

**Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi:
9,000 Students Benefit from
Graduates of GED**



275 Winners on the Podium in Cycle 18

**Education Officials in the
UAE & Gulf:
Hamdan Award Supports
Innovators and Gifted**

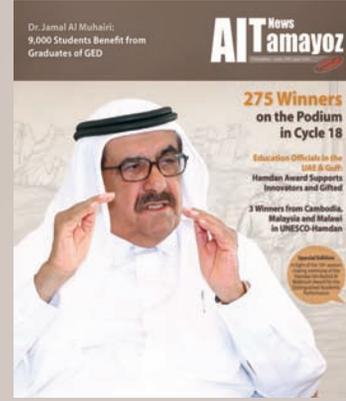
**3 Winners from Cambodia,
Malaysia and Malawi
in UNESCO-Hamdan**

Special Edition
in light of the 18th session
closing ceremony of the
Hamdan bin Rashid Al
Maktoum Award for the
Distinguished Academic
Performance

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Upgrading the Academic Performance and fostering talents, through the best local and International programs, to promote positive competition and cooperation, which contribute in building an outstanding educational society.



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Introduction



Education .. In Hamdan's Heart

- Since the first day of initiating the Award, the directives of the patron, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, were clear and accurate about the development and empowerment of education in the UAE, which has become a national necessity, as well as about backing the directives of the wise leadership and supporting educational institutions. Such support is considered the most sublime goal in achieving the future education, which will hopefully be a model able to face a lot of obstacles and overcome them, particularly those related to the objectives of comprehensive development, national security and economic management in its universal sense, besides international competitiveness. It is an education that understands the other, accepts new developments, and has the skill to employ the same. Thus, quality education has been the Award's goal and axis of its activities over 18 years, wherein it has confidently diversified its development programs, and expanded its geographic area until it reached the five continents. The Award has become one of the most effective initiatives through the partnership; locally with the Ministry of Education; regionally with the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States; and internationally, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Award has succeeded in providing a package of large-value initiatives in the field of quality education and nurturing giftedness and innovation, in accordance with the strategy of improving school education, enhancing innovative capacities, and investment in talents.
- Many educational initiatives were implemented in this session, such as Hamdan Center for Creativity, fabrication laboratories (Fab Labs), the Museum of Education, and the Center for Media Production, thanks to the transformation of the Award from a system for motivation and reward to a development program to improve education and school performance. What comes next, Inshallah, is not less important than the above, especially for the education decision maker.
- Today the Award celebrates a constellation of 275 winners of the educational excellence award in the UAE, GCC and the Arab countries. They are the knights of creativity and excellence, commitment and discipline. Additionally, winning the 'Education-Supporting Institution' award by the Ministry of the Interior, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and Majid Al Futtaim Charity Foundation confirms that education is placed in the core of the institutions and authorities in the UAE.

Congratulations to His Highness, the patron of the Award for this success, and congratulations to the winners for their achievements. See you next session Inshallah.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

We welcome your contributions and inquiries as to pursue communication with you.
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Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary-General of Hamdan Award:

9,000 Students Benefit from Graduates of GED

- Supplying educational field with 120 qualified educators
- 161 citizens in Hamdan bin Rashid Center for Creativity



By: Mohammed Ali

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance has gone a long way in the care and support of talented students through its adopted and offered initiatives and programs.

According to Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary-General of the Award, the educational field has been supplied with educational experts enjoying specialized scientific and skillful efficiency, represented by 120 qualified national staff, to teach gifted students over six batches of Gifted Education Diploma (GED) program since 2010, of whom about 9,000 students from 84 schools in Dubai and the Northern areas have got benefit. He explained that the number of male graduates of vocational diploma in talented education amounted to 10 educators, while Dubai recorded the largest number of teachers enrolled in the program at 31. He also stated that 92% of the graduates are teachers, who have been assigned as talent and innovation coordinators in public education schools, after assigned by the Ministry of Education to their schools.

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The Award has established Hamdan bin Rashid Center for Talent and Creativity, which is one of the main programs in the National Plan for the Gifted. The project is consistent with the vision of the UAE leadership to be the umbrella under which all programs, activities and services concerned with the care of talented lie, and it has currently attracted about 161 since its commencement.

Plans & Initiatives

Al Muhairi pointed out that all the plans and initiatives implemented by the Award come out of its keenness to keep pace with educational developments in the field of nurturing talent, excellence, creativity and innovation, which are among the educational fields the developed world is interesting in. The Award also aims at providing the financial, human and educational resources to take care of this segment, help them meet their needs, prepare and develop personnel in this area.

He stressed that there are several domains to employ the capabilities and potential of GED graduates. Graduates have invested their potential and specialization in the field of talent in their task as talent and innovation coordinators in their schools. They spot and discover gifted students, and form of enrichment units, in addition to participating in the implementation of enrichment programs for the Award (during public holidays), evaluating

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some programs concerned with talents, as well as acting as a training nucleus for talent, and participation with working paper in scientific conferences and symposia of talent.

Staff Development

Concerning the GED program, Al Muhairi stated that it has been applied annually since 2010, and it is the first program of vocational diploma in the field of talent education in the UAE in particular, and the GCC States and the Arab world in general, aiming at the development of national staff in the field of talented education.

He added that diploma graduates participated in the formation and construction of enrichment units, and training portfolios intended to gifted students (from grade 4 to 12), in (math, science, Arabic, English, IT, social studies and Islamic education), as well as the preparation of enrichment programs during school holidays, and participation in teams concerned with preparing models for enrichment activities and programs oriented to gifted students, such as programs of thinking, teaching strategies, family guidance, counseling programs, and participation in summer camps and outdoor trips.

He said that the GED graduates participated in the evaluation of some of the enrichment activities and programs directed to gifted students, such as the programs of thinking, gifted teaching strategies, and guidance and counseling programs, in addition to participating in the committees of training teachers of the gifted students on the level of Ministry of Education (MOE) and educational zones. They also worked as training teachers of the gifted students at schools on spotting and discovery, family guidance and counseling. Graduates are keen to attend forums and conferences held inside and outside the UAE, whether those organized by the Award or by some of the other gatherings related to talent and creativity.

He pointed out that the importance of the program is in giving the studying teachers a helping hand to acquire knowledge, skills and experiences relevant to the field of talent education, preparing qualified teachers in this area, meeting the needs of the educational field and supplying it with expertise and high educational leaders. They also contribute to the development of educational institutions and enable them to provide services and programs that can help meet the special needs of talented students, as well as to provide advanced vocational and academic programs in form and content that meet the level of aspirations and objectives of the Award. GED is being implemented in collaboration with the MOE and the Arab Gulf University (AGU).

Study System

Dr. Al Muhairi said the program is given in 3 months at 6 hours a day, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., from Sunday to Wednesday, and only 4 hours on Thursday, with a total of 28 hours.

“Students of the courses are evaluated based on the requirements and practical assignments attached to every academic subject, plus the final tests of the course. Then the course exams are done in 2 hours a week. The courses that require a collective effort, such as field training course, are taught by more than a professor and the students are followed-up by a group of professors according to a previously- prepared table with the Award coordinator,” he explained.

He considered that presenting this kind of programs by Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance as one of the valuable contributions which are listed among the achievements of the Award through supplying the educational field with educational experts having specialized scientific and

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skillful efficiency.

Given by the AGU, GED program is one of the specialized vocational programs in this field, which has attempted to provide a vision that serves the field of education in schools, and contributes to the preparation of a set of teachers who are able to cope inside and outside the classroom with gifted students and enrich them with required subjects and skills. It aims at forming a good outcome of knowledge in the issues related to gifted education.

Based on the studies and evaluation forms of the participating teachers, and the friendly conversations that took place with them, it is obvious how the general satisfaction with the achievements of the program is. Everyone carries the optimistic aspirations for the future. The field-training course is a main hub in the GED, because it is the practical conclusion for students. However, it is noticed that the far distances among schools do not give the opportunity to visit students more than a class a day to give notes in detail.

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Hamdan Center Consolidates Foundations of Creativity and Innovation for UAE Students



Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary-General of Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance confirmed that Hamdan Center for Talent and Creativity contributes to meet the educational, psychological and social needs of gifted students, with the objective of full development of their personalities, so that they become productive members of society, contributing to it in accordance with their talents. The Center aims at increasing learning opportunities for gifted students outside the classroom, offering specialized programs designed to support the special abilities and interests of students. It also targets providing e-learning for gifted students, raising the level of awareness among the public, providing special learning opportunities for parents, and encouraging community, national and local institutions to fund special programs and activities dedicated to the gifted.

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He stated that the Center includes 5 main halls. First, assessment and diagnosis hall, which determines the areas of talent and capabilities characterizing students, in addition to spotting talented students from public education, by applying the collective and individual standards. It also enlighten parents and teachers in how to deal with gifted students, providing facilities that help the growth of their abilities and talents, identifying students with distinguished performance in IQ standards, and then nominating them for care programs, according to their inclinations, trends and abilities.

The second hall is allocated for guidance and counseling for the preparation of the community and family to deal with and take care of talents, as well as the collection of integrated data on the students and their family, social, psychological, health and economic status, in addition to hobbies and interests. It is dedicated to enlighten students in their potential and talents, to cooperate with other units to provide care, develop abilities and find solutions to the obstacles and problems that might hinder the way of such solutions. Herein students are also helped solve the psychological and social problems that may be experienced in cooperation with discovery and care specialist, home, school and Center management.



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The third hall is allocated to educational care and activities of enrichment. It is specialized for creating a stimulating and encouraging environment to showcase the skills and abilities of students, motivating them to be keen on research and inquiry, and providing them with the needed skill to put information and rules in practice. In this hall, students gain the ability to innovate and foresee future prospects, deepen their Islamic principles and morality, and develop their thinking skills.

The fourth hall is for e-learning. It is devoted to the preparation of learning materials that fits various individual characteristics, conducting virtual visits to all kinds of museums, factories, government agencies and institutions, and confronting different ideas through dialogues with famous people. Here, students communicate and cooperate with international schools for talents, interact with their mentor and prepare educational materials that meet their specific needs. The last hall is the library which helps students so that they become educated and self-confident, able to seek knowledge for life and possess research skills. In the library, they are provided with the sources of support areas of their talents, cooperate with scientific experts, coaches and consultants in the preparation of research, planning and developing care programs. Students are taught the skills to collect information of their interests and their works successfully, identify, analyze and assess softcopy and hardcopy research materials. The hall gives assistance for professionals at the individual and institutional levels in research projects, and provides books, magazines and newspapers that encourage students to recreational reading.



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Activities

The Center offers a variety of activities for gifted students, including summer, spring and weekend programs, wherein they are provided with courses to develop social and emotional skills, thinking skills, in addition to specialized programs in the fields of science and leadership. They are also given counseling and recreational programs and excursions. On the other hand, activities for parents include, family counseling, psychological counseling and educational lectures in talents care and discovery. Accordingly, gifted student are identified procedurally according to the areas of talent, as well as the implementation of enrichment programs for the gifted, which were carried out in the halls outside Award and will be implemented in the Center. Alongside, other programs will be conducted, such as the spring, summer and winter programs for the gifted, which are annual programs for talented students who meet the Award criteria of giftedness, especially that the enrichment programs develop the skills of talented people through a global and systematic innovative programs, give talented self-learning, creative thinking and problem-solving skills, and promote social networking for talented skills to acquire leadership and social influential personalities, Their skills are enriched through activities, events and training workshops, and their talents and abilities are highlighted to motivate them.

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