

134 Winners

Twinkling Stars in the Sky of Edition 21

Special Edition on the occasion of the 21st session closing ceremony of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance

Directors of Education Departments
in Saudi Arabia:

**Hamdan bin Rashid
Initiatives Enhance Quality
of Education**

3 Researches

From UAE, Saudi
Arabia, Jordan Win
Best Arab Educational
Research

Emirates Heritage
Club and Sharjah
Chamber Win
Education-
Supporting
Institutions
Award

**Hamdan bin Rashid:
Launching 1st
International Virtual
Talent Center
Concurrently With
Expo 2020**

3 Institutions

Win Hamdan-
ISESCO Prize for
Voluntary
Development



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OUR VISION

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

OUR Mission

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



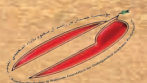
Hamdan Celebrating the Distinguished

- The Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance celebrates its 21st edition today, honoring 134 distinguished who won the local, Gulf and Arab awards. Being excelled and distinguished in the educational performance, the awardees deserved to be honored by the patron of academic excellence, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who celebrates their achievements as a father and as a volunteer investment patron, who successfully fulfilled his vision of distinguished education.
- Under the umbrella of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), and the auspices of its Director-General, His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz bin Othman Altwaijri, the first session of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum – ISESCO Prize for Voluntary Development of Education Facilities in the Islamic World successfully attracted the attention to the importance of voluntary activities in fostering the efforts for providing and developing education in the Islamic World, which is a cornerstone, leading either to stability and continuity or to backwardness and demise.
- The Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance continues to support education through quality projects of excellence, nurturing the gifted and innovators, serving hundreds of students, as well as launching regional and international initiatives and partnerships that undoubtedly foster the UAE reputation and emphasize its role in supporting UN efforts. In this regard, the Ministry of Education identified the aspirations of the UAE society and directed the compass of education towards the future, reflecting, through this excellent relationship, a civilized reality of national and societal responsibility in the country.
- The Emirati School is an ambitious model, which is carefully constructed, to be an Arab and international role model in the coming years.
- The “Year of Tolerance” stresses the importance of using education as means for instilling noble values since there is a strong need to promote the students’ responsible sense of law enforcement, participation in supporting community institutions, and compliance to governmental legislations. In addition, it is also necessary to emphasize through education the values, attitudes, and behaviors that teach individuals to distinguish between rights and responsibilities, constants and variables, the upholding and waiving limits, in order to teach them a positive life full of spirit of humanity and dignity, in a world of intertwined cultures and values, as well as anxiously increasing challenges.
- The decline of Arabic language level among students is recent. Many factors have taken part to. However, this decline is no longer justified since this issue is threatening our identity. While the supportive and sagacious leadership is interested in fostering the identity and language, we should set a national strategy for fostering Arabic language under the supervision of a competent government body to be established for this purpose.
- Congratulations to all awardees who deserved to receive the Certificate of Excellence, wishing them all success.
- We will get back to you, God Willing, in the 22nd Session...

Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi
Chief Editor

We welcome your contributions and inquiries as to pursue communication with you.
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Email: magazine@ha.ae Kindly address the letters or emails to the Chief Editor



On the Occasion of 21st Edition Closing Ceremony:
Hamdan bin Rashid: Launching
1st International Virtual Talent Center
Concurrently With Expo 2020



His Highness:
The first center
of its kind in the
world will enhance
the UAE position on
the global map
of talent education

.....
Launching joint
GCC projects to
develop talent
sector in the
coming phase

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- **Actual application of “Excellence Model” for schools at 5 government schools in 2020**
- **Maker Faire results will be assessed, and no hesitation in supporting educational process in the UAE**
- **Hamdan – ISESCO Prize seek supporting efforts to promote Islamic societies to prospects of growth and sustainable development**

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, UAE Minister of Finance, and President of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance, revealed that the first International Virtual Talent Center will be launched concurrently with Expo 2020, which will enhance the position of the UAE and Dubai on the global map of talent education. HH pointed out that the coming phase will witness joint GCC projects to develop the sector of talent that will be reflected positively on the gifted Gulf student. HH also added that the “Excellence Model” for schools, which was achieved through a joint

venture, in cooperation with the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM), will soon be tested at a number of schools in the UAE, the Middle East, and Europe. Testing will start at two schools in Dubai, while actual application will be in the next academic year 2020-2021.

In a statement published in “Al Bayan” Newspaper on the occasion of the 21st edition closing ceremony of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance, His Highness clarified that the first international virtual talent center is one of the world’s leading talent education projects. It will serve as the pivot for the network of

talent institutions around the world, in an interactive process based on sharing the evolving experiences and information. This process will supply support to the talent education system, with its components: students, teachers, parents, researchers, and educational institutions, as well as providing them with the knowledge, information, and skills needed to discover, nurture, and enrich talents, in order to develop all aspects of gifted students.

His Highness added: “The Center will offer many scientific programs, which will be reflected in improving the quality of giftedness methodologies, as well as the projects directed to this group, locally or abroad. For



example, there will be a global accreditation agency targeting centers, teachers, students, and researchers working in the field of talent. Moreover, there will be guidance services, qualification of specialized teachers and staff, and support to scientific and applicable research in the field of talent.”

Future Visions

His Highness said: “The Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance has become an institution with expertise in the field of educational excellence and care of gifted and innovative people. It has been providing many services to the educational field, developing the skills and the intellectual and cognitive aspects of the education system. It has been looking for educational updates in the developed countries, adapting these development projects to the special components of the UAE society in terms of language, culture, customs, legislation, and future visions. This is due to its profound experience in the field of giftedness and the provision of optimal care through its programs, which focus on providing them with care in an attractive educational environment at the Hamdan Center



- **Virtual Center will serve as pivot for network of talent institutions around the world, to share experiences in integrative process**
- **Offering scientific programs to improve quality of giftedness methodologies**
- **Providing guidance, qualifying specialized teachers and staff, and supporting scientific and applicable research in talent**

for Giftedness and Creativity and other enrichment programs and activities, not to mention the events and campaigns of discovering talents, and the preparation and qualification of teachers who would be able to spot talented students and take care of them.”

Global Expertise

HH Sheikh Hamdan explained that the International Virtual Talent Center was based on scientific foundations that resulted from the studies and research of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance, in cooperation with experts from the German universities of Nuremberg and Regensburg. The project took into account the use of cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence in a virtual e-platform gathering the elements of work, including human resources, expertise, scientific accumulations, and developments that constitute a supporting force in the service of talented people of different origins, cultures, and levels. The project is characterized with efficiency of registration, sustainability, and keeping pace with scientific developments very fast, so that to be able to enrich the knowledge



■ **The project took into account using cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence in virtual e-platform**

■ **Launching the Center marks provision of its services to clients all over the world**

■ **Team of specialists, including world-renowned scientists and experts, will manage the Center**



and applications of talent in the world, including the local environment in the UAE and the region. HH added that the launch of the Center would mark the provision of its services to the clients interested in talent all over the world.

Building Competencies

His Highness believes that this event will enhance the position of the UAE and Dubai on the global map of talent education because it is the first of its kind in the world. A team of specialists, including world-renowned scientists and experts, will manage the Center. The Center's activities are expected to be reflected positively on the projects promoting talents in many countries, especially those who are interested in, and depending on, this category, including the UAE and the Arab states. The programs of these countries will be concentrated on building capacities and competencies to ensure the local operation of the International Talent Center. The e-platform will include films about education and developing the best practice concepts and the best researches. There will be international awards for talents. Methods for teaching young practitioners and scientists will be developed through



training courses. As the Center will adopt the best international standards in the field and education of gifted people, it is essential that the local requirements, components, features, and objectives of the projects directed to talents harmonize with the international standards to achieve the optimum and maximum utilization of this Center.

Global Model for Excellence in Education

HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid added that the Foundation is about to launch the "Excellence Model" for schools, which was achieved through a joint venture, in cooperation with the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM). The joint work platform and the exchange of knowledge and experience between the two sides have resulted in the production of standards with world-class characteristics that take into account the nature and type of any education system. This model will enhance the opportunities of improving school performance and achieving excellence.

HH stressed that the Foundation and the EFQM have been keen on providing a flexible model that is applicable to most

educational institutions, both inside and outside the UAE.

HH President of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance said that, as per the agreement, the application of the model will soon be tested at a number of schools in the UAE, the Middle East and Europe. Testing will start at two schools in Dubai, while actual application as of the next academic year 2020-2021 at five government schools, then at ten schools the following year, at 15, and so on. A joint team of assessment experts will implement the model and evaluate the schools.

HH stated that the provision of standards and accreditation for private schools in the UAE or any school outside the country will be subject to an agreement between the Foundation and the EFQM, according to the conditions and cost to be agreed upon by both sides.

HH pointed out that "the Hamdan -- EFQM model is a quality addition to the Foundation's strategy to support the quality improvement of education through the educational environment at schools, which is reflected on motivating the school administrations to carry out continuous development

in order to improve the educational system. This would promote competition among different schools and creates a state of innovation that benefits the public interest by graduating students who are armed with science and able to pursue progress and achieve prosperity in the future."

On cooperation with the EFQM, HH Sheikh Hamdan said: "The EFQM is pioneer in the field of excellence worldwide. It has gained great importance in the field of quality, improving the performance of institutions, and increasing their competitiveness. The European model of quality management has been used by more than 50 countries to support more than 30,000 organizations worldwide over the past 30 years. The model is considered a workflow program for many institutions around the world with the aim of developing the culture of excellence and quality, as well as achieving distinctive implemented practices and improved results." HH mentioned that the partnership between the two foundations will continue through the joint arbitration teams that will assess the schools willing to consolidate their brands and reputation and enhance their activities and presence in the community.

Hamdan – ISESCO Prize

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan also praised the cooperation and support of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) for the joint prize, which targets voluntary, civil, and community contributions to supporting education in Islamic countries.

HH said: “In its first session, the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum – ISESCO Prize for Voluntary Development of Education Facilities in the Islamic World successfully attracted the attention to the importance of voluntary activities in fostering the efforts for providing education and developing its environment in the Islamic World, especially in the remote cities and villages lacking the appropriate infrastructure for education.”

HH indicated that having three institutions from Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates won the Prize, this reflects the high level of social and humanitarian responsibility borne by some institutions and personalities, through which they seek supporting the government efforts to promote Islamic societies to the prospects of growth and sustainable development. HH stressed that the real prize is not material, but is moral one, to disseminate

this value among communities, especially among businessmen and institutions capable of performing their duty to support their communities.

Dubai Maker Faire

Commenting about Dubai Maker Faire, HH talked about the Foundation’s success of bringing this international faire to the UAE under the name of Dubai Mini Maker Faire 2019, as the second country in the region to organize it. HH said: “It is pleasant that the Faire had good numbers in its first session, with 150 exhibitors and nearly 12,000 visitors.” His Highness explained that the Maker Faire supports and sponsors manufacturers, innovators, craftsmen, amateurs, engineers, students, and all segments of society. Therefore, the Foundation seeks to stimulate the young minds that are capable of innovation and to add more inventions that enhance the UAE’s presence in the field of innovation.

On the possibility of organizing the Faire in the future, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan said that the results and achievements of the Faire will be assessed in all aspects and implications, stressing that the Foundation will not hesitate to do its duty in all that would support the edu-

cational process in the UAE.

Gulf Talent Council

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid stressed the necessity of concerting the efforts directed at the talented sector at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries since they share the same goals, and have common history, and similar educational conditions. Integration is better than individual work, in terms of gaining time, effort and funding.

HH added: “The initiative to establish and host the Gulf Talent Council has been welcomed by the member states of the Arab Education Bureau for the Gulf States, who have gratefully embraced the project and brought it to light. In the coming phase, we will witness joint GCC projects to develop the sector of talent that will inevitably be reflected positively on the gifted Gulf student.”

HH said: “We hope that the integrative and coordinating role among education development projects in the GCC countries will be realized, leading to the creation of pioneer educational systems that will prepare generations capable of taking the lead in progress and facing the challenges of today and tomorrow confidently.”





Article



One Gulf Nation Fostering the Distinguished Aspiration

By: Dr. Eid bin Mohia Al-Hessouni

Undersecretary of Ministry of Education for Educational Performance
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

I have the honor of writing this article to 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz' magazine, in the issue published on the sideline of the 21st session of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance. Through my words, I would like to convey to you the greetings and appreciation of His Excellency Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed Al Al-Sheikh, Minister of Education in Saudi Arabia for supporting the Arab World educational system. We take pride in this Foundation for its continuous support of excellence and creativity and for being able to compete, in terms of standards, its international counterparts. Over the past years, the Hamdan Foundation has had significant footprint in the educational system.

Pioneership and excellence are based on scientific methodology aiming to enhance human capacities to build an outstanding society, where members lead the development process in different fields. Being the first targeted area of excellence, education provides a great opportunity for unleashing the distinguished capabilities. Accordingly, educational excellence and pioneership are prerequisites to achieve progress, development, prosperity, and providing the cutting-edge communication tools. In this regard, the Hamdan Foundation provides a space for appreciating sincere efforts and promoting the spirit of honest competition as it motivates every outstanding performance to develop the educational system.

Today, we are proud to honor a group of distinguished individuals who have saved no efforts to upbringing a creative generation capable of leading the society towards excellence.

We would also like to commend the efforts of the Foundation patron for qualifying it to be a world-class foundation. The awards presented by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan are a tangible appreciation for those who deserve to be awardees.

We hope these shining elite, blessed with excellence, will play a role in promoting the excellence culture among their peers, in behavior and practice, performing their duties to raise the performance level of educational institutions, and participating actively in achieving the desired aspirations.

Dear awardees! We wish you will always pursue the path of excellence, have the opportunity to shine and to serve your colleagues, teachers, school leaders, and all segments of society.

All thanks and appreciation be to HE Dr. Hamad bin Mohammed Al Al-Sheikh, Saudi Minister of Education, and to Dr. Abdulrahman bin Mohammed Al-Assimi, Deputy Minister of Education, for showing care and interest in education and for supporting all participants in different categories. Last but not least, many thanks to all the Foundation staff, headed by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, for his care, encouragement, and interest in the future of education, and to all members and employees of the Foundation Secretariat. We live in an era where only the distinguished excel and in one Gulf Nation underpinning the distinguished aspiration.

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Survey

Directors of Education Departments in Saudi Arabia: Hamdan bin Rashid Initiatives Enhance Quality of Education



Reported by: Mohammed Ali

The directors of education departments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia confirmed that the awards of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance are among the most well-known important educational awards in the KSA and the Arab World. In addition to positively influencing the applicants and promoting knowledge among them, the Foundation's standards have been adopted by a wide range of educators, and thus, have significantly contributed to enhance work process and quality.

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Furthermore, the directors highlighted the noble message of the initiatives launched by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, UAE Minister of Finance, President of the Al Maktoum Foundation, as it plays, through promoting and honoring the educational excellence, a fundamental role in enhancing the standards-based quality of education that will have an effect on improving and achieving distinguished learning outcomes, as well as enabling students to actively lead their future.

As a great supporter of charitable, social and educational activities, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid believes that nurturing individuals is the most successful investment for building and developing nations. However, we can in no way invest in people unless the educational system is distinguished and innovative.

Development and Priority

Dr. Asiri bin Ahmad Al-Ahwas, Director-General of Jazan Education Department in Saudi Arabia commented: "Tracking the progress achieved by the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance during its previous years, the level of development and care can be clearly seen through its year-by-year work. The Foundation has directly contributed to creating large areas of honest competition and creativity within our schools in the Arab World, where it encour-

aged teachers, students, school administration, and all educators to work on excellence, innovation and creativity. Thus, the Foundation has played a role in raising the level of education within our schools, and provided students, whether males or females, with attractive learning environments supporting high achievement, innovation, and invention."

Dr. Asiri added: "The UAE leaders prove day by day that they are keen on educational and cultural activities in the Arab World, as they have launched more than one initiative to support education, culture, and excellence. As a great supporter of charitable, social, and educational activities, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid believes that nurturing individuals is the most successful investment for building and developing nations. However, we can in no way invest in people unless the educational system is distinguished and innovative. Hence, through its award, the Foundation plays a fundamental role in improving the educational system in the Arab region, encouraging distinguished segments, nurturing the gifted, and presenting successful role models from our Arab World to be the best ambassadors in the field of science and education."

Commenting on the educational achievement in Jazan, Dr. Al-Ahwas stated: "The General Department of Education in Jazan participated this year in many activities through its teachers, students, and schools, to reflect on the impor-



Dr. Asiri Al-Ahwas:
UAE leaders
launched initiatives
supporting
education, culture,
and excellence



tance of the award in the education sector. The Foundation has occupied a prominent position in the educational community, enabling the distinguished educators to present and showcase their experiences to disseminate these experiences to develop the educational system all over the Arab World by reaching a high level of excellence, quality, and creativity.”

He congratulated all awards winners, saying: “I invite everyone to participate in the coming years to show the whole world that Arab countries have many creative and distinguished people, and our educational system meets the needs of our students and supports their excellence. Hence, I would like to thank our ministry in Saudi Arabia for its support, motivation, encouragement, and direct supervision.”

Prosperity and Progress

Dr. Nasser Al-Shalaan, the Director-General of Education in the Eastern Province, stressed the importance of education saying: “There is no doubt that any nation will be able to occupy a leading position and achieve its prosperity, stability, and development by setting education on its top priorities, in addition to supporting and nurturing the distinguished. In this regard, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as United Arab Emirates have always believed in excellence being the language of the age that translates goals and objectives, and achieves visions and aspirations.”



Dr. Nasser Al-Shalaan:
Hamdan Foundation has prominent position in national and regional awards



Dr. Youssef Al-Thuwaini:
Our Arab World is full of wide range of elite and distinguished people



Dr. Al-Shalaan stated: “There is no doubt that the awards approved by the Saudi Ministry of Education entrench the culture of excellence, stimulate the spirit of honest competition, and promote a culture of the effective practices that help achieving a high level of educational performance and leading the sustainable development of the nation to be among the developed countries.”

He added: “The awards of Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance are, undoubtedly, among the pioneer well-known awards that have prominent position, nationally and regionally. They strive to achieve excellence in academic performance, motivate the distinguished, and inspire the gifted and those who have outstanding initiatives and quality practices.”

Dr. Nasser Al-Shalaan pointed out that the Hamdan Foundation awards clearly reflect the great efforts of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum to support education, being the real investment for building human capacities and the basis for achieving aspirations of nations.

Outstanding Reputation

Dr. Youssef bin Mohammed Al-Thuwaini, Director-General of Hail Education Department, said: “The awards of the Hamdan bin Rashid Foundation are among the most prestigious educational prizes that gain an outstanding reputation in



Saudi education sector. That is why the General Department of Education in Hail urged its employees to apply for the awards and encouraged them to participate. The mission was entrusted to the Center of Excellence, the sponsor all national, regional, and international educational awards at the education department as winning the Foundation's award has clearly become a goal the distinguished seek to achieve."

Describing the awards' role, he added: "In addition to positively influencing the applicants and promoting knowledge among them, the awards' standards have been adopted by a wide range of educators, and thus, have significantly

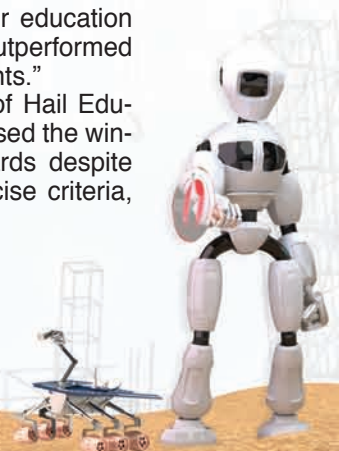
contributed to enhancing work process and quality. Furthermore, these awards have formed a strong and effective alliance with other educational awards approved by the ministry, especially the Excellence in Education Award, presented by the General Secretariat of Education in the Saudi Ministry of Education."

Dr. Youssef pointed out that the Arab World in general, and the Gulf countries in particular, are full of a wide range of elite and distinguished people in different educational categories. He confirmed that the presence of such awards is a vital and stimulating support that give those distinguished a real opportunity to showcase, improve,

and develop their works after being evaluated, assessed, and approved. These awards are but a scientific and professional platform promoting the spirit of competition among the people of the Arab countries.

As for the participation level in the Foundation Awards, he said: "5 of the department staff participated in the Distinguished Teacher category, and the department participated in the educational research. This is an achievement for our education department that has outperformed other similar departments."

The Director General of Hail Education Department praised the winners who got the awards despite of the Foundation precise criteria,



confirming that this is a clear evidence of their excellence and quality outputs, which will positively affect their educational and administrative work, their students, and levels of educational and pedagogical achievement.

Encouraging the distinguished in the educational sector to apply for the prize and live the exciting moment of this competition, he assured that the benefits of these awards are not limited to the winners, in the sense that all applicants will have an opportunity to evaluate and assess their achievements by educational and pedagogical specialists.

Finally, Dr. Youssef thanked HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid for establishing such a great educational institution that reflects His Highness's awareness of the value that the pioneers of education deserve, especially teachers, the knowledge messengers and the future enlighteners.

Strategic Need

Ahmad bin Mohammed Balghunaim, Director-General of Al Ahsa Education Department, said: "Excellence in education is no longer an option for educational institutions, but a strategic need to achieve sustainable quality of the students' learning outcomes in a changing and competitive era. Thus, the General Education Department of Al Ahsa is constantly working to push its journey towards sustainability of excellence, in order to fulfill the indicators and re-

quirements of the Kingdom Vision 2030 and to achieve global position under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz. In this regard, our department has taken a variety of actions to help achieve its vision and mission, including participation in the excellence awards such as the awards of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, in recognition of its role in promoting the culture of excellence in educational institutions, and its ability to entrench the distinguished performance of all educational partners (student, teacher, leadership, administration, family, and local community).

Highlighting the efforts of Al Ahsa Education Department, he added: "The General Department of Education in Al Ahsa has developed sustainable work methodologies to promote a culture of excellence in education that will enhance the quality of students learning outcomes as the primary and central indicator of excellence in education. One of these methodologies was: (The Best Practices in School Quality Education Program) that aims to accelerate transformation towards excellence standards to be implemented as daily practices in all teaching and learning processes. While (Continuous Improvement Team Program) seeks to involve all department and school staff in the process of enhancing quality and keeping the

distinguished outcomes, (Promoting Quality and Excellence Culture Program) is oriented to highlight the most up-to-date news about quality and excellence in education through publications, edited or translated books, lectures, and seminars."

He confirmed that the distinguished leadership believes that investing in education is the best solution for achieving economic and social welfare. In this regard, the contributions of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum to promote and honor excellence in education at the local, regional, and international levels are an evidence on the distinguished vision of the future.

Furthermore, Balghunaim highlighted the noble message of the initiatives launched by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum as they play, through promoting and honoring the educational excellence, an important role in enhancing the standards-based quality of education that have now and will, Allah willing, have in future an effect on improving and achieving distinguished learning outcomes. These initiatives are enabling students to actively lead their future in various ways, including innovations, inventions, new business, quality projects, and personality enriched with such noble values as loyalty, belonging, perseverance and mastery of work.

He pointed out that the importance of quality and excellence awards in education lies in three main areas. First, the quality standards that

explain the requirements of quality and excellence in educational performance, lead individual and collective practices to work them on out. Second, assessment methodologies that support finding opportunities for improvement and identifying the performance gap in order to achieve continuous improvement to meet the excellence standard. Third, aspiration for international standards, through the quality awards, including those of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, which are developed according to national and international quality standards, thus giving a global dimension to the educational performance of the student, teacher, or the educational leadership.

He mentioned that the General Education Department of Al Ahsa seeks to participate in the awards of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation and other national awards through setting an annual plan that basically aiming to urge the educators to join, and providing consultants to clarify the methodology and standards requirements. "Every year, we strive to raise the participation level, not for the purpose of participating with more files, but to achieve the fundamental objective of encouraging educational staff to conduct self-evaluation in accordance with the outstanding performance criteria of this annual award. However, we have an annual participation positive rate reflecting the successful promotion of self-evaluation cul-



Ahmad Balghunaim:
Investing in education is best solution for achieving economic and social welfare



Dhaifullah Al-Hazmi:
Education is cornerstone upon which development is based, compass for leading progress and achieving success



ture. It is the same purpose of the quality and excellence awards, the department's plan seeks to annually raise the level of participation."

The Philosophy of Excellence

Dhaifullah Al-Hazmi, Director of Sabya Education Department, described the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance as an institution with an Emirati identity, Gulf influence, Arab belonging, and international position, promoting a humanitarian message.

He said: "The Foundation is based on the philosophy of excellence and the promotion of excellence in the Gulf, Arab, and international levels, to establish a state of deep interest in raising the educational performance, supporting talented people and innovators, and keep improving teaching and learning process to achieve sustainable human development in all fields."

Highlighting the importance of education, Al-Hazmi said: "Education is a cornerstone upon which development is based and a compass for leading progress and achieving success. The main focus of the Foundation's awards, has been to encourage community and government efforts to highlight educational performance, nurture talents, innovation, quality education, and most updated and effective educational practices.

He clarified that the Arab countries are striving to compete the rest of the world societies to ne part of their progress and excellence. There-



fore, the Hamdan Foundation has sought to motivate everyone and raise the level of excellence, highlighting the great efforts needed to create distinctive educational models. Such models can play a great role in change management, consolidating and sustaining educational excellence in the Arab countries, through expanding the meaning of excellence and talent to keep the Arab minds in a state of permanent activity and to reduce brain drain outside the Arab World.

Praising the Foundation's role in supporting excellence, Mr. Al-Hazmi confirmed that the number of the distinguished qualified individuals and winners assures the great interest of government and private entities, as well as individuals, in this Foundation, in addition to proving the positive interaction with the supreme value of this objectives.

"This year edition, like the editions of other years, a number of distinguished individuals have been honored in recognition of their educational performance, whether as institutions or individuals, increasing the professional confidence level in this Foundation. Thus, its awards have become a symbol for a permanent excellence everyone aspires to, and for which many entities and staff strive to win from the Foundation that promotes, through its noble message, the value of human effort and its direct impact on changing the life for the better.



Mohammed Al-Turaiki:
Hamdan Foundation
has precise standards
and accurate
implementation



True Development

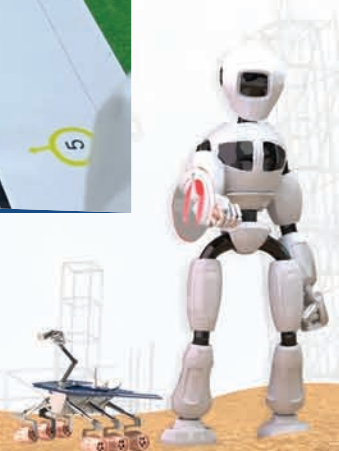
Mohammed bin Abdulla Al-Turaiki, Director of Az Zulfi Education Department, stated: "The education sector is one of the most important sectors in every society as it is related to upbringing individuals and preparing them for life, culturally and behaviorally. The true development of any country is based on its individuals."

Al-Turaiki added: "One of the most important factors for successful educational message lies in finding incentives that encourage creativity and excellence, create positive competition opportunities in the educational field, in order to improve performance and excellence, and honor the gifted and the distinguished. On top of these awards, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance is known for its precise standards, accurate implementation, comprehensive content, and objectives. Its awards have noticeably had a great impact on enriching the educational competition and performance, whether in terms of institutions or individuals, including students, teachers, and school administrations."

He expressed his gratitude to HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, UAE Minister of Finance, Patron of the Al Maktoum Foundation, for his continuous efforts supporting quality and excellence in education inside UAE, and other Gulf and Arab Countries.



Special Edition





Survey

The Foundation Coordinators in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait: Hamdan Foundation Sets New Benchmark in Leading Academic Performance Excellence



Reported by: mohammed mazloum

The coordinators of the Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait asserted that the Foundation is a supportive hub and a window to the world, showcasing, improving, and developing the distinguished works. Moreover, they stressed that the Hamdan Foundation is a comprehensive cultural, educational, and scientific institution that has exceeded the local boundaries to reach the international level, commending the efforts of its patron, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, UAE Minister of Finance, President of the Foundation. They also praised HH's vision aiming to develop a high quality educational system, capable of graduating skilled and experienced national cadres leading the society to a promising future, and achieving a comprehensive development.

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The coordinators pointed out that competition itself is not the ultimate aim of the Foundation awards; rather, it is a sincere call for all Arab educators to promote the educational innovations and develop a high quality educational system.

Global Position

Abdullah bin Zahi bin Ali Al-Qarni, General-Coordinator of the Hamdan Foundation, Male Education Department, Saudi Ministry of Education, stated: "Excellence, progress, and leadership are prominent traits of the Foundation institutional work. This has gained a global position after spreading its culture throughout the local, Gulf, Arab, and Islamic communities, earning its international standing duly, as it plays a pioneering role in providing opportunities for success, incentives, and excellence."

Highlighting the importance of excellence, Al-Qarni added: "Our true religion calls for quality, workmanship, and excellence in our business and institutions. The Almighty says in the Holy Quran: (And say: "Work (righteousness): Soon will Allah observe your work, and His Messenger, and the Believers..). In addition, Imam al-Bayhaqi (may Allah bless him), narrated that the Mother of Believers Ayshah bint As-Siddiq, (may Allah bless her and her father), said that Allah Messenger (PBUH) said: "Certainly, Allah loves for one of you when performing a deed to perform it properly..." He pointed out that the role of the Hamdan Foundation on the cogni-

tive and scientific sides is no longer an intellectual luxury, but rather a practical reality and a basis for competition in light of spreading the culture of excellence in the educational field of this prestigious institution on the local, Gulf, and international levels.

Al-Qarni added that he aspires to launch a satellite channel to spread the Foundation's culture and to publish its news after visiting the Gulf States to select a qualified staff of reporters, presenters, directors, arbitrators, and delegates to document the work of the Foundation in each session on the ground. The channel may also hold continuous workshops to explain the guidelines of participation and applications, encouraging the maximum possible number of individuals in each country to participate in different categories of the Foundation.

Motivating Competition

Modi Al-Mugaiteeb, Coordinator of the Hamdan Foundation, Female Education Department at the Saudi Ministry of Education, stated: "We do all preparation, planning, implementation, and following-up work to provide the target groups with a unique participation experience in the awards of the Hamdan Foundation. This is the role we take to motivate the distinguished participants to achieve a number of objectives, including: spreading the Foundation culture, excellence, and creativity among educators, highlighting the role of winners, stimulating the spirit of positive competition among



Abdullah Al-Qarni:
Hamdan Foundation's role became reality and basis for competition

Modi Al-Mugaiteeb:
The Foundation awards enriched educational field, contributing to its development and quality





Survey

participants to achieve excellence, and disseminating the outstanding practices.”

Expressing her gratitude to His Highness, the Foundation patron, for availing such a great opportunity, Al-Mugaiteeb added that the awards have enriched the educational field in providing the self-development chance, elevating its culture, and aspiring to reach higher ranks.

Experiences and Skills

Mansour Abdullah Al-Dihani, Coordinator of the Hamdan Foundation in Kuwait stated: “Competitions are characterized by an integrated approach based on quality thinking in educational performance and outcomes as they seek to raise the level of creativity and encourage the spirit of initiatives and innovation in all scientific and literary fields. These awards basically aim to entrench the excellence culture, pushing the development and achievement process, motivating creativity, unleashing the creative educational potentials, and spreading the excellence thinking to be a thought-after objective in the educational field.”

Al-Dihani pointed out that competition itself is not the ultimate aim of the Foundation awards, but it is rather a sincere call for all Arab educators to promote the educational innovations and developing a high quality educational system. No one can deny the Foundation’s role and influence on achieving the excellence and positive learning and teaching out-



Mansour Al-Dihani:
Competitions
promote educational
creativity and quality
academic system



Mohammed Barzig:
Awards foster
student’s academic
performance and
spirit of creativity



comes. Despite its accurate criteria, the Foundation opens gates to the culture of excellence, which should be achieved in the field of education and other areas. In addition, the honest completion and continuous work would positively influence the educational field progress, being the main pillar for achieving comprehensive development.

Exchanging Experiences

Mohammed bin Saeed Barzig, Assistant General-Coordinator of the Hamdan Foundation, Male Education Department at the Saudi Ministry of Education, said: “The Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance plays an important role in spreading the excellence culture and developing the educational levels through exchanging experiences among the Gulf States. It also provides new opportunities for educational cadre, depending on high quality standards, not to mention the development of documentation culture. We assure that excellence culture has been instilled, by Allah willing, and the great efforts exerted by HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid, the Foundation patron.”

He added: “Playing such an important role in entrenching the excellence culture and improving the educational system, we urge all employees of educational sector in the GCC to review the Hamdan Foundation’s carefully examined standards aiming to raise the students’ educational outcomes and to instill the spirit of creativity.”

Supportive Hub

Dr. Talal bin Hamoud Al-Salman, Director of Hail Excellence Center commented: "We, at the Center of Excellence, were keen on adopting the awarding standards of the Hamdan bin Rashid Foundation, following its guidelines and procedures as they are one of the most prestigious and internationally acclaimed educational awards. The importance of these awards lies not only in positively influencing the applicants and promoting knowledge among them, but also in adopting the awards' standards by a wide range of educators." He added: "These awards provide a supportive hub and a window to the world, showcasing, improving and developing the distinguished works. It is a real opportunity to evaluate, assess and approve these works."

Deep Impact

Fatimah bint Ibrahim Rweas, Director of Excellence Center at the General Department of Education in Eastern Province and the Foundation Coordinator, said: "The Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance sets its vision of educational excellence and leadership to nurture the gifted and innovators. In addition, it identifies its mission to design and carry out the best international programs of educational excellence and gifted and innovators nurturing, in order to establish a prestigious educational system. Over the past 21 years, the Foundation has contributed to spreading the excellence culture, improving the educational performance, motivating and nurturing the distinguished, talented, innovators, and achievers in the Gulf States and the Arab World." She added: "The awards of the Ham-



Dr. Talal Al-Salman:
The Foundation is window to the world, showcasing, improving, and developing distinguished works



Fatimah Rweas:
The Foundation is landmark in pioneership by cultivating administrative and educational performance



Mohammed Al-Naami:
Hamdan Foundation is internationally renowned cultural, educational, and scientific institution

dan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance has had a deep impact on achieving the pioneership by motivating the educational and administrative performance, regionally and internationally, through granting the excellence awards in the educational field and raising the quality performance level to reach workmanship our true religion calls. This indicates the deep interest HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, UAE Minister of Finance, shows in education sector, leading its sustainable development."

Prestigious Position

Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al-Naami, the Foundation Coordinator at the Jazan General Department of Education, said: "The Hamdan Foundation" is distinguished from other awards in that it is a comprehensive cultural, educational and scientific institution that has exceeded the local boundaries to reach the international level."

He continued: "There is no doubt this outstanding success of the Foundation would not have been achieved without the efforts exerted by its cadre and without a leadership willing to provide the people of the UAE, in particular, Gulf and the Arab countries, in general, with every useful, scientific, cognitive, and cultural development." Al-Naami concluded: "This Foundation has successfully achieved its objectives and gained a leading position, making the participation as a dream sought after by millions of GCC and Arab individuals. This success reflects on the efforts of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid who has given this Foundation all interest and support to reach its prestigious position and to be a sought-after goal."

