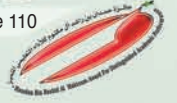


Hamdan Award coordinators in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain:
20th session applications
.. Quality content and accurate documentation



Starting central adjudication for candidates in 20th session



On the occasion of the 46th National Day Hamdan Award holds a heritage exhibition to embody UAE history



70

talented students learn about Mars, mental calculations and technological skills

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Headquarters - Dubai
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

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**AIT Akhbar
Tamayoz**

Monthly Educational Magazine

Cover Story



70 talented students
learn about Mars, men-
tal calculations and
technological skills

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Introduction

Artificial Intelligence and education compass



- Launching the UAE's Strategy for Artificial Intelligence and the UAE Centennial Plan 2071 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, has highlighted the importance of the programs of discovering, sponsoring and investing in talented people. It also stressed the necessity of supporting the opportunities of rooting the innovative approach in the thought and behavior of the Emirati community. Aiming at the transformation of infrastructure and government sectors and services, this pioneering global project requires a new generation of learners and clients with superior skills, capable and able to lead these extraordinary programs and technologies and invest them ably.

- Artificial intelligence seems to be evolving at a frightening rate that has exceeded expectations. The Artificial Intelligence researcher at Google and the University of Toronto, Geoffrey Hinton, thinks that machines will be as intelligent as humans in the next five years. Google CEO, Sundar Pichai, believes that smart phone age has come to an end, and will be replaced by Artificial Intelligence. However, Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, expected that devices with artificial intelligence will be able to have human senses such as vision and feeling more than human beings themselves.

- There have been many different trends about the benefits and dangers of artificial intelligence; nonetheless, all of these data confirm that humanity is on the threshold of a different technological revolution wherein artificial intelligence dominates and will have the upper hand in determining the location of countries on the competitiveness map. Therefore, Hamdan Award has, at an early stage, foreseen the features of the future through focusing on unique educational projects in the field of educational quality and sponsoring talents and innovation. Such projects provide suitable learning environments for students and teachers to release their capabilities in artificial intelligence. These efforts deserve support, especially as this field is the compass of education. The Award efforts also bravely meet the expectations of the next phase, and align with the Emirati prudent leadership.

- Smart countries are racing to break into the future and influence it. They do not wait for it to come and be affected by its realization. Certainly we are among the first category.

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

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On the occasion of the 46th National Day

Hamdan Award holds a heritage exhibition to embody UAE history



Suleiman Al Ansari: The UAE acquired prestigious position among nations by the efforts exerted by the founding fathers



Dubai - 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance celebrated the 46th National Day in the presence of Dr. Jamal Mohammed Al Muhairi, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Secretary-General of the Award, and a number of other officials and members.

The celebration embodied the history of the UAE since the establishment of the union, by holding an outdoor history and heritage mini-

exhibition at the Awards premises in Al Hudaiba Awards Building, Dubai, in cooperation with Dubai Municipality.

Executive Director of the Award, Suleiman Al Ansari, gave a speech, during which, he praised the role of the wise leadership in providing the care, support and all that would bring prosperity and pride to the Emirati people. He also lauded the remarkable achievements accomplished thanks to the union march and the wisdom of the prudent leadership.





“The UAE has acquired a prestigious position among nations, thanks to the efforts of the founding fathers, by achieving the union and establishing the United Arab Emirates, especially the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may his soul rest in peace, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, may his soul rest in peace, and their brothers Rulers of the Emirates. Laying the base of development, and raising the UAE with confidence and strength on its journey to become one of the most developed coun-

tries in world are due to the foundation of the establishment of the country and the sustainable development march led by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in addition to the great endeavors of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, as well

The achievements of the UAE were accomplished thanks to the union march and wisdom of prudent leadership

as Their Highnesses the Supreme Council Members, Rulers of the Emirates. All these efforts were aimed at empowering the citizens and intuitions in preserving the national goals. Those efforts enabled the UAE to compete in many areas, and accomplish remarkable achievements in record time, thanks to its comprehensive system that meets international standards”. The Award also organized a number of programs and competitions for the National Day amid the participation of a large audience.



Aisha Sorour:
International Baccalaureate, British, American and Indian curricula participated, aspiring to have Japanese and German as well

Nadia Al Sayed:
Our aim is to spread the Award culture in community and guide candidates to strengthen submissions with documents and attachments

Suad Ismail:
We witness great participation and competition in current session, working to have outstanding levels next session

Latifa Masoud:
Despite low number of participants, the levels of submissions are high, most applicants have been awarded other prizes



Award's Coordinators: Submitted files were powerful and accurate

Starting central adjudication for candidates in 20th session

Dubai - Mohammed Ali

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance began the first phase of central adjudication for candidates at both, UAE and GCC countries levels, during its twentieth session.

The Award's coordinators for both local and Gulf levels said that most submitted files were powerful and accurate, which indicates that the criteria were comprehended and met by the candidates; the thing which has been reflected in their submissions.

Aisha Sourour, Commitment Manager in Dubai Knowledge

and Human Development Authority (KHDA), and one of the Award's coordinators in Dubai, said: "This session's competitions have witnessed a great participation in the Distinguished Student category. This is a result of the introductory workshops held at the beginning of the academic year 2017-2018 for school coordinators, students and parents in Dubai schools, to familiarize them with the criteria of the Award and encourage the teaching staff and distinguished students to apply for the current session."

"The participation in the current session varied among dif-

ferent curricula. We have seen participations from the International Baccalaureate Curriculum. We have also noticed the increased number of British, American and Indian curricula compared to previous sessions, aspiring to see more variety by attracting Japanese, German and other curricula, which would greatly contribute to the development of the educational process."

Attachment Quality

Nadia Al Sayed Imad, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Sharjah Education

Zone, stated: "The submissions were mostly focused on the Distinguished Student category in English, where the number of applications have reached more than 100, although the maximum number required is 15 applicants only." "The number of participants in the Distinguished Student category from the American and British curricula is equal to the final state of previous sessions. The number of adjudicated submissions in the Educational Zone category has also increased, but the quality of required attachments and documents could not enable these participants to reach the



qualifiers.”

She pointed out that other participations varied between Distinguished Educator and Distinguished Teacher, in addition to one applicant in each of the Distinguished School Administration, and Education-Supporting Organization. She also explained that the general evaluation of the Arab students’ participation in the current session is considered very good, which reflects that the culture of the Award has spread successfully on a larger scale in the community, although some were not able to reach a very high quality due to the lack of activities and competitions. Al Sayed noted that the main objective is to spread the culture of the Award in the community and guide the candidates on how to strengthen their submissions with documents and attachments to enable them win in the coming years.

“At the beginning of each session, the number of candidates that are applying in the field of education is calculated according to the categories of the Award. This process is carried out in order to develop training plans for workshops and courses that help these candidates understand the criteria of the Award, and provide them with a full explanation of ambiguous points. We cooperated with the Award’s administration to organize various training workshops that included: (Distinguished Student in Arabic, Distinguished Teacher, Highly Distinguished Teacher, and Distinguished Educator). Sharjah Education Zone also organized a workshop for students in English in (Our Own English High School) to increase the number of participants in this category.

Feedback

On the other hand, Suad Ismail Faraj Mubarak, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Ajman Education Zone, pointed out that the number of applications amounted to 20, of which 14 were in the Distinguished Student Category, among which 13 have reached the Central Adjudication stage.

The applications also included three submissions for Distinguished Teacher, and one participation for each of the Distinguished Educator, Distinguished Family, and Best Educational Research.

“At the outset of the current session, there has been a discussion symposium, organized in early September, in order to give feedback for those who have participated in the 19th sessions and were not able to win. A meeting was also held with the awards’ coordinators who represent Ajman public and private schools to update them on the latest developments in the current session. The schedule for training workshops prepared by the Award’s administration for all categories participating in the 20th session has been circulated, and many people attended the courses they are interested in.”

She also said that the current session is witnessing a great turnout and competition, especially in the category of Distinguished Student, with high level of applications, expressing hope to have greater participation in the next session.

High Quality

Latifa Masoud, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Ras Al Khaima Education Zone, said that despite the low number of participants, the applied files are powerful and of high quality, because most of the participants have previously won other prizes at the UAE level. Pointing out that the number of participants this year was low due to major changes that occurred in the field of education in general.

“Eight files were submitted to the Distinguished Student category, and one in the Distinguished Teacher. After collecting the files from the candidates, educational consultations were provided by holding meetings for those wishing to participate, or by contacting them regularly by telephone to respond to their inquiries and questions regarding the Award’s standards and how forms should be filled in order to participate.”

Hamdan Award coordinators in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain: **20th session applications .. Quality content and accurate documentation**



Dubai - Mohammed Ali

Coordinators of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain confirmed that the adjudication process reflected a greater understanding of educational criteria and practices among participants, and that the applications were of high quality and accurate documentation, in addition to paying more attention to the guidebook of the Award.

They added that the training courses and workshops have contributed to the development of submitted files, where participants were introduced to the criteria and standards to be met in the applications, in addition to

the documentation processes that some participants fail to comply with.

Abdullah bin Zahi bin Ali Al Qarni, General Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance for males in Saudi Arabia said, "The number of candidates in the educational fields in this session has reached 69, distributed among 49 students, 12 teachers, and 8 schools." "Some candidates, from all categories, were excluded for violating the standards and criteria of the Award. However, those were provided with feedback to strengthen their submissions for future sessions."

He also explained that the participations in the Student category were very good and



in the Teacher were good, but those of the School / School Administration were average, although the quality was high, due to the essential duties they have to perform properly, which do not give them enough time to work on the submissions.

“Five training courses were organized, in which 652 people participated in the categories of Distinguished Student, Distinguished Teacher, Highly Distinguished Teacher, and Distinguished School / School Administration. The culture of the Award was also spread through various social media platforms, local newspapers, and the Ministry of Education’s television channel (Ain Channel), as well as by distributing posters and explanatory guides relating to the 20th session of the Award.

Personal Experience

Mansour Abdullah Al Dehani, Director-General of Mubarak Al Kabeer Educational Zone, and Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in Kuwait, said that preparations for the 20th sessions were carried out through training workshops and awareness meetings, wherein 73 students attended. He stated that 31 applications were received, 17 of which were qualified for central adjudication stage, including 6 in the category of Distinguished Student, 5 in the Distinguished Teacher, 2 in the Highly Distinguished Teacher, and 4 in Distinguished School / School Administration.

“Training courses were organized for the Distinguished Teacher category, discussing several aspects of the Award. A presentation was also given about the Award and the personal experience of the Ambassador of Excellence, and how the participation had an impact on his life that drove him to stay on the path of excellence. The presentation also viewed pictures of his participation, explaining the criteria and sub-standards of the Award. This program also explained



Abdullah Al Qarni: Rejecting some candidates for violating criteria, and providing feedback to strengthen their files for future sessions



Mansour Abdullah Al Dehani: Participants were given notes and shown winning submissions to benefit from



Nadia Al Syadi: Due to its value, Hamdan Award became source of inspiration for those wishing to develop their educational practices



the most important skills that a Distinguished Teacher should have, and gave notes and observations to mistakes that some participants make, in addition to providing the attendees with previous winning submissions to view and benefit from.” He added that awareness sessions were also held, which included explanations of the Award along with its terms and conditions. These sessions honored Mounira Al Hajeri from Lubna bint Al Hariith High School, the win-

ner of the 19th session, in addition to other teachers who were qualified for the pre-final stage in the 19th session, in order to motivate them to participate in the future. The attendees came from all education zones. “Eight training courses and workshops were organized for the category of Distinguished School / School Administration.” On his evaluation of the participants in the current session, Al Dehani explained that male and female stu-

dents’ participation was better than the previous year, and the level was very good, with great turnout. As for the female students, the level is very good and the participations are increasing, coming from all education zones. The culture of the Award has spread noticeably in the current session. However, in the applications of the Distinguished Teacher category, the general level is very good and high, but the number of male participants is still as low as one or two partici-



pants. "It was noticed that the motivation of schools willing to participate in the Distinguished School/ School Administration category was increased, thanks to the workshops carried out by the team and field visits. Such motivation was reflected positively on the increasing number of applications in the current session. Other schools started preparing to participate in the next session. The performance of schools has developed positively, keeping in mind seeking to achieve the best practices."

Consultation Meetings

Nadia Al Syadi, Coordinator of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance in the Kingdom of Bahrain said that the applications included 6 public schools, 9 teachers from all educational levels, along with 32 high school students and one in the Highly Distinguished Teacher category. These were the result of many training courses, and a series of consultation meetings that aimed to improve and develop practices in line with the criteria of the Award. The competition and participation at the Bahraini level have been consistent in previous years and increased



in the Distinguished Student category. Local adjudication has witnessed a greater understanding of the educational standards and practices, which was shown in the submissions that characterized by high quality content, accurate documentation, and interest in reliance of the Award's guidebook. "Due to its educational value, Hamdan Award has become a source of inspiration for those wishing to develop

their educational practices, and destination of interest for educational institutions competing to participate in order to develop their educational work. All these sides are working in line with the vision and ambition of the Award patron, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and UAE Minister of Finance, and HH's efforts to develop education." She added that participation

of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Hamdan Award, through its targeted groups, is gaining wide attention due to its quality standards that are enriching the educational practices, where participants are attending several training courses and sessions that help them understand the concept of the Award before participating. This process is contributing to the field of education in various aspects, which can be seen through the development of educational practices.

"The activities of the 20th session included many meetings and training courses, through which the national team sought to spread the culture of excellence and provide support, advice and training to the targeted groups. These consisted of 4 training courses (Distinguished School / School Administration, Distinguished Teacher, and Distinguished Student) in cooperation with the administration of the Award, where a group of specialists and members of the Central Adjudication Committee were part of. 3 educational forums were held, highlighting the personal experiences of those who won the Award in previous sessions, in addition to 7 training and advisory meetings for all categories."

In event hosted by Hamdan Award entitled ‘Preparing a generation with political awareness’

MFNCA promotes culture of political participation for Hamdan Center students

Dubai - ‘Akhbar Al Tamayoz’

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance hosted a special event organized by the Ministry of State for Federal National Council Affairs (MFNCA), in line with the Award’s efforts to promote the culture of political awareness and participation in the society. The event was entitled ‘Preparing a generation with political awareness’, in cooperation with Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Giftedness and Creativity. Tariq Hilal Lootah, Undersecretary of the MFNCA, stressed the Ministry’s constant keenness to organize innovative activities, in order to enhance the political awareness of all segments of society. He also pointed out the great importance of promoting the spirit of citizenship and positivity among the youth, in addition to enhancing the culture of political participation, because they are the coming leaders, and have the responsibility of building the UAE’s bright future.

Awareness

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees praised the role played by the MFNCA in raising the level of political awareness in the community, especially among students. He stated that Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance hosts an elite group of distinguished students, and is always keen to invest the opportunities provided by the MFNCA in spreading political culture, raising the level of political awareness among students, and supporting



Tariq Lootah:
Enriching young people with political awareness qualifies them for shaping the future of the UAE



their knowledge, especially that related to contemporary reality. These objectives enhance the students’ sense of national belonging, deepen loyalty, and protect the true wealth of the nation, which is the generation of the future.

He also expressed his pride in the contributions made by the MFNCA and the cooperation that drives the Award’s efforts to move towards achieving the national goals.

Love for the UAE

The event, during which Colonel Ahmed Ali Al Khuzaimi, Director of the Officers Training Institute in the Ministry of Interior, gave a speech, also screened a variety of documentary films at the Center’s theater. The event also included recording videos, through which students expressed their love for the UAE. The students were divided



Jamal Al Muhairi:
Hamdan Award aims at raising the students’ political awareness and supporting their knowledge



into seven groups in the creative laboratory of the Center, where each group represented one of the Emirates. Each group had the assignment of reciting the names of the founding fathers and prominent figures in the country. Al Khuzaimi stressed the importance of enhancing the culture of political participation and the sense of citizenship aimed at consolidating the concepts of loyalty and belonging to the country and its leadership in the hearts of UAE youth. This generation is of great importance to the UAE’s leadership, because they are the force that is capable of achieving success and development, which in turn will enhance the UAE’s regional and global standing. In his speech, Al Khuzaimi highlighted the importance of reinforcing the student’s political awareness and urg-



Ahmad Al Khuzaimi:
Expected role from this generation to become major force in achieving development in all fields



ing them to think positively and come up with ways and means that serve the country. He pointed out the great and expected role from this generation in order to become a major force in achieving development in all fields. Al Khuzaimi provided the students with a full explanation of the evolution of electoral process, and the stages of the UAE development, which comes within the integrated system of progress witnessed by the country in all sectors. The Ministry of State for Federal National Council Affairs organizes a series of regular awareness lectures aimed at all social groups such as the youth and women, in order to enhance their political awareness and national participation to be active members in the process of development and prosperity witnessed by the UAE.

In the winter camp organized by Hamdan Award

70 talented students

learn about Mars, mental calculations and technological skills





Dubai - 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

70 talented students participated in the Gifted Winter Program organized by Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance from 17 to 28 December, and learned about Mars, mental calculations and technological skills. Those students, from the fourth to twelfth grades, have been discovered according to the Award criteria.

The organization of Winter Program aligns with UAE Vision 2021 and the country's orientation towards innovation. A series of targeted scientific programs based on the STREAM methodology have been introduced to develop the interests and tendencies of the gifted students enrolled in Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Talent and Creativity. The program also sought highlighting their talents to be invested in the service of the country.

Abilities and Talents

Dr. Mariam Al Ghawi, Director of the Gifted Welfare Department in the Award stated, "The Gifted Winter Program aims at providing an educational environment that enables the students to highlight their abilities, develop their potential and talents, provide alternatives and learning experiences that meet their needs and enhance teamwork spirit through activities and workshops. The objectives include highlighting the students' capabilities and in-

vesting their abilities to motivate them to innovate."

She explained that the program, which was held at the headquarters of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Center for Talent and Creativity, Dubai, included 5 training programs: Journey to Mars Orbit, My Smartphone Phone is Designed by me, Mental Calculations, E-Village and Professional Programmer.

"The program of 'Journey to Mars Orbit' was developed in collaboration with the US space agency (NASA). It is a training program that allows talented student to simulate planning an expedition to Mars, and the adventure of designing and launching rockets, followed by data recording and analysis to be used in the development processes. The program welcomed the famous American astronaut Don, who has made four trips to space, and holds both master's and doctoral degrees in materials science."

Clear Perception

Al Ghawi stressed that the presence of the astronaut is a source of inspiration for the students, as he showcased his experience and the tasks he conducted. The program gives students the opportunity to inquire about all the questions that they may have, in order to obtain a clear perception of the theory and technologies of logistics on the trip.

"In the 'My Smartphone Phone is Designed by me' program, students were trained on the design of a



Qualifying talented students to participate in the local competition for Mental Calculations during 2018

'Professional Programmer' is first in series of integrated education programs to prepare generation of programmers



smart phone using electronic parts, including a touch screen, Raspberry Bay and the GSM module. Then they learned how to program the phone in Python (using Pi-top), along with the design of the cover and print it using the 3D printer."

Strengthening Memory

Dr. Al Ghawi said that the program 'Mental Calculations' focused on training students in the techniques of mental computation to solve all mathematical operations, in order to raise the level of concentration and strengthen memory by transforming the figure into a picture in the brain of the talented student. The program depends on the combination of the old Chinese concept and modern scientific research to conduct rapid and accurate calculations using a tool called 'Abacus'. A group of

students will be qualified to participate in the local competition during 2018.

Huda Al Hammadi, the person in-charge of the Winter Program explained that the 'E-Village' program concentrated on the development of electrical and electronic engineering skills. "Gifted students designed and built a small village using their imagination and creativity. All the vital parts of the village are based on advanced electronic systems. The students also designed homes, attachments and vehicles in the village using design software on computer. They also used laser to cut materials from wood and glass according to their designs."

Generation Preparation

Speaking on the program of 'Professional Programmer', Al Hammadi said, "It is the first in a series of integrated educational programs to prepare a new generation of professional programmers, who have the skills of computer thinking, which is one of the most important skills of the 21st Century. Computer Thinking is required for leadership of the future, in light of the rapid technological development in the world around us in general, and in the UAE in particular. It is based on artificial intelligence and smart systems." She mentioned that this project will last for one year, based on 4 levels. Each level is applied in the holiday to the same group of students. They will be trained to develop their programming skills gradually to reach professional level.