

**Hamdan bin Rashid ..
Civilizational Personality
of 2016**



**Agreement to Implement
Vocational Gifted Education
Diploma**



**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**



**Hamdan Center
for Giftedness Ranks First
in FLL for Robots**

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OUR VISION

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

Cover Story

Sustainable Development Goals

In the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, presidents of states and governments, United Nations officials, and representatives of civil society adopted the new sustainable development goals, in which UNESCO contributed. Based on its interest in educational affairs, 'Al Tamayoz News' will present in each issue an education-related aspect of the goals of this UN 2030 agenda, highlighting the UAE's efforts in promoting United Nations attempts to achieve sustainable development.



Goal 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.
- Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.
- Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.
- The UAE is one of the leading countries in the field of promoting gender equality, and providing all the ways to empower Emirati women, as well as contributing to support their issues and socio-economic sustainable progression.
- In March 2015, Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation, and Head of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Mother of the Nation, launched the National Strategy for Empowerment of Emirati Women in the UAE 2015 - 2021.
- The strategy has provided a general framework and indicative reference for all federal and local, private and government institutions, as well as civil society organizations, in order to develop their plans and programs, and provide a decent life for women to let them empowered, pioneering and initiator, for the sake of participating in all sustainable development processes to achieve the quality of life to them.
- Among the purposes of Goal 5 is the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere, in addition to finish all aspects of violence against women and girls in the public and private areas, including human trafficking, sexual exploitation and other types of exploitation. It also aims at the elimination of all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, and to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership with men at all levels of decision-making in the political, economic and public life. Goal 5 covers ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services, health and reproductive rights, as agreed upon in accordance with the program of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Beijing Platform as well as the closing documents of their review conferences. The Goal adopts sound, enforceable policies and legislation, and promotes such policies and legislations for the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.



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Honored by the Arab Society for Islamic Civilization and Arts
Hamdan bin Rashid ..
Civilizational Personality of 2016

'Al Tamayoz News' - Luxor

The Arab Association for Islamic Civilization and Arts named His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance and Patron of Al Maktoum Foundation, as the Civilizational Personality of 2016.

The honoring ceremony was held during the opening of the activities of the 2nd International Conference for Civilization and Islamic Arts under the title 'Exchanged Effects among Human Civilizations', under the sponsorship of Al Maktoum Foundation. It took place in the courtyard of the Temple of Karnak in Luxor, Egypt, with the participation of delegations from 30 countries, in addition to 100 professors.

The honoring award was received by the His Highness, Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of Al Maktoum Foundation.

The honoring ceremony was attended by Khalifa Seif Al Teneiji, Vice Ambassador of UAE to Cairo, Mirza Al Sayegh, member of the Board of Trustees of Al Maktoum Foundation, the accompanying delegation of the Foundation and a number of the Egyptian and Arab officials and academic personalities.

During the ceremony, a film was displayed about the marsh of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum in the humanitarian, charity, educational and health work, including the activities and efforts of Al Maktoum Foundation in the educational, health and relief fields in different continents during 20 years, as well as the activity of the Foundation in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

In his speech, General Issam Al Hamli, Vice Minister of Interior, Director of Security in Luxor expressed his utmost pleasure that honoring His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, took place in Luxor, lauding H. H., whose spending and giving reached all needy people, stating that H. H. dedicated his life to serve poor and needy people, science and scholars, and praising the efforts of Al Maktoum Foundation in eliminating destitution from poor families. Furthermore, in his speech, Dr. Salah Al Jaafarawi, the General Coordinator and member of the Higher Committee of the Civilizational Award said "Al Maktoum Foundation have had a leading role in extending bridges across the continents in the east of Asia as it was the first to alleviate the sorrows after Tsunami Typhoon, no other foundation outraced it to that place, and to the north of the Earth in Dundee, Scotland, where Al Maktoum College for Higher Studies radiates there." He commended the Islamic Cultural Center that gave to the West the greatest examples about the civilization and



Egyptian Vice Minister of Interior: Hamdan bin Rashid dedicated his life to serve poor and needy people, science and scholars



sophistication of Islam, and nobleness of its principles, besides to hundreds of projects in the two Americas, and tens of schools and scientific and health institutions in Africa. Mirza Al Sayegh delivered a speech, in which he said "On behalf of His Highness, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is represented today by his son, Sheikh Rashid in receiving this valuable award, which clearly indicates

the estimation and appreciation of the Egyptian people, represented by the competent committee for the accomplishments of His Highness in the scientific, educational, cultural and religious fields all around the world." He added "The award and its shield represent a kind of appreciation to the humanitarian work in general. We say that we are at a considerable level of responsibility," stressing on behalf of Sheikh

Rashid bin Hamdan the fact that Al Maktoum Foundation puts Egypt and its needs on top of priorities.

Dr. Mohamad Ali Hasan Zainhom, President of the Arab Society of Islamic Civilization and Arts delivered the award to Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan. He also offered him an artistic painting of the photo of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

At the end of the ceremony, honoring shields were exchanged among Luxor Province and the universities participating in the conference on this occasion.

In the context, Al Maktoum Foundation honored General Issam Al Hamli, Vice Minister of Interior, Director of Security in Luxor Province, Dr. Majed Al Kamari, President of Kafar Al Sheikh University, Dr. Mohamad Abu Hashem, Vice President of Al Azhar University, Dr. Sayed Taha, Vice President of South Valley University, Dr. Mohamad Ali Zainhom, President of the Arab Society for Islamic Civilization and Arts, Chairman of the Conference, and members of the Higher Committee of the Civilizational Award.

The Conference discussed the Islamic Civilization and its interaction with the humanitarian civilizations, the civilized diversity and its effect on forming the aesthetics of mosaic in the Islamic Art, the characteristics of Islamic architecture and the relation of its principles with the religion, and evaluating the mental image of Egypt in the touristic posters and the extent of their suitability for supporting tourism. The conference also tackled the phenomenon of mutual effectiveness between the Islamic and Chinese civilizations, besides to the dialogue and its role in enhancing the principles of peaceful coexistence.

At the end of its conference, the Arab Society for Islamic Civilization and Arts called to protect the Islamic ruins in all the Islamic countries, as they are international heritage to the whole mankind, which necessitates maintaining, protecting and isolating them from conflicts.



With a strategic partnership between Hamdan bin Rashid Award and Hamdan bin Mohammed Smart University
Implementing the Vocational Gifted Education Diploma

'Al Tamayoz News' - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and Hamdan bin Mohammed Smart University (HBMSU) concluded a partnership agreement in the headquarters of Hamdan Award, Dubai to implement the vocational Gifted Education Diploma (GED) program, within the frame of strategic partnership that supports the National Plan for the Gifted. The program is directed to the male and female teachers in government schools who are specialized in educating gifted student, targeting the qualification of the UAE teacher to be distinguished in discovering gifted students, sponsoring and developing them creatively, to cope with the requirements of the ambitious developmental marsh in the United Arab Emirates.



Joint-efforts to find a leading reference and expertise center for sponsoring and developing talents

The program aims to qualify UAE teacher to be distinguished in discovering and sponsoring gifted students

Implementing the program in Arabic for 2016 - 2017 school year in E-Education College

The agreement was concluded by Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Secretary-General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance, and Dr. Mansoor Al Awar, Chancellor of HBMSU, in the presence of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Deputy Chairman of Police and General Security, Chairman of the HBMSU Board of Trustees, as well as a number of senior official from both sides.

Experiences

According to the strategic partnership, HBMSU shall invest its scientific competency, specialized academic experiences, infrastructure and sophisticated technology to implement the vocational GED, which represents an advanced boost for forming and developing human potentials and energies that are necessary for building a scientific and practical system

to be a reference and expertise center in the field of educating gifted students, in such a way to cope with the national efforts aiming at promoting the UAE to be among the most advanced prominent nations in the world, depending on creativity, innovation and knowledge.

Specialized Staff

The program, in a special way, serves the project of the National Plan for the Gifted, which is the common project between Hamdan Award and the Ministry of Education. It mainly requires qualifying specialists who possess the educational and technical knowledge, in addition to the potentials and skills that are necessary for designing, developing, implementing, managing and evaluating the programs of education and training that are suitable to all the types of talent from the learners, and building consultative scientific reference that supply the scholastic

and institutional education and training systems with the experiences that enable them.

The program specifically serves the project of the National Plan for sponsoring the Gifted Students. It is the joint venture between the Hamdan Award and the Ministry of Education, which mainly requires to prepare cadres of specialists who have the educational and technical knowledge, potentials and skills necessary to design, develop, implement, manage and evaluate education and training programs that are appropriate for different talent types of learners and build a scientific advisory reference that would provide the educational systems, school and institutional training with the expertise that would enable them to choose, develop, manage and evaluate the systems, methods and programs for discovering gifted students and taking care of them, as well as to building a scientific advisory reference

to provide education systems, school and institutional training with expertise to enable them to choose the development, management and assessment of systems, methods and programs for spotting talents and sponsoring them.

Moreover, the program provides alternatives for in-service training for teachers of public education and teachers of special groups, enabling them to gain effective teaching skills through the study of subjects carefully selected to benefit them in the frames of theoretical and practical classroom for teaching gifted students. It also provides various forms of creative works in the field of distinctive education of the special groups, in such a way that the educational institutions will get use of in pre-university and university, government and non-governmental organizations and institutions concerned in the UAE gifted students. The program prepares

human resources that would lead the education development movement for rising the creative child in public and private education in the UAE and the GCC Countries.

6 Courses

The agreement between both parties stipulates to implement the program for the year 2016 - 2017 in Arabic within E-Education College in HBMSU, based on six courses at a rate of 13 credit hours, provided to include «creativity and creative thinking», «methods and tools for discovering the gifted students», «distinctive education», «designing and assessment of gifted students' programs», and «dynamic guidance and direction», besides to the final project and field training.

The program gains special importance as one of the leading quality and flexible programs submitted in accordance with the teaching methodology that combines e-learning technology, integrated learning and flipped classrooms, in order to ensure preparing specialized staff possessing the educational and technical knowledge, as well as potentials and skills that are necessary to design, develop, implement, manage and evaluate appropriate education programs and training for different patterns of talented learners.

The escalating importance of the program is due to the fact that it is a strong support for finding an advisory scientific reference that supplies the school and institutional education and training systems with the expertise and creative works patterns in the field of distinctive education for the special categories, so as to enable the pre-university and university, governmental and non-governmental educational institutions to fulfil the increased need of the academically and vocationally qualified staff in the field of optimum investment of talents.

Strong Foundations

Commenting on the agreement, H. E. Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim said: "Laying strong foundations to



Incubating teachers of gifted students in 6-subject academic course representing 13 credit hours

Subscription is open for special education teachers and Emirati teachers in public and private education

build fruitful partnership with Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance springs from our commitment in HBMSU to work according to the prudent vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and the continual guidance from His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid, Crown Prince of Dubai and President of the HBMSU, to find a positive climate and a suitable environment for discovering and incubating the creative national competencies, and investing their creative energies in serving the developmental ambitious marsh led by Dubai and the United Arab Emirates".



"It is not strange that HBMSU and Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance take this precedent step to propel the wheel of optimum investment in the human element, especially that they possess an eventful history full of success and achievement in paving the road before the distinguished competencies in continuing the march of creativity, innovation, academic and vocational distinction. Therefore, we look confidently toward the new partnership that will undoubtedly achieve the desired goals serving the purposes of (Dubai Plan 2021), in making the Emirate a place for creative and powerful members full of pride and happiness, whose activity form

the rigid support for the renaissance and development in various fields," H. E. added.

Key Role

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi said "Based on the vision of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Minister of Finance and Patron of the Award, and on the faith of H. H. in the importance of the gifted and creative students in the marsh of sustainable development in the UAE, and their key role in propelling its wheel to the levels of creativity and distinction, as well as the directives of H. H. towards the investment in the educational potentials available in the UAE, especially the strategic partnerships di-



rected to serve education and UAE student in particular, the Award today enhances its cooperation and partnerships to achieve such educational goals by concluding an agreement with HBMSU to incubate the teachers of gifted students in an academic course whereby they obtain the vocational GED."

"HBMSU is one of the prestigious educational institutions under the patronage and guidance of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of the Executive Council and President of HBMSU. Within a short period, it managed to achieve brilliant academic accomplishments in the field of smart education. In addition, it has qualitative educational initiatives, by which it drew the interest of academicians and stakeholders and enabled it to occupy the leading position at the level of the Arab World and the region," Hamdan Award Secretary-General added.

He stressed that the Award is proud of this partnership, and it is completely confident that this joint-program will support the trends of the wise leadership in supporting education and enriching the field of talent and innovation, and will reflect positively on the efforts of the educational institutions that incubate those gifted people of our students.



Qualitative Partnership

Furthermore, Dr. Mansoor Al Awar stated "It is our pleasure to establish a qualitative strategic partnership with Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award, which possesses a long range of experience in sponsoring and developing gifted students in the UAE for the purpose of succeeding the vocational GED, through which, we look forward to establishing a positive imprint in building the Emirati citizen quite creatively, and providing the human capital that is capable to build the knowledge community and find competitive economy of high productivity, coping with the vision of the wise leadership in setting of towards the future, depending on national quali-

fied competencies according to the highest levels of innovation and creativity, and the ability to deal with the modern technology in the education systems with high efficiency."

"The program is based on the approach of getting use of the international directions and distinguished experiments in the field of educating gifted students and special categories, besides to optimum investment of the smart technology in making the UAE education a contemporary pattern that is able to confront the future challenges flexibly, creatively and distinctively, the fact that would achieve the vision and mission of HBMSU in participating in building and forming the Emirati citizen that enjoys renovated creative and innovative ener-

gies, applying the directives of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and President of HBMSU," Al Awar elaborated.

"From our part, we look forward to continue developing the current program to increase its capability on regional and international competition, to be a leading reference in preparing human resources that would lead the movement of the educational development to rise the creative students in the public and private education in the UAE, GCC and Arab countries," he concluded.

Training & Interaction

The GED adopts a set of modern strategies of training that enhances the interaction among the trainees, content and the trainer, on top of which is the epistemological pupillage, epistemological training, participatory problems solving, dynamic interaction across the learning groups, the methods of brain storming and writing intellect, case study, Aristotle dialogue, e-debates, brain maps, real vs virtual field visits, practical projects and others.

Subscription is open for the special education teachers and the Emirati teachers in public and private education in the UAE. Learners will get the certificate of vocational GED at the end of the program.

Applicants shall be UAE nationals, of well behavior and conduct, obtaining a job in the field of teaching in the governmental or private schools, provided to be nominated by the Ministry of Education, or an official entity in the UAE.

The applicants shall have a bachelor's degree in any of the fields of academic and university study from one of the accredited universities in the UAE, with an evaluation of not less than 2 marks, and qualification to use the computer and some software of e-education and remote education.

The applicants shall pass the personal interview with total points of 80%, along with submitting an undertaking to attend all the training sessions and field training, as well as fulfilling all the requirements of graduation from the program.



12 students representing the Award
**Honoring the Team
of Hamdan bin Rashid
Center for Giftedness
for Ranking First in FLL**

'Al Tamayoz News' - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance honored the team of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Giftedness and Creativity for winning the first rank at the level of the UAE in the First Lego League (FLL) for Robots which was organized by the Ministry of Education in partnership with Abu Dhabi Council for Education at the National Emirates Schools in Al Rahmania, Sharjah. Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance was represented by 12 gifted students, who are enrolled in Hamdan Center for Giftedness and Creativity,

to take part in this annual league that included about 400 students from various public and private schools. His Excellency Hussain Al Hammadi, Minister of Education, inspected the activities of the competition and praised the efforts exerted by all the schools and educational institutions.

Qualifying the Elite

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Secretary-General of Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance stated that the keen interest of the Award to participate in FLL comes in the context of its role in qualifying an elite of students for participation in international competitions.

He stressed that ranking first in this local competition is considered an achievement for the students, incentive for them to enter international challenges, and an opportunity to gain the necessary experience for such participations, especially that they represent an elite of the innovators. He lauded the partnership with the Ministry of Education in sponsoring creative students, and working side by side to achieve advanced ranks at the regional and international levels in the specialized scientific competitions. He said that two teams from Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Giftedness and Creativity has been

trained and qualified from February to October 2016 to participate in this national competition, pointing out that the Machine Masters team was formed of seven students, while the Hand 'N' Hand team included 5 students. "The competition involves several topics, in the table contest (Robot Challenge), a special robot is designed and programed for each team. It must perform a number of tasks on a table equipped with various tasks within two minutes and a half, while in the research stage, each team must provide purposeful project related to the slogan of the year 'waste and methods of treatment.' The



project is a deep research on the problem associated with the league slogan, and the team must invent creative solutions to this problem and try to apply them, followed by a presentation to the problem at hand and the proposed solutions," Al Muhairi explained. "In the topic of testing the design and programming, each team must enter with their robot to the competent jury, which assesses the design and programming of the robot, to allot marks for each team according to the quality of design, programming and fitting with the tasks to be implemented." He added.

Promoting Values

Al Muhairi stated that the organizing committee provided

many values that must be adhered to, such as teamwork, team spirit, participation, cooperation, enthusiasm, etc., and each team is evaluated according to the adoption of these values by its members and sharing them with other teams. He praised the coronation of both teams of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Giftedness and Creativity and obtaining three awards and advanced ranks. The boys team won the first place in the 'Best Participating Team' competition, while the girls team got the first place in the Best Mechanical Design and Innovative Strategy' category and second place in the 'Best Performance of Robot.'

Unlimited Support

Dr. Mariam Al Ghawi, Director of Gifted Welfare Department in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance said: "The achievement of the team of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Giftedness and Creativity is added to the achievements and successes of the Award. It is also a coronation of the efforts and unlimited support provided for talented students by the Award. It reflects the power of will, perseverance and diligence to excellence, and all this leads us strongly towards what we aspire to accomplish. The coming achievements are better and we will undoubtedly go for bigger successes."

Minister of Education inspects the competition and praises the efforts of schools and educational institutions

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi: we are keen to qualify elite students to participate in international competitions

"In future phases, the center looks forward to training and qualification of students to go to bigger competitions (regionally and internationally), to represent the prize in global forums, which requires redoubled efforts to reach the desired goal," Al Ghawi explained.

Honoring

Dr. Amina Al Dahhak, Deputy Assistant for the Sector of Sponsorship and Activities in the Ministry of Education (MoE) honored the winners and said: "This competition gains great care by the MoE due to the educational goals it achieves, and emanated enthusiasm, vitality and excitement to the participants, as well as for the values it

stresses, on top of which comes cooperation and honest competition." Al Dahhak mentioned that the main goals of the competition include spreading the robot culture among students and introducing them to the advanced technological and scientific branches, not to mention enabling students to come up with creative solutions for the challenges faced by scientists and developing day-to-day and functional skills, besides to applying the principles of mathematics, scientific physics, and technology. The FLL contest is the first national one for robots. It is one of the scientific competitiveness contests directed to the students from the age of 9 to 16 years at the level of the

UAE schools and educational departments. The FLL is based on the competition in designing, programming and controlling robots, to develop students' skills in the 21st Century. It attracts a considerable interest by the MoE due to its educational goals, and the enthusiasm, vitality and excitement it spreads among participants. The FLL is a valuable opportunity for students to build a technology base preparing them to be future leaders through training and qualifying them to deal with the challenges by building, designing and programming multi-task robots. This helps them in future to think creatively in additional tasks to serve humanity.

Dr. Mariam Al Ghawi: this victory crowns the Award efforts and unlimited support for talents

400 participants from various public and private schools

FLL emanates enthusiasm and vitality among participants and stresses the values of cooperation and honest competition



Hamdan Award sponsors 3rd International Conference for the Gifted and Talented

Jamal Al Muhairi: Aggravation of reading challenges necessitates supporting initiatives to change its reality in communities

'Al Tamayoz News' - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance sponsored, the 3rd International Conference for the Gifted and Talented under the slogan 'Reading: between creativity and excellence' which was organized by the Department of Special Education in the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) in JW Marquis Hotel, Dubai, in the presence of an elite of professors and specialists in the field reading and talent from different Arab and foreign countries. This annual conference dedicated for the topic of reading, talent and excellence, in addition to reviewing the latest field experiments.

Launched by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the initiative of '2016 .. Year of Reading' represents a pioneering step in the march of the UAE towards consolidating the culture of science and knowledge, to achieve sustainability and upbringing educated and reader generation that is aware of the accelerated scientific developments. Hopefully, this initiative will contribute to providing the successive generations with the latest concepts and theories in different fields for developing the development march to become based on science and innovation.

The idea of holding the 3rd International Conference for the Gifted and Talented emerged from this initiative which depends on reading and talent, based on the belief of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and the Department of Special Education, Faculty of Education in the UAEU, in the importance of reading, and its impact in the formation of human potentials that



Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi

are capable of planning for the future of the UAE and enrich its achievements.

Goals

The conference goals included reviewing the field experiments in the topic of reading, talent, and excellence in different countries of the world, strengthening the links among experts and researchers, presenting and discussing the most recent academic and applied studies and researches, as well as presenting creative concepts for developing reading

and talent, and discussing the relative programs and curricula in the different educational institutions.

The conference targeted the researchers in the field of reading and talent, principals and teachers of schools, universities professors and students, parents of gifted students and representatives of the institutions, associations and centers of sponsoring gifted students.

Technology

The conference concentrated on the curricula and policies of education related to reading, talent and excellence, and the role of the government and civil institutions, as well as the private sector. It focused on the methods of discovering and identifying gifted students, using the information technology and communications in developing reading and talent to obtain excellence, in addition to developing the methods of sponsoring talented students with special need, and reviewing Arab and foreign experiences. The conference

included academic sessions, work papers, workshops and an exhibition.

Knowledge Communities

In his speech during the conference, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Secretary-General of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance stated that the reading challenges are being aggravated as much as the increased need to the knowledge communities, which necessitates supporting the initiatives and programs that take care of reading in communities, especially those suffering from the results of turning away from knowledge and educational stagnation on the march of development. Therefore, since the very first day, the Award has been working under the guidance of its patron His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance on enhancing the opportunities of building the knowledge community and deeply rooting reading in the process of education. It has

developed standards for the effect of reading in the standards of excellence, along with supporting students and community programs that instill the love of reading and reinforce its skills at all the elements of the education system.

He added that thanks to those efforts, the Award is proud to have been transformed from an encouraging award into programs for distinguished academic performance. Today, it offers qualitative epistemological services through sophisticated patterns of educational projects. Today, it incubates elite students in Hamdan Center for Talent, as well as Hamdan Center for Innovation, and several workshops, training sessions, and student camps, along with the approach of announcing the first Arabic Pattern for Educational Quality.

He said that the joint faith of the partners in the UAEU means that we are concerned in this matter. The strong belief that reading is the gate of science, knowledge and innovation, and the optimum method for smoothening the talent and innovation, motivate us together to support the national efforts and initiatives of the wise leadership in the field of education and culture, towards transferring the UAE to an epistemological and scientific torch, and a source for creativity and innovation.

Appreciation

He expressed his pride and appreciation for participating in the 3rd International Conference for the Gifted and Talented which came in harmony and in line with 'the Year of Reading' - that sublime initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the UAE, who considers that reading is the key for knowledge, competition and sustainable prosperity. He said: "I remember the speech of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai as it briefs the value of reading and its importance to hu-



man being, when H. H. said "The first book a child reads opens the first door in that child's brighter future". He added that the conference is abundant with distinguished academic figures and great work papers tackling important details in diagnosing and explaining the different aspects related to the subject of reading, and its epistemological and skill relationship with the talent and excellence, which confirms the confidence in the depth of its discussions and proceedings.

Opening

Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, Vice President of the UAEU for Student and Registration Affairs

opened the conference with wide participation from specialists, and elite of the experts and decision makers in the field of reading and talent from different Arab and some foreign countries. Al Kaabi welcomed the participants and stressed that the importance of the conference lies in the connection of its results and recommendations with the strategic goals set by the wise leadership in achieving the vision of the UAE 2021 for Leadership and Innovation, and enhancing the policies of the creativity and renovation policies, including 'The Programs of Sponsoring Gifted and Distinguished Students', adopted by the UAE in differ-



ent fields of science, in such a way to achieve the vision of the UAEU in leadership and distinction in higher education and scientific research at the regional and international levels. Thereby, we hope to work on achieving the goals of sustainable development of the UAE Government, as well as discussing the phenomenon of reading between talent and excellence to enhance the culture of reading in such a way to contribute in creating aware generation that is prepared for confronting the challenges of the future through such a national university.

Leadership and Excellence

The experts and participants in the sessions of the conference presented the curricula and policies of education related to reading, and the methods of discovering and identifying gifted students using the latest technological systems, information technology and communications in developing the skills of reading and talent to reach to leadership and distinction. They reviewed samples from the programs of sponsoring gifted and distinguished students in a number of the UAE schools.

In different activities of the conference and the accompanying workshops, the audience also discussed developing the methods of sponsoring gifted students with special needs, and the role of the government and civil institutions as well as the private sector in developing reading, talent and excellence, besides to presenting the different Arab and international experiences in the field of reading and talent. The speakers also deliberated the new strategies in tackling the difficulties of reading by gifted students and how to use the modern creative thinking methods in dealing with the challenges through the programs of brain storming to develop the motivation for achievement of the gifted and distinguished students, in addition to the new practical models in identifying gifted and distinguished students to enhance creativity and innovation.



New addition to academics and research, and newest in the field

Hamdan Award Introduces 2 Books in Talent and Discovery



'Al Tamayoz News' - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Award for Distinguished Academic Performance introduced two books under the titles 'The Referential Guide in Discovering the Gifted' and 'The Instructive Guide of the Gifted Students' Parents' for a number of specialist and interested people in the educational field at a ceremony held on this occasion in JW Marquis Hotel, Dubai.

The two books are considered new addition in the academic and research field. They are deemed the most recent in the field of talent and discovery. The activity included workshops presented by Dr. Mousa Al Nabhan, Vice Dean of the Higher Studies College, Arabian Gulf University, and Dr. Samar Mukkaled, the expert in educational development in the American University in Beirut, and author of 'The Instructive Guide of the Gifted Students' Parents.'

Hamdan Award said "Based on the Award keenness to supply the Arab library with the most recent research information in the field of excellence and talent, and to contribute to upgrading the educational and community awareness towards educational renovation and development, the Award published several books in the field of excellence and talent." In the first workshop, the 'The Referential Guide in Discovering the Gifted' book was introduced. It is considered the first referential guide in

the field of discovering gifted students in Arabic, as there is no book in Arabic language that talks completely about the matters of discovering gifted students; rather, there is information available within one or maximum two chapters in books. The book includes adequate background that assists in forming a systematic detailed culture about the process of discovering gifted students. It is considered a decent and easy scientific and practical document available to the specialists and people interested in

the task of objective and accurate discovery. In the second workshop, 'The Instructive Guide of the Gifted Students' Parents' was introduced. It aims at elaborating a scientific approach for the counseling of the gifted students' parents, along with offering a comprehensive theoretical frame about parental guidance and trainings and activities for the students. It also provides tools and strategies for identifying gifted students, and the sound communication skills between parents and children.



Celebrating the Anniversary of Founding Fab Lab UAE

'Al Tamayoz News' - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance celebrated the first anniversary of founding the Fab Lab UAE at its headquarters, Al Hudaiba Buildings, Dubai, in the presence of a number of officials

and employees of the Award. The Fab Lab UAE has accomplished a set of achievements, including the implementation of 212 workshops, and 308 training hours, benefiting a total of 4282 beneficiaries. The Fab Lab UAE is designed to keep abreast of the

UAE trends to achieve the first places internationally in innovation, and to disseminate the culture of creativity, innovation and fabrication in all segments of the UAE society. It also aims at creating an innovation-stimulating environment and encouraging universities and schools to

establish the methodologies of research and exploration in the coming generations. In this context, creative members of the Fab Lab UAE from the lab of Omar bin Al Khat-tab School made an electronic pole to raise the UAE flag to mark the Flag Day, corresponding to 3 of November.



For Graduating Academically Qualified & Internationally Licensed Specialized National Staff Hamdan Award Turns into Training Nucleus in Giftedness Field



'Al Tamayoz News' - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance has been exerting great efforts to prepare a training nucleus in the field of giftedness from the graduates of the vocational Gifted Educational Diploma (GED), to be specialized, academically qualified, and internationally licensed staff for training in the educational field to execute the training programs in the fields of giftedness (Discovering, Educational Sponsorship, Guidance and Counseling, and Enrichment Activities).

By preparing the training nucleus, the Award aims at preparing national staff that are specialized and qualified for training inside and outside the UAE in the field of taking care of gifted students, investing the potentials of the GED graduates, and conveying their knowledge to the concerned and interested people in the field of sponsoring giftedness, as well as executing the training programs in education in the fields of discovering and sponsorship. The Award targets a selected segment from the graduates of the GED that have the potential to offer training programs and are distinguished in one of the aspects of sponsoring gifted people.

The Award endeavors to qualify 20 trainers, who are academically specialized and internationally licensed for training in the educational field on taking care of the gifted students. Those trainers are graduates of the GED, and will execute training programs in different fields of giftedness. Hamdan Award organized specialized training courses in the field of educational sponsorship, guidance and counseling, and enrichment activities for training nucleus members during the period from 22 to 24 of October, in the headquarters of the Award as a second stage of training, after they had obtained the Integrated Diploma Certificate in Qualifying Trainers from the International Canadian Center in the first stage, and being trained on mastering the operations of discovering gifted students.

Development

The first course in qualifying trainers for school counseling was presented by Dr. Samar Mukalled, special education and school counseling expert, former assistant professor in the American University in Beirut, Department of Education, currently in Bahrain University. She is holder of the PhD from Colombia University in the United States of America, majored in special education, processes of learning and thinking. She is also holder of Master Degree in Educational Psychology and School Counseling, and Epistemological Psychology.

The course was intended to develop the training skills to be able to prepare and ex-

2 Lists of Characteristics & Competencies of Gifted Students' Teacher

'Al Tamayoz News' - Dubai

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance organized a workshop about applying and using two lists of the characteristics and competencies for the teacher of gifted students in the United Arab Emirates, for the purpose of acquainting with the roles and tasks of such teachers, and determining and recognizing their characteristics and competencies according to the National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC), and the method of applying and correcting the two lists. The workshop was presented by Dr. Fatima Ahmad Al Jasem, assistant professor in the programs of educating gifted students in the Arab Gulf University.

Suleiman Abdul-Khaleq Al Ansari, CEO of Hamdan Award stated that preparing the two lists of characteristics and competencies for the teachers of gifted students will assist in determining the objective principles for choosing the teacher of gifted students, who is capable of dealing and interacting with them, inside or outside the classroom in the UAE schools.

He added that the project was executed by a study prepared, built and developed by Dr. Fatima Ahmad Al Jasem. The study is intended to build the two lists, after reviewing the adopted standards, translating, and outputting them in a clear form to be much more suitable for the teachers who deal with the category of gifted students. He explained that preparing these two lists necessitated getting use of the international tools in this field, along with observing the cultural specificity and the educational requirements in the field of educating gifted students in the UAE. Both lists were developed by specialists in gifted education, assessment, and evaluation.

This study produced a comprehensive guide that includes a theoretical frame about the characteristics and competencies, in addition to an explanation of the method of responding thereto, and the mechanisms of correction, followed by an explanation of the method of investing them in evaluating the performance of teachers.

ecute workshops and/or training courses that seek to create awareness about the modern developmental aspect in school counseling for the students with talent. As well, it aimed at training to determine the role of the school counselor and professional identity and characteristics of the counselor of students with talent. The course purposes included the development of a school guidance program that is based on the characteristics and needs of these students, in addition to the development of effective communication skills based on Carl Rogers's theory in school counseling and its field application to guide students with talent.

Approach

The course concentrated on awareness by school coun-

selling related to gifted students, addressing the needs of gifted students by developing a curriculum subject for school counseling as part of the comprehensive developmental program related to gifted students, training on and using effective communication skills in guiding the gifted students.

The second course organized by the Award was about qualifying trainers in extra-curricular enrichment programs. The course was presented by Dr. Fatima Ahmad Al Jasem, holder of PhD in Early Childhood (Intelligence). She works as assistant professor in the program of educating gifted students in the Arab Gulf University.

The course was designated to acquaint with the international standards for preparing enrich-

ment programs, link between the characteristics of gifted students and their needs to enrichment programs, recognize the nature of the extra-curricular enrichment programs offered to gifted students, and choose teaching subject and strategies for the enrichment unit. The targeted were meant to be able to form the general frame of the enrichment program, according to the subject to be chosen, use the differentiation strategies in the general frame of the program and sessions, and master the requirements of preparing the sessions of the chosen enrichment program.

Standards

The course concentrated on several aspects, including the international standards for preparing the enrichment programs, the needs of gifted students to enrichment programs, the method of building the enrichment program and methods of choosing such program and its subjects, and developing its primary knowledge map. The course focused on determining the importance of the program and its philosophy, general and detailed goals, as well as the scientific content of the subject (terminologies of scientific subject), choosing the methods, potentials, and targeted skills (thinking, learning, scientific research, personal and social characteristics), in addition to determining the methodologies, projects, product, evaluating the content and choosing the awareness and methods of provoking motivation.

Training has great importance in preparing national staff to work in the educational field, and qualifying them for educating gifted students. We need the prepared and planned training to provide the individuals with the skills, experiences, and trends that enable them to practice their work in educating gifted students. This can only be accomplished through preparing specialized national staff in all fields of educating gifted students, starting from discovering such students, and ending with offering all the necessary educational programs that are capable of conveying new knowledge, skills and behaviors to develop the competency of workers in all fields of education and sponsorship, in such a way to achieve the national goals in nurturing gifted students.