through the development and implementation of new ideas, openness, consideration of various views and ideas, and development of and building on implemented ideas to make them more attractive and important. They also in-

30 innovative ideas to improve the product presented by students participating in workshops

1,500 visitors to the exhibition of Green City in Modhesh City and Mirdif City Centre



clude critical thinking and problem solving through the exercise of sound reasoning in understanding and making complex choices and decisions, as well as communication, cooperation, and clarification of ideas and opinions effectively through speaking, writing, flexibility and desire to achieve common goals and innovation.

• What are the main outcomes of Department of Gifted Welfare in the Award?

The most important outcomes include the launch Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Creativity, implementation of a 3-week exhibition in Modhesh City and Mirdif City Centre, global partnerships with specialists and universities in the field of gifted education programs, and implementation of specialized workshops in the field of giftedness in order to nurture talents and embrace innovations, in addition to 30 innovative ideas harvested by the initiative of Hamdan Center for Creativity.

Stages of Spotting Talents

• Are there steps or stages for spotting talents?

There are 6 stages for spotting talented students: The first one is the announcement of the programs to spot talented students. This stage

Seasonal programs in conjunction with school holidays provided by Hamdan Center for members

Hamdan Center targets national students of grades 4 to 12 and their parents and teachers

Standards of intelligence, creativity and academic attainment are the most important in spotting talents

begins by the announcement of receiving the nomination of students for the program. Here, the gifted students and who takes care of them can apply to fill applications.

The second one is nomination stage: It includes the schedule of nomination, type of the programs targeting students and purpose of the designed programs. There many are types of nominations including: Self-nominations: They allow gifted students to nominate themselves. Talented students usually have the ability to distinguish their performance in the different tasks and skills. The importance and efficiency of this type lies in the ability to highlight the aspect of leadership and self-esteem among talented student.

The second type of nominations is parents' nominations: Children's presentation of their talents, traits, daily dealings and superiority at school, all are factors that contribute to help and enable parents to discover their talented children. The information provided by parents about their children is important for the discovery of features and aspects of the talent they have.

There are also peer nominations and school nominations (teachers and specialists). The qualified teachers and specialists dealing with students have the ability to distinguish the special traits of

talented students. They also have the ability to use measure and observation tools in the discovery of talented students.

The third stage is sorting and classification: In this stage, the number of applicants for the program is counted, sorted and categorized by age group and the type of talent, as a prelude to determining the type of tests and measurements appropriate for them.

The fourth stage is tests and measures implementation: Students are called to sit the tests prepared to discover their abilities in the different aspects included in the Award criteria for the selection of talented students. This stage also includes the standardized and non-standardized tests.

The fifth one is the stage of analyzing the results: Here, the results of the tests are analyzed statistically to include the test scores that have been applied, and the students are classified and ranked according to their levels.

Finally, evaluation: In this stage, the results of the tests are used to identify the targeted students who have achieved the target and met the requirements. They are to be informed of their results.

Standards of Spotting Talents

• What are the most prominent standards of spotting talented students?

There are several standards for the detection of talented students; most notably is the standard of intelligence. The second standard is creativity and the third one is academic attainment.

Areas of Services

• What are the services areas of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Creativity?

The Center's services are divided into four areas: The first one is talented student. The second area is the teacher of the talented student. The third one is the parent of the talented student. The fourth is the society.

Al Ghawi: Talent Consultation Unit Provides Guidance and Counseling Services



Mariam Al Ghawi, Director of the Department of Gifted Welfare at Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance stated that the Talent Consultation Unit is one of the supporter services of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Creativity. That is because the provision of integrated psychological and social care for talented students is one of the most important areas of taking care of them. To ensure their psychological, social, educational and professional harmony, the Talent Consultation Unit was established in order to provide services to the talented students and their parents, teachers and society in the field of gifted welfare.

Services

She added that the services of the Talent Consultation Unit include direction, guidance and educational, psychological and social consultations. The Unit aims to prepare the society, its institutions and the family to deal with and take care of tal-

ented students, in addition to the collection of integrated data on students and their families, including the social, psychological, health, economic situations, hobbies and interests. Other objectives include helping parents of gifted students to understand the psychological and personal needs of their talented children, guiding and directing parents to understand the family life and parents' responsibilities towards ensuring the psychological harmony and solving their talented children's problems. Moreover, the Unit endeavors to draw the attention of parents and teachers to the physical, mental, emotional, personal and social characteristics of gifted students according to their age, not to mention making the students aware of their potential and talents. The Unit also cooperates with other units in order to take care of and develop students' abilities and find solutions to the problems and obstacles that might face this process.

She pointed out that of the Unit studies and finds the appropri-

ate solutions to the problems faced by talented students, being personal, social or educational to maintain students' psychological health. It also works on discovering talents, abilities and tendencies of gifted students, and on directing and investing those talents and abilities. As well, the Unit seeks to achieve a balanced harmony in all aspects of the students' character (self-harmony, educational harmony and professional harmony).

Problem Solving

Al Ghawi reported that the Talent Consultation Unit provides psychological and social care to talented students, helps solve the problems that occur as a result of the growth of their abilities and talents, contributes to the development of a plan to guide and direct parents of gifted students and prepares programs to educate those parents on the importance of promotion of talent and creativity as well as encompassing their children, and guiding them to the tracks suitable for them.

Furthermore, the Unit proposes programs that enhance and optimize students' capabilities, communicates with parents of gifted students all the time, provides consolations as needed, provides educational and professional counseling for gifted students, and provides individual and group counseling sessions for them as well as for their parents, families and teachers. Finally, the Unit provides leadership programs for talented students, and consultations in the field of talent welfare for community organizations interested in this area. She stated that an educational program was provided for parents of talented students. The part of the program which dealt with the guidance needs of students was attended by 26 parents, and the part dealt with the common characteristics of talented students and how to deal with them was attended by 29 parents. The group counseling session was attended by 7 talented students, in addition to individual behavioral counseling sessions.



Design .. Make .. Share

Fab Lab UAE..

Bring your Ideas to Life

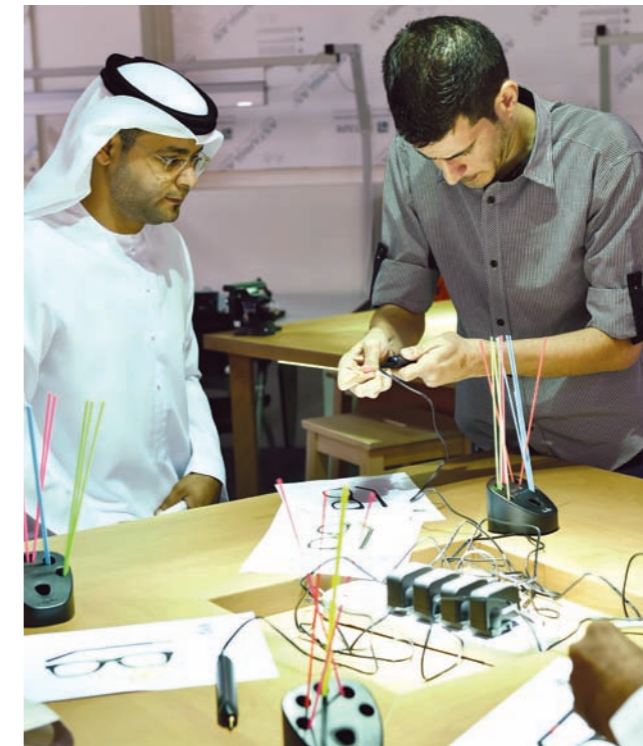
Report by: Mohammed Ali

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance works on creating an innovative and creative Emirati generation to establish an innovation-supporting environment and integrated infrastructure. Therefore, the Award launched the Fab Lab UAE project with several tracks through the provision of community centers (fab labs) that provide all the segments of society with the opportunity to use the latest devices, tools and programs in the digital manufacture world. It is also envisioned to equip schools with minilabs that provide students with the digital technology and direct their tendencies to acquire digital knowledge as early as possible. Such efforts lead to instilling innovation seeds in students and expanding larger horizons before them to bring their dreams to life.

Based on the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President, declaring 2015 as the 'Innovation Year' in the UAE, and in accordance with the 7-year Integrated National Strategy of Innovation launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, with the 30 national initiatives in its first phase to raise the UAE to the first places of the world in the field of innovation, the establishment of Fab Lab UAE was announced by Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. Fab Lab UAE is the first comprehensive lab in the UAE officially founded in accordance with the international standards and specifications adopted by the Fab Lab centers.

Fab Lab is abbreviated from Fabrication Lab. The project provides tools and knowledge that aid in spreading a culture of creativity and innovation through using technology and digital manufacturing. The Fab Lab UAE has gained the membership of the international Fab Lab Foundation which is comprised of manufacturers, scientists, engineers, teachers and students, in age groups ranging between 5 and 75 years old from all over the world.

The Fab Lab UAE aims at keeping up with the orientations adopted by the UAE to attain the lead position internationally in the field of innovation and spreading the culture of creativity, innovation and digital manufacturing in all segments of the UAE society, in addition to the creation of innovation-stimulating environments, and encouraging universities and schools to consolidate the methods of research, investigation and exploration in the new generations. Other objectives also include the qualification of fu-



ture generations to access the digital world through technology and preparing national assets that will lead the future in the field of innovation.

Fab Lab Tracks

Fab Lab UAE project provides the following tracks of innovation:

1. Main Fab Lab: It is the mas-

ter lab serving all segments of society, headquartered in Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance. It is designed to provide support and training services to 4,000 targeted annually and contains all the hardware, software, resources and services required to implement innovative and



Targeting 7,500 students in three tracks of innovation

Keeping up with the UAE orientation to attain lead positions in innovation

Spreading culture of creativity, innovation and digital fabrication in the UAE community

Creation of stimulating environments for innovation and encouraging universities and schools

creative projects. This lab acts as the training nucleus supervising the qualification of the Fab Lab staff and visitors. It is the main center which provides support for all the other tracks in all respects. The main lab also supplies the modern communication devices required to connect with all the fab labs world-wide, in order to take advantage of the global expertise in digital manufacturing, and access to the latest scientific findings in the field of digital manufacturing. As well, it provides an opportunity for the Fab Lab visitors to work in joint ventures with member states of the Fab Lab Foundation; the thing which would expand the horizons of knowledge and add quality and universal experiences to the Fab Lab UAE. In addition, it provides an opportunity for innovators to display the products of Fab Lab projects, resources and information to the world through the website which will serve as a quality

tributary in the field of digital manufacturing to strengthen one of the main pillars of the project, i.e. sharing.

Work Environment

The work environment in the main Fab Lab is divided into 6 sections:

Design: A room with a computer equipped with the latest three-dimensional design software, accommodating 10 people at a time. In this room, training courses in 3D design are delivered by qualified experts in this area. Courses are delivered on several levels to suit different experiences and age groups.

3D Printing: This section contains the computer-controlled hardware and equipment for the three-dimensional printing. Here the designs that have been developed in the design section are used to print different forms or certain parts of the project. Likewise, 3D printing courses are delivered for different levels, ranging from beginner to advanced levels.

Laser Cutting: This section contains a laser cutting system with high efficiency and speed. Different designs are made and cut using various types of raw materials such as chemical wood and acrylic sheets. The laser cutter is controlled by computer. Targeted are trained on the use of the machine and its accessories.

Cutting and Engraving Using CNC: In this section, the trainee learns how to use the cut and engraving device (CNC) to make different forms using several materials such as wood and plastic. CNC is controlled by computer. Training courses are offered on the use of the CNC suitable for various categories.

Electronics: This section provides all the tools and devices necessary to achieve the electronic requirements for various projects. This aspect of



the trainees is promoted by training courses in electronics that suit different levels, in addition to specialized courses in robotics.

Vinyl Cutter: In this section, targeted recognize the multiple uses of computer-controlled vinyl cutter to make forms and posters from thin sheets of self-adhesive plastic.

2. Mini Fab Lab: They are minilabs established at schools to provide the hardware, software, programs and enrichment curriculum necessary to promote the culture of innovation and digital manufacturing among students under the supervision of qualified teachers. The first mini

fab lab was established at Omar bin Al Khattab Model School in Dubai targeting more than 500 students from grades 6 to 9.

3. Mobile Fab Lab: The Mobile Fab Lab is an educational and promotional method for the Fab Lab UAE project. It is a mobile workshop aiming to raise awareness of digital manufacturing and technical training and services provided by Fab Lab UAE with all tracks.

This mobile lab provides most of the hardware, equipment and software needed for digital manufacturing, but in micro form. It carries out briefing tours to schools, uni-

versities and other educational institutions and public places. Its objective is to give the targeted an opportunity to experience digital manufacturing and briefing them on how to transform their creative ideas into reality through the latest hardware and technologies. This project has been implemented in collaboration with Dubai Electricity and Water Authority. The first phase will include briefing tours within the Emirate of Dubai, and then the geographical scope will be expanded to include other cities and emirates. The project will be launched at the beginning of 2016 targeting about 3,000 beneficiaries.



Notable Participation by Hamdan Award in Innovation Week



'Al Tamayoz News' – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in the Innovation Week where its innovation stand in Mirdif City Centre was visited by a large number of parents and visitors to the mall during the weekend.

The stand which was allocated by the Award for the introduction of the Award's initiatives in the field of talent and innovation attracted

students who engaged in real experiences of design, manufacture and participation. Visitors were also briefed on Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Creativity, and Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Innovation (Fab Lab UAE)

In addition, the field of education was actively involved in the Innovation Week where the events adopted the methods of modernity, diversity, attraction and creative interesting ways covering schools at the state level. Ac-

tivities varied including laboratories, clubs, exhibitions, workshops and lectures. Innovation Week saw great interaction from the community as well as an active participation from the federal and local government authorities and pioneers of the private sector, universities, schools, and research and studies centers represented in more than 1,000 innovative events over the days of the Week.

Innovation Week 2016 is decided to start from 20 to 26

November. It will include more events at the level of each emirate. There will be celebrations for the most innovative teacher, the most innovative student, the most innovative government authority, the most innovative government service, the most innovative government project, the best innovative ideas from government employees, and the most innovative company in the private sector in each emirate.



Hamdan Award Marks 44th National Day



photos by: Hatem Maneca

'Al Tamayoz News' – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance celebrated the 44th National Day launching a variety of activities and programs at Al Hudai-ba Awards Buildings, Dubai. The ceremony was attended by

Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary-General of the Award, and a number of the Award officials and staff where everyone participated in the activities and programs. In his speech during the ceremony, Dr. Al Muhairi congratulated His Highness

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President, and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and their Highnesses Members of the Supreme Council, Rulers of the Emirates, and Their Highnesses the Crown Princes.

Dr. Al Muhairi expressed his pride of the brilliant achievements made thanks to the federal process and the wisdom of the prudent leadership. The programs and competitions included the performance of the 'Home is United' play during the ceremony welcoming the guests.



photos by: Hatem Maneca

76 Participations from 44 Countries Qualified to UNESCO-Hamdan Prize

'Al Tamayoz News' – Dubai

76 participations from about 44 countries around the world have been qualified to the initial screening and review stage of UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers. Maryam Al Shehhi, Head of Competitions & Adjudication Section said that the total number of participations this year amounted to 216 foundations, among which 76 have been qualified to the first screening stage. She said that the screening committee began its work in reviewing and auditing applications and whether they meet the conditions and criteria or not. She pointed out that the nominated program or project

by the candidates shall have contributed significantly to the improvement of teaching and learning in line with UNESCO's principles and objectives in this area, through showing the capacity for innovation aimed at: strengthening the performance of teachers; the production of educational or other special aid materials in order to develop innovative methods of teaching and learning; benefitting from initiatives and / or means that would contribute to improving the performance of teachers; and enhancing coordination and research in order to disseminate information and improve the performance of teachers. Al Shehhi added that the program or project in question shall be: continuous for at least 3 years to be able to

assess its results and verify its effectiveness; constitute a significant contribution to the achievement of the fundamental objectives of UNESCO and the United Nations in the field of quality education for sustainable development; be an example model inspiring similar initiatives; and have proved its effective in injecting new intellectual and material resources. Al Shehhi praised the efforts of the Initial Screening Panel, chaired by Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, with a membership of Dr. Ibrahim Al Mujaini, Dr. Mohammed Shaaban, Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Wahid and Dr. Effie Efthimiou. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 'UNESCO' has approved the extension of

the joint award for a term of 6 years. In 2008, the UNESCO-Hamdan Prize was created to support the enhancement of teaching and learning quality in achieving the Education for All goals, which is one of UNESCO's priorities. The Prize is awarded every two years to three winners whose projects aim at providing excellent educational exercise that contribute to improving the performance and effectiveness of teachers worldwide. The Prize, generously supported by H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance of the United Arab Emirates, amounts to \$300 000, which is equally divided between the three winners.

Hamdan Award Participates in ‘What Works – Developers’ Forum



photos by: Hatem Maneca



‘Al Tamayoz News’ – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance participated in the ‘What Works – Developers’ Forum organized by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in the headquarters of the Emirates Aviation University. Hamdan Award presented ‘Dubai Smart City’ as carried out by gifted students at Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Creativity. The most prominent components of the city are: the smart transportation, represented by a bus without a driver that goes

on streets with sensors to stop and drive; thus it does not deviate from its assigned route. In addition to the smart train that runs by magnetism – it sets off when the two negative poles meet, and stops at the point of magnetic repulsion. The city is divided into three main neighborhoods: the first one is dedicated to industry and economic sectors, the second to human habitation and stability, and the third to entertainment with a beautiful zoo. The eco-friendly nature of the city dominates all the neighborhoods. The participants in the forum discussed the methods of use

of technology, design and programming by the developers as channels of creativity in the classroom. They were also briefed on the real experiences implemented by schools in Dubai in the field of ‘development of technical applications’ which enhances the optimization of the potential offered by technology for teachers and students through the presentation of distinct projects that have been implemented in classrooms in Dubai, based on the fact that forums of ‘What Works’ acts as a platform for cooperation in and sharing best practices among private schools.

The event witnessed a wide participation from across the educational community including students, teachers and school leaders, as well as the presentation of real experiences of a number of supporters. In their meeting with local and international technology experts, students briefed the participants on the methods to optimize the use of modern technologies and thinking in new ways about old techniques. The participants also discussed how to give students a competitive opportunity through a distinguished learning online system.

Preparation of National Specialized Staff for Training with International License

‘Al Tamayoz News’ – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance concluded a training program for the preparation of trainers. The program was organized as part of the training project which is implemented by the Award in order to prepare national specialized and qualified staff with an international license in the field of talent for training inside and outside the UAE. At Al Hudaiba buildings, Dubai, the targeted received

training in the skills of dealing with the gifted and how to implement training programs in the field of education about how to discover talents, in addition to the preparation of gifted programs and how to guide and direct them. Dr. Fares Salah Haidar, a consultant and executive in the field of identification of needs, strategic planning and preparation of portfolios, delivered the theoretical and practical parts of the training program under the title ‘Trainer Preparation Course’.



photos by: Hatem Maneca

Guidance Programs for Gifted Students



photos by: Hatem Maneca

‘Al Tamayoz News’ – Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance organized a guidance behavior-therapy

program designated for talented students participating in the Award programs. Dr. Mona Al Amri, psychological advisor, provided the program which is part of the project of Consultation Unit

in the Award. A number of talented students who are in need of consultation and psychological guidance took part in it. Group and individual sessions were given to students to help them identify

themselves, promote their self-confidence, and equip them with the skills of involving in social productive relationships, and how to deal with stress, face problems and develop solutions.