Akhbar AlTamayoz
Newsletter - Issue 171 - October 2026



Rashid bin Hamdan Honored Asia Open, FitzEd Winners in Cambridge

329

Entries in Hamdan Foundation's 2026 Education Awards

Rashid bin Hamdan Chaired First Meeting of Hamdan Foundation Board of Trustees in Its New Term

144

Entries in both Hamdan-ALECSO Educational Research and Digital Innovation Awards

Hamdan Foundation and KHDA Signed MoU to Support Gifted Students









04 Rashid bin Hamdan Chaired First Meeting of Hamdan Foundation Board of Trustees in Its New Term

08 Rashid bin Hamdan Honored Asia Open, FitzEd Winners in Cambridge

12 Hamdan Foundation and KHDA Signed MoU to Support Gifted Students

14 329 Entries in Hamdan Foundation's 2026 Education Awards

Issue 171

October 2026



AIT News Tamayoz

Monthly Educational Magazine

Editor-in-Chief: Abdul Noor Ahmed Al Hashimi

Managing Editor
Hasan Mohammed

Secretary Editor
Amathil Mhd. Gheyath

Coordinator
Mustafa Abu Ras

Editorial Board
Mohammed Mazloum
Fatin Matar
Dareen Mahmoud

Translation
Dr. Sadiq Ismail
Mohammed Ahmed

Photography
Mohammed Subhi Halawa

Technical Supervision
Maher Mohammed

15 144 Entries in Hamdan-ALECSO Educational Research and Digital Innovation Awards

16 Khalifa Al Suwaidi Shared His Experience and Vision on Education in 'SENIOR X'

17 Hamdan Foundation Celebrated Emirati Women, Highlighted Their Journey of Achievement

20 Hamdan Foundation and GDRFA Explored Cooperation in Innovation and Development

22 Hamdan Foundation and UAE University Welcomed New Students to Master of Educational Innovation Programme









Vision
A pioneering foundation fostering excellence

Mission
Designing and implementing distinguished awards and programs that empower achievements in medicine and education, while nurturing the giftedness of individuals

Issue and Correspondence:
Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences

Headquarters - Dubai - United Arab Emirates, Telephone: 04-5013333
E-mail: info@ha.ae
www.ha.ae

foundationhbr
foundationhbr
foundationhbr
hamdanaward



Praised Hamdan bin Mohammed's confidence in board chairman and trustees

Rashid bin Hamdan

Chaired First Meeting of Hamdan Foundation Board of Trustees in Its New Term

Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid:

Building a more integrated framework for cooperation to reach target groups, support them, and empower them is among the Board's priorities.

The Board's new term builds on achievements, with an opportunity to take institutional work to broader horizons.

Responding to rapid transformations in education, medical sciences, and the care of talents requires the Foundation to redouble its efforts.



Dubai – 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Supreme Chairman of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, expressed his thanks and appreciation to H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, for Resolution No. 49 of 2026 on the formation of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences. He valued the confidence of His Highness in the Chairman and members of the Foundation's Board.

Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum affirmed the Board of Trustees' commitment to achieving the noble objectives for which the Foundation was established, while commending the generous patronage and government support that enable the Foundation to fulfil its mission.

These remarks were delivered as Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum chaired the first meeting of the Board in its new term at the Foundation's headquarters, in the presence of H.E. Humaid Al Qatami, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman, and all Board members.

Under the resolution issued by the Chairman of The Executive Council, the Board is chaired by H.E. Humaid Al Qatami, with Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi serving as Vice Chairman. Its members are H.E. Dr. Alawi Ali Al Sheikh-Ali, H.E. Awadh Seghayer Al Ketbi, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Eid Al Mansoori, H.E. Dr. Suleiman Mohammed Al-Hammadi, H.E.

Board of Trustees of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences



H.E.
His Excellency Humaid Al Qatami
Chairman of the Board



H.E.
Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi
Vice Chairman



H.E.
Dr. Alawi Alsheikh-Ali
Member



H.E.
Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi
Chief Executive Officer



H.E.
Awadh Seghayer Al Ketbi
Member



H.E.
Dr. Ahmed Eid Al Mansoori
Member



H.E.
Dr. Suleiman Mohammed Al-Hammadi
Member



H.E.
Essa Al Hajj Khadem Al Maidoor
Member



H.E.
Abdullah Saeed Balyouha
Member



Essa Al Hajj Khadem Al Maidoor, H.E. Abdullah Saeed Belyouha, and H.E. Dr. Khalifa Ali Al Suwaidi, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation.

A Track Record of Achievements

Sheikh Rashid stressed that the Board's new term builds on a distinguished record of achievements and offers an opportunity to take institutional work to broader horizons, strengthening the Foundation's impact and mission in supporting excellence and innovation and developing a generation capable of embracing the future and addressing its challenges through excellence.

The Supreme Chairman of the Foundation commended the initiatives, high-quality programmes, and partnerships delivered during the previous phase, which strengthened the Foundation's presence and role locally and internationally in supporting programmes aimed at improving medical and educational performance and developing distinguished experiences and practices. This helps disseminate them as models for optimising educational innovation to enhance quality and development. He stressed that these achievements provide a strong base of expertise and capability for a new, more ambitious and impactful phase.

Honouring Ceremony

The Foundation's Board of Trustees reviewed preparations for the ceremony to honour the winners of the ninth edition of the Hamdan-UNESCO Prize for Teacher Development, which is scheduled to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in early October, in the presence of UNESCO's new Director-General, Khaled El-Enany, heads of permanent delegations to the international organisation, and a number of prominent figures.

Redoubling Efforts

Sheikh Rashid said: "Responding to rapid transformations in education, medical sciences, and the care of gifted individuals and innovators requires the Foundation to redouble its efforts in the coming phase, in line with the government's direction to harness artificial intelligence to develop services and outcomes, raise awareness in medicine, healthcare, and education, and advance the identification and care of gifted individuals. This will enable Hamdan bin Rashid Foundation to serve as an active partner to government teams and support their efforts."

He added: "Focusing on partnerships with local, regional, and international institutions and entities, as well as donors, alongside continued government support, will help further develop initiatives, provide greater support for high-quality projects, and expand their reach."

Board Priorities

The Supreme Chairman of Hamdan Foundation continued: "Building a more integrated framework for cooperation and partnership to reach target groups, support them, and empower them will be among the Board's priorities in the new term."

He highlighted the importance of exploring new areas of cooperation with international organisations as active partners in supporting human development projects. This would strengthen the Foundation's global presence and underscore the UAE's role in supporting international efforts to invest in people and build knowledge societies.

Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan also welcomed H.E. Dr. Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, Director General of Dubai Health Authority, to the Board, commending his professional expertise and competence in the medical field. He said his appointment represents a valuable addition to the Board and will support its strategic direction and ability to maintain its established standards of performance.









Rashid bin Hamdan

Honored Asia Open, FitzEd Winners in Cambridge

Humaid Al Qatami:

Supporting gifted students goes beyond identifying their abilities and requires an integrated development approach.

Hamdan Foundation continues to invest in national talent and provide high-quality opportunities to advance their capabilities.

Dubai – 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Supreme Chairman of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, honoured students from Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Giftedness and Innovation for their great accomplishments at the FLL Asia Open Championship, as well as students who received FitzEd awards at the University of Cambridge. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Humaid Mohammed Al Qatami, Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, members of the Board, officials, and students' parents and school principals.



3

Students from Hamdan Centre obtained 4 academic awards in the FitzEd 2026 Summer Programme at the University of Cambridge.

Hamdan Centre team Secured 2nd place in the Champion's Award at the FIRST® LEGO® League Asia Open Championship 2026.

Winners' parents and school principals participated in the ceremony for their role in supporting students and advancing their knowledge journeys.

The recognition included Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Giftedness and Innovation team that participated in the FIRST® LEGO® League Asia Open Championship 2026, held in Beijing, China, after securing second place in the Champion's Award. The result made it the first UAE team to rank among the top three in this award, marking the highest-ever placement achieved by a UAE team in international FIRST® LEGO® League competitions.

The achievement was secured by Hamdan Rashid Al Mansoori, Khaled Mohammed Al Amadi, Abdulkarim Yousuf Bu Khashm, Abdullah Fahad Al Mahmoud, and Sayed Mansour Al Hashemi during the championship, which was held from 13 to 16 August and featured competitions combining robotics, programming, research, innovation, and teamwork.

Integrated Performance

The Champion's Award is among the most prominent FIRST® LEGO® League awards and reflects the team's overall performance across key areas, including the Innovation Project, Robot Design, Robot Performance, and Core Values. Securing second place reflects the advanced level the students have reached in science, technology, engineering, and innovation.

The team qualified for the international championship after winning the FIRST LEGO League Dubai competition and being crowned UAE champions for the 2025–2026 season, earning the opportunity to represent the country in Beijing.

4 Academic Awards

Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan also honoured three female students from Hamdan Centre for Giftedness and Innovation who received four academic awards during the FitzEd 2026 Summer Programme at Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge, in recognition of their excellence in research, academic performance, and presentations.

Hessa Khaled Al Jaber, who participated in the Robotics course, received the Best Research Essay Award after her essay was selected among the course's two best. Muzna Al Balushi, who participated in the Business Economics course, also received the Best Research Essay Award after her essay was selected among the two best in her course.

Maryam Al Mulla, who participated in the Business Economics course, received the Outstanding Student Award after ranking among the course's two top-performing students, as well as the Best Presentation Award after her presentation was selected among the two best across all FitzEd 2026 courses. FitzEd is an academic summer programme hosted by Fitzwilliam College at the University of Cambridge in partnership with CAMSIS Education. It offers international students an intensive academic experience combining study, research, discussions, and individual projects, developing their research, analytical, independent thinking, and academic communication skills.

High-Quality Opportunities

H.E. Humaid Al Qatami, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, said: “We are proud of the achievements of students from Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Giftedness and Innovation across international platforms, reflecting the scientific and creative capabilities of UAE students and their ability to compete globally. The robotics team’s performance at the FIRST® LEGO® League championship, alongside four academic awards received by our female students in the FitzEd programme at the University of Cambridge, demonstrate the importance of providing high-quality opportunities that enable gifted students to test their abilities and develop their skills in advanced educational and competitive environments.”

He added: “Supporting gifted students goes beyond identifying their abilities. It requires an integrated pathway to develop them and empower students to transform their knowledge and ideas into tangible achievements through training, practice, competition, and advanced educational and academic experiences. What our students have achieved reflects the results of this approach and the ability of national talent to progress from local excellence to international presence and competitiveness.”

He continued: “We congratulate our students on these outstanding achievements and commend the efforts of their families, schools, coaches, and supervisors in preparing and supporting them. Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences will continue to invest in national talent and provide high-quality programmes and opportunities that develop their scientific, knowledge-based, and practical capabilities and strengthen their participation in science, technology, and innovation, contributing to a generation capable of shaping a future founded on knowledge and excellence.”

The parents of the winning students and their school principals also participated in the recognition ceremony, in appreciation of their role in supporting the students, advancing their educational and knowledge journeys, and providing an environment that enabled them to reach these advanced levels.

























In the presence of Rashid bin Hamdan

Hamdan Foundation and KHDA Signed MoU to Support Gifted Students

Cooperation includes implementing 'Hamdan Giftedness Test' in Dubai schools and training specialists in gifted student identification.

Dubai – 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

In the presence of Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Supreme Chairman of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, the Foundation and the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai (KHDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in excellence, giftedness, and education quality. The MoU also establishes a framework for implementing 'Hamdan Giftedness Test' in Dubai schools and training specialists annually in gifted student identification.

The MoU was signed on behalf of the Foundation by H.E. Humaid Mohammed Al Qatami, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and on behalf of KHDA by H.E. Director General Aisha Abdulla Miran,.

Areas of cooperation include exchanging educational expertise, conducting joint research and studies in excellence and giftedness, organising conferences, seminars, and specialised training programmes, and providing technical support and consultancy related to excellence, education quality, giftedness, and creativity.

The MoU also supports coordination on relevant initiatives and programmes with private schools in Dubai, in accordance with approved frameworks and regulations.

H.E. Humaid Al Qatami, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said: "This MoU is an important step in expanding institutional cooperation with KHDA, one of the country's leading educational institutions. It strengthens efforts to identify and nurture gifted students and supports wider use of the Foundation's tools and programmes across the education sector. The partnership also reaffirms the Foundation's commitment to promoting excellence and giftedness and developing practical initiatives that enhance education quality and benefit



students and specialists."

He added: "This partnership aligns with the Foundation's mission to support national efforts in identifying and nurturing gifted students, stimulating educational innovation, and developing initiatives that respond to the needs of the education system. It also highlights the importance of working with leading national entities to achieve tangible impact for students, parents, and the wider education community."

H.E. Al Qatami noted that the MoU will provide an umbrella for programmes supporting educational excellence, particularly those aimed at improving the environment for identifying and nurturing gifted students and strengthening awareness of this important group. He also highlighted Hamdan Foundation's pioneering programmes in giftedness and its advanced results locally and regionally.

H.E. Aisha Abdulla Miran, Director General of KHDA, welcomed the partnership with Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, one of the distinguished institutions supporting education regionally and internationally. She noted that the partnership will support the objectives and initiatives of Dubai's Education Strategy 2033, which focuses on enabling students to access high-quality education and providing support for gifted and high-achieving students across different stages of learning.

H.E. Aisha Abdulla Miran affirmed that cooperation with the Foundation and the exchange of expertise are driven by shared objectives to enhance education quality and advance outcomes, in line with the wise leadership's vision of investing in people and promoting excellence and innovation across Dubai's private education ecosystem.

The MoU reflects both parties' commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships that support shared educational objectives and integrate efforts to identify and nurture gifted students, contributing to better education quality and the development of Dubai's school environment.

Through its partnerships and specialised programmes, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences continues to support educational excellence, nurture giftedness and innovation, and advance initiatives that improve education quality and establish a better equipped environment to identify and empower promising talent.

Humaid Al Qatami:
Partnership aligns with the Foundation's mission to support national efforts in identifying and nurturing gifted students and stimulating educational innovation.

Aisha Miran:
Cooperation and knowledge exchange are driven by shared objectives to enhance education quality and advance its outcomes.





Including 226 local entries and 103 GCC entries

329 Entries in Hamdan Foundation's 2026 Education Awards

Dubai – 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

The 2026 Education Awards of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences received 329 entries, including 226 in the local awards and 103 in the GCC awards.

As part of the evaluation and judging stages for the 2026 local and GCC education awards, the Foundation completed personal interviews with candidates at Zayed Educational Complex – Al Mizhar, conducted by the central judging committees applying approved mechanisms and criteria to ensure accurate and objective evaluation.

The Foundation also held an opening meeting at its Dubai headquarters, attended by judging committee members and education experts and specialists. The Central judging process was completed according to approved criteria and methodologies, leading to the selection of entries meeting excellence requirements across the award categories.

Central judging is a key stage in the awards cycle, with entries evaluated against specific criteria and indicators for each category to ensure objectivity, fairness, and equal opportunity.

The judging process focused on the quality and excellence of the submitted practices and achievements and their impact on the educational environment, helping highlight distinguished experiences and encourage improved performance across the education sector. The opening meeting reviewed judging mechanisms, procedural frameworks, approved criteria and indicators, committee roles, and stages of work, enhancing consistency and accuracy in evaluation while maintaining the credibility of results.

Dr. Ali Al Kaabi, General Coordinator and Head of the Judging Committees, stressed that central judging is among the most important stages of the awards cycle, requiring careful review of entries



Dr. Ali Al Kaabi:

Central judging is fundamental to ensuring consistency in evaluation and quality outcomes.

and consistent application of approved criteria and indicators to support sound decisions and credible results.

He said: "Central judging is fundamental to ensuring consistency in evaluation and quality outcomes. Committees work within a unified framework to ensure that criteria and indicators are interpreted and applied consistently across all entries. Decisions are based on submitted evidence and the extent to which approved criteria are met, strengthening the integrity of the process and credibility of its results."

Dr. Al Kaabi added: "A judge's responsibility goes beyond awarding scores. It requires a thorough understanding of each category and the ability to analyse evidence against approved indicators. We therefore place great importance on coordination among committee members and discussing cases requiring further review, ensuring final results accurately reflect the quality and merit of entries."

Through its education awards, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences continues to support outstanding practices, recognise distinguished achievements in education, and promote quality, innovation, and excellence, encouraging individuals and educational institutions to improve performance and strengthen their impact on society.

144

Entries in Hamdan-ALECSO Awards for Distinguished Educational Research and Digital Innovations in Education

Dr. Khalifa Ali Al Suwaidi:

We are committed to evaluating entries against clear criteria and rigorous methodologies to ensure objectivity.

Dubai - 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

A total of 144 entries were received for the 2026 cycle of Hamdan–ALECSO Award for Distinguished Educational Research and Hamdan–ALECSO Award for Digital Innovations in Education. Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), has begun the judging process following the close of submissions.

Hamdan–ALECSO Award for Distinguished Educational Research received 106 research submissions from 17 Arab countries, while Hamdan–ALECSO Award for Digital Innovations in Education attracted 38 entries from 15 countries. This reflects a broader geographic reach than the previous cycle, with more countries participating in both awards in 2026.

H.E. Dr. Khalifa Ali Al Suwaidi, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation, said: "The judging phase is a key stage in the awards cycle. We are committed to evaluating entries against clear criteria and rigorous methodologies to ensure objectivity and fairness. This phase is important in selecting entries that combine quality, originality, and educational value, while offering knowledge or solutions that can contribute practically to advancing education."

Dr. Al Suwaidi added: "The broader geographic participation reflects the importance of our partnership with ALECSO and the role of the two awards in providing an Arab platform for researchers and innovators to present their experiences and ideas. The awards offer two complementary pathways for advancing education: educational research that examines challenges and proposes recommendations to address them, and digital innovation that opens the way for new solutions and technologies to improve teaching and learning."

Hamdan–ALECSO Award for Distinguished Educational Research aims to encourage educational researchers and promote high-quality research that serves the educational process, examines educational challenges, and proposes recommendations to address them, while identifying successful practices and enriching the education sector with valuable experiences and research.

Hamdan–ALECSO Award for Digital Innovations in Education focuses on promoting digital innovation in education, highlighting pioneering initiatives that use modern digital technologies in teaching and learning, and encouraging innovative technological solutions that enhance educational effectiveness and support the exchange of knowledge and expertise in digital education.

Khalifa Al Suwaidi Shared His Experience and Vision on Education in ‘SENIOR X’







Dubai – ‘Akhbar Al Tamayoz’

H.E. Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, participated in ‘SENIOR X – Personalities Who Made an Impact’, a dialogue session highlighting his journey and vision in the fields of knowledge and education.

He discussed the importance of maintaining balance in responding to the rapid changes shaping the world, particularly amid the growing development of modern technologies. He stressed the importance of using these technologies as tools that support learning and knowledge, while preserving the role of reading and writing as fundamental pillars of intellectual development and awareness.

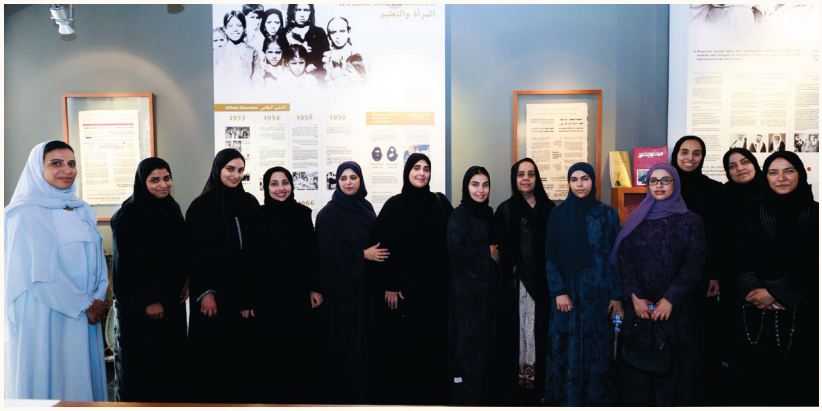
He noted that building more knowledgeable and aware generations requires a balanced system that combines the use of modern tools with the reinforcement of established knowledge habits, helping strengthen thinking, analysis, continuous learning, and positive engagement with future requirements.

‘SENIOR X’ is a distinctive dialogue platform that highlights the experiences of individuals who have made an impact in their fields and explores the stories, challenges, and decisions that shaped key stages in their journeys, enabling audiences to benefit from the human and professional lessons behind their success. The initiative seeks to document meaningful experiences and inspiring stories and transform accumulated expertise into shared knowledge for future generations through dialogues that highlight the value of experience and wisdom and their role in building awareness and strengthening societal impact.





Hamdan Foundation Celebrated Emirati Women, Highlighted Their Journey of Achievement





Dubai – 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences organised a series of events and activities to mark Emirati Women's Day, highlighting the journey of Emirati women, their notable achievements and contributions across various fields, and their pivotal role in development and shaping the future.

As part of the celebrations, Hamdan Foundation hosted H.E. Aisha Mohammed Saeed Al Mulla, Chairwoman of the Emirates Businesswomen Council, who delivered a lecture and led a panel discussion on the journey of Emirati women. She highlighted key milestones in their success, their active presence across various sectors, and their role in supporting development and strengthening the UAE's position in different fields.

The panel discussion also showcased inspiring examples from the journey of Emirati women and the capabilities that have established as key partners in national development, as well as their growing role in shaping the future and contributing to the UAE's aspirations.

Hamdan Foundation also organised a visit for its female employees to the Women's Museum in Dubai to explore key milestones in the history and journey of Emirati women and learn about their lasting contributions and achievements in social, cultural, scientific, economic, and other fields.

The visit offered an opportunity to discover inspiring stories and experiences of Emirati women and reflect on a journey rich in contribution and achievement. Throughout this journey, Emirati women have played an influential role in building the family, society, and nation and contributed to the UAE's comprehensive development.



129 Nominations from 62 Countries Judged for Hamdan-UNESCO Prize

Khalifa Al Suwaidi and Qun Chen discussed strengthening strategic partnership, exchanging expertise, and advancing joint initiatives.

Khalifa Al Suwaidi and Ali Alhaj discussed cooperation to support the success of joint programmes and projects with UNESCO.











Dubai – 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

The international jury of Hamdan–UNESCO Prize for Teacher Development held its concluding meeting for the ninth cycle to select the winners from 129 nominations submitted from 62 countries, in the presence of H.E. Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, and H.E. Qun Chen, Assistant Director-General for Education at UNESCO.

H.E. Qun Chen affirmed that Hamdan–UNESCO Prize for Teacher Development has formed part of a highly valued partnership between UNESCO and Hamdan Foundation since 2008.

He said: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hamdan Foundation and its representative, Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, for their continued support and leadership in promoting excellence in education and their commitment to expanding the reach of effective solutions."

He added: "The Prize highlights the important work of institutions, schools, and educational entities around the world through innovative approaches that enhance education quality."

He continued: "Since its launch, the 23 winning projects have demonstrated a wide range of innovative educational tools and techniques across different regions and contexts. They share one goal: empowering teachers and providing continuous learning opportunities and support, particularly for the most marginalised groups. By highlighting these distinguished initiatives, the Prize contributes tangibly to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4."

H.E. Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi praised the partnership with UNESCO and the support provided by its officials to joint projects and programmes aimed at improving education across different regions of the world.

He stressed that Hamdan–UNESCO Prize for Teacher Development has achieved a distinguished position, thanks to this support which is an important tool for advancing teacher performance. He added that the record number and international reach of nominations reflect growing interest in the Prize and its impact in supporting teachers, who remain central to education quality.

H.E. Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi also met H.E. Qun Chen at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, on the sidelines of the International Jury meeting, to discuss ways to strengthen the strategic partnership between UNESCO and Hamdan Foundation and explore future cooperation in support of international efforts to advance teacher development, exchange expertise, and reinforce initiatives that enhance education quality.

Dr. Al Suwaidi conveyed the greetings and congratulations of Sheikh Rashid bin Hamdan Al Maktoum, Supreme Chairman of Hamdan Foundation, to H.E. Qun Chen on his appointment as Assistant Director-General for Education at UNESCO, wishing him success in his new role.

He also presented an overview of key joint projects and initiatives implemented by Hamdan Foundation in cooperation with UNESCO in education, foremost among them Hamdan–UNESCO Prize for Teacher Development.

At the conclusion of the meeting, H.E. Qun Chen received a commemorative shield from Hamdan Foundation in appreciation of the cooperation and partnership with UNESCO.

Dr. Al Suwaidi also met H.E. Ali Abdulla Alhaj, UAE Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, to discuss strengthening cooperation between Hamdan Foundation and the UAE Permanent Delegation to support the success of joint programmes and projects with UNESCO. The meeting also covered the latest developments related to the Prize and preparations for the ceremony honouring the winners of its ninth cycle, scheduled for 5 October at UNESCO headquarters.

Delegation from GDRFA Dubai, headed by Mohammed Al Marri, visited Hamdan Foundation headquarters

Hamdan Foundation and GDRFA

Explored Cooperation in Innovation and Development



Mohammed Al Marri:

Strengthening partnerships with national institutions is an important driver of government development and knowledge exchange.

Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi:

The visit reflected both sides' commitment to cooperation and exploring new opportunities that support the UAE's development.

The delegation was briefed on the Foundation's key initiatives in education, giftedness, innovation, and capacity building.

The meeting highlighted flagship projects, alongside opportunities for cooperation and the exchange of best practices.











Dubai – 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences and the General Directorate of Identity and Foreigners Affairs – Dubai (GDRFA Dubai) explored ways to strengthen cooperation and exchange expertise in institutional innovation and capacity development, supporting government excellence and institutional performance. The discussions took place during a visit to the Foundation's headquarters by a GDRFA Dubai delegation headed by H.E. Lieutenant General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of GDRFA Dubai.

The delegation was received by H.E. Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees; H.E. Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Chief Executive Officer; and H.E. Awadh Seghayer Al Ketbi, Member of the Board of Trustees. They reviewed key Foundation initiatives and programmes in education, giftedness, and innovation, as well as its role in building national capabilities, empowering talent, and promoting excellence and creativity.

The meeting also reviewed several flagship initiatives and projects, alongside opportunities for cooperation and the exchange of best practices and expertise in areas of mutual interest, supporting institutional integration and national efforts to develop government services and promote innovation.

H.E. Lieutenant General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of GDRFA Dubai, stressed that strengthening partnerships with national institutions is an important driver of government development and the exchange of expertise and successful experiences, supporting institutional innovation and improving the quality of performance and services.

He said: "At GDRFA Dubai, we are committed to building effective partnerships with national institutions, based on our belief that knowledge and expertise exchange, alongside integrated efforts, are essential to strengthening innovation and developing institutional and human capabilities."

He added: "We value the pioneering role of Hamdan Foundation in education, giftedness, innovation, and capacity development, and look forward to expanding cooperation through best-practice exchange and high-quality initiatives that serve our shared objectives and support the UAE's journey of excellence and development."

At the conclusion of the visit, both sides stressed the importance of continued coordination, leveraging shared expertise, and exploring cooperation opportunities in initiatives and programmes of mutual interest to support institutional excellence, develop human capital, and advance the UAE's vision of a more efficient, innovative, and sustainable government.

H.E. Dr. Jamal Al Muhairi stressed that cooperation among national institutions is a key driver of government development and the achievement of sustainable development goals. He noted that exchanging expertise and knowledge helps improve initiatives and services and strengthens institutional readiness for future changes.

Dr. Al Muhairi said: "Hamdan Foundation is committed to expanding partnerships with national entities, based on the belief that integrated action and knowledge exchange are essential to developing institutional initiatives and building a more innovative and sustainable ecosystem."

He added: "We value this visit, which reflects both sides' commitment to strengthening cooperation and exploring new opportunities that support shared objectives and contribute to the UAE's development."

10 scholarships to support education professionals

Hamdan Foundation and UAE University Welcomed New Students to Master of Educational Innovation Programme



Dubai – 'Akhbar Al Tamayoz'

Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, in collaboration with the College of Education at United Arab Emirates University, held an orientation session for new students in the Master of Educational Innovation (MEI) Programme at the Foundation's headquarters in Dubai, as part of their partnership to develop education professionals and advance innovation in education.

Hamdan Foundation provides 10 scholarships for the MEI Programme in cooperation with the College of Education at UAE University to support national education professionals. The scholarships target Foundation award winners and outstanding educators working in government and private educational institutions across the UAE, subject to approved admission requirements and criteria.

The MEI Programme offers two specialisations: Innovation in Teaching and Innovation in School Leadership. It comprises 30 credit hours across 10 courses, runs for 18 months, and is delivered in Arabic on weekends in Dubai.

H.E. Dr. Khalifa Al Suwaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences, said: "The MEI Programme represents a model of academic partnership that invests in education professionals and connects knowledge with practice, enabling teachers and school leaders to develop more effective solutions to educational challenges. Through its cooperation with UAE University, Hamdan Foundation continues to support outstanding educators and provide high-quality opportunities to develop their capabilities, enhance education quality, and foster a culture of innovation and continuous improvement."

Prof. Ahmad Qablan, MEI Programme Coordinator and Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the College of Education, UAE University, said: "The MEI Programme was designed to go beyond theoretical knowledge to enable students to apply it in developing teaching and leadership practices. It strengthens critical thinking, scientific research, and innovative problem-solving skills. Through the programme, we seek to prepare teachers and education leaders capable of making a tangible impact in their educational environments and responding effectively to changes and challenges in the education sector."

The orientation session included an overview of the MEI Programme, its academic plan, specialisations, and requirements, presented by Prof. Ahmad Qablan. Mariam Al Mazrouei, a student from the previous cohort, also shared her experience in the programme, followed by an open discussion and responses to new students' questions.

The MEI Programme focuses on preparing teachers and education leaders to develop innovative practices in teaching and school leadership, while strengthening critical thinking, problem-solving, and scientific research skills. It also connects theoretical knowledge with practical and field-based application, enabling students to address educational issues and challenges through innovative approaches.

The continued delivery of the programme reflects cooperation between Hamdan Foundation and UAE University to develop the education-sector capabilities and equip teachers and school leaders with the knowledge and skills to adopt innovative practices that advance education and meet future needs.

Article

He Never Met Them, Yet His Vision Changed Their Lives



By Ali Abdullah Al Ahmad

Former UAE Permanent Delegate to UNESCO



In a world where millions of children still face challenges in accessing quality education, teachers remain the cornerstone of building the future. It was from this belief that Hamdan–UNESCO Prize for Teacher Development was launched by the late Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum in 2008, affirming that real investment begins with the teacher who stands before the classroom and shapes generations.

Sheikh Hamdan did not view education as a service provided by governments, but as a fundamental right for every child, wherever they may be. He believed that the best gift we can offer a child in a remote village is a better teacher, because a good teacher can change a student's life, and that student can change the future of their community. The Prize therefore did not become a ceremonial occasion for presenting awards. Instead, it evolved into a global platform that brings best educational practices to communities most in need and offers hope to millions of children who may know little about the UAE, yet have benefited from its humanitarian vision.

In Haiti, one winning programme helped train 8,000 teachers and benefited more than 350,000 students nationwide, while 70% of the training programmes were allocated to rural schools facing shortages in resources and support.

In Benin, another project helped train more than 4,500 teachers, raise awareness among 2,500 families, and reach over 250,000 children by promoting violence-free education and strengthening the values of peace and tolerance.

In Brazil, the 'Training Pathways' programme delivered 883 training activities in a single year, helping develop 16,728 teachers and improve the quality of education for more than 132,934 students.

These figures, cited on UNESCO's website, are not merely statistics. They are human stories that began with a teacher acquiring a new skill and led to a child gaining a better opportunity in life, and a family regaining confidence that education can break the cycle of poverty and violence and create a more hopeful future.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid never visited those distant villages or met those children, but he believed that education is a right for every child and that teachers are the starting point of any genuine progress. As a result, the Prize's impact extended beyond the UAE to modest schools in remote communities, where his vision became a source of hope and his belief in teachers helped change the lives of hundreds of thousands of children around the world.