

Egyptian Ministry of Health endorses ICDL HIS Certification Program

Accord aims to enhance healthcare workers' ICT skills and streamline healthcare services to the public

UAE, March, 2015 - Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population (National Information Center for Health Information Technology and Statistics) and ICDL Arabia, the governing body and certification authority for the ICDL certification program in Egypt, have signed a protocol to empower the ministry's healthcare workers across Egypt with relevant ICT skills

The three year protocol was signed by Professor Dr. Hanaa Amer, Assistant Minister for Technical Support and Development at Ministry of Health and Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL Arabia, in the presence of Eng. Tareq Badr, Assistant to the Minister of State for Planning and Follow-up and Administrative Reform and Coordinator for the Development of Information Technology at Ministry of Health and Inas Badr, Head of Health IT and Statistics Training Centres, whereby it includes the ministry's endorsement of ICDL 'Health Information System Usage' (HIS), a recently launched ICDL module aimed at tackling the ICT gap in the health sector around the world. The Ministry of Health also plans to seek endorsements from the Supreme Council of Universities in Egypt to implement the ICDL HIS Usage module for students studying in the medical, nursing and pharmacology faculties.

Other terms in the agreement, paves the road for the Ministry of Health and ICDL Arabia to cooperate together in creating an advanced HIS Usage module to address the skilling of healthcare professionals with more advanced HIS features. Moreover, ICDL Arabia will promote any co-developed modules and introduce them in the GCC States in return for securing grants and support to the ministry's efforts in delivering ICT skills to its own employees. Once this module is fully developed, it will be offered under the Ministry of Health and ICDL Arabia brands.

The protocol also states that ICDL Arabia's responsibility is to assist the Egyptian Ministry of Health in benefiting from a cooperation agreement it recently signed with the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) where over 100 thousand government employees will undergo the ICDL Certification program through a grant by various governments in the GCC and Europe extended the support to help improve the government's performance. The Ministry will immediately move to accredit its training centers to deliver training and testing in line with the ICDL international standards. Moreover, both parties will raise awareness among the Ministry's employees to acquire the latest in ICT skills to better their professional as well as their personal life.

“Today, the healthcare sector across the region still lags behind compared to other sectors in the implementation of Information and Technology systems particularly in patient care and administration and its growing cost remains to be an increasing burden on government-financed healthcare system and employer-based health insurance, placing the local economies at a competitive disadvantage. Our agreement with the Egyptian Ministry of Health will ensure that ICT skills are widespread at a very large scale involving healthcare professionals as well as anyone who enters this sector,” concluded Jamil Ezzo.

ICDL Arabia has signed agreements with several ministries of Health in the GCC States to enable their cadres with essential ICT skills. The foundation had also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arab Red Crescent and the Red Cross to endorse the ICDL certification program. The strategic partnership also aims to raise digital awareness among more than 30,000 Red Crescent and Red Cross personnel in the Arab world where they will obtain the ICDL certification.

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