

ICDL UAE accredits General Information Authority centers

GIA will train and test employees at its centres in Abu Dhabi and Dubai

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General Information Authority (GIA) has become an accredited International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) centre for training and testing of IT skills. The announcement of the new accreditation was made by H.E. Tareq Saeed Al Noman, Undersecretary of GIA, under the direction of H.E. Hameed bin Ahmed Al Mualla, Minister of Planning and Head of GIA Consul, with endorsement by their Highnesses and Excellencies on the GIA Board of Directors.

The ICDL certification program will be available to the UAE government's employees at GIA's headquarters in Abu Dhabi and branch office in Dubai. Besides the government employees working in federal ministries and local departments, the two centres will also benefit citizens and educational institutions looking for an internationally recognised certification in computer proficiency.

ICDL is the internationally recognised computer proficiency standard, owned by the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) and sponsored by the regional Cairo office of UNESCO (UCO) to promote ICDL programs in the Arab region. This partnership further strengthens ICDL's network of centres that offer training and testing in the emirates.

GIA urges government departments to evaluate their IT requirements and offers consultancy and training in improving the technology systems and the IT competency of staff from all governmental agencies and federal ministries. GIA also provides strategic studies on process automation and IT services to all government departments and ministries. Since its inception in 1982, GIA has trained over 45,000 Emirati working men and women in various fields of Information Technology. The ICDL accreditation will assist GIA in moving closer to its objective of creating an IT proficient society.

"The objective of planning and carrying out IT training projects is one of the main responsibilities of the Training and Research Department at GIA. The department prepares plans, training and qualification programs and also offers consultancy and recommendations related to training programs inside the country and abroad," said Tareq Noman, Deputy Manager, GIA.

"The quality and content of the ICDL program meet our requirements of providing each government employee with certification in basic computer skills. It is important that government employees, as a minimum requirement, are able to use a computer and the basic office applications. This internationally recognised certification will increase efficiency and productivity throughout the federal government and all government departments," said Mohammed Ismail, Director of Training and Research Department, GIA. "The ICDL program has proved to be a success across all the Emirates."

"Each individual who successfully completes the ICDL training program will receive a certificate that is recognized internationally with employers and educational institutions around the world," said Rich MacLaren, Program Director, ICDL UAE.

"The endorsement of the ICDL program by GIA is yet another milestone in the implementation of a unified standard for computer literacy in the UAE. ICDL has already been endorsed locally by several authorities and ministries including the Ministry of Education, Dubai e-Government and all major colleges and universities in the country. Our partnership with GIA reflects the commitment of the UAE authorities in adopting and implementing the ICDL program across departments and organisations with the objective of developing the IT skills of its workforce. Locally, ICDL certification is recognized by employers in the government as well as the corporate sectors," added Mr. MacLaren.

About ICDL

International Computer Driving License (ICDL), is an internationally recognized computer proficiency standard that is owned by the European Computer Driving License (ECDL) and introduced by the UNESCO's Cairo Office (UCO) for Arab states in 2001. ICDL is gaining increasing acceptance in the Middle East, with several governments adopting as a requirement to their

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employees. The ICDL program exists in over 132 countries, and is offered in 32 languages, including Arabic. The programs offered are all based on one standard syllabus and question set. There are more than 15,000 centres worldwide, and over 10 million exams have been taken globally since the launch of the program.

About ICDL GCC Foundation

ICDL GCC Foundation was created by the ECDL Foundation, the not-for-profit global governing body of the ECDL and ICDL member countries dedicated to helping raise the general level of computer skills in societies and providing access for all to the information society, to serve the to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States with their implementation of ICDL and for providing them with localised support to ensure quality of ICDL programs. The ICDL-GCC Foundation is the sole ICDL licensee and accreditation body that is responsible to support ICDL accredited training and testing centres in the GCC. It also acts as the reviewing and approving body for the local adaptation of ICDL programs, including authorizing the sale of Arabic ICDL content and testing material in the region.

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