

## UAE Ministry of Performance Development for Government Departments adopts the ICDL qualification as a requirement for all Federal employees

National initiative to make all federal government employees IT-proficient

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The UAE Ministry of Performance Development for Government Departments and ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body and the certification authority of the International Computer Driving License program in the Gulf States, has signed an agreement to implement the ICDL program across all federal government ministries and departments. The move constitutes the largest scale initiative taken by the UAE federal government so far to achieve its goal of ushering in a 'Digital UAE'



The agreement was signed between H.E. Sultan Bin Saeed Al Mansouri, Minister of Performance Development for Government Departments and Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL GCC Foundation in October 3rd, 2006 recently. This makes it mandatory for all federal government employees to acquire IT skills in accordance with the ICDL global standard, thus setting a minimum level of IT-proficiency among all federal government employees across all the emirates. The plan will be implemented under the supervision of a steering committee embodying experts in the field from the government as well as ICDL.

Commenting on the partnership with ICDL, H.E. Al Mansouri said: "This agreement is in line with the far-sighted vision of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE of ushering in a digital, knowledge-based society in the country and establishing e-governance across all the emirates that will earn the UAE its rightful place among the developed societies of the world. The ICDL program has been gaining wide acceptance among government organizations as it is an internationally-recognised standard for digital literacy that has proven its ability to allow ministries to enhance the efficiency of its employees and advance their careers, thereby accelerating the speed and improving the quality of the public services offered. This agreement will further promote the country's socio-economic development by ensuring prompt and effective services that are a hallmark of modern society."

Lauding the Ministry's decision, Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL GCC Foundation said: "The digital literacy initiative taken by the Ministry for Performance Development for Government Departments will enable the federal government to maximize on its employees' contribution through individual professional and personal growth. No doubt, this national initiative which further enhances the country's e-governance readiness will lead to improve the country's socio-economic growth. Our agreement consolidates the UAE drive to equip government department personnel with IT skills required for implementing a system of e-governance nationwide and reducing the digital gap in the country. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude towards H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin

In the news

Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and the UAE government for their confidence in our digital literacy global standard.”

Established with the aim of managing the ICDL program in the GCC region, the ICDL GCC Foundation has been striving relentlessly to promote digital literacy and bring computer skills levels in the GCC region at par with international levels by working directly with the region’s government organisations and policy makers. The ICDL program is a vendor neutral, non commercial certification, designed to equip any person with basic skills necessary to give the candidate confidence while using a computer. Currently, there are more than 800 ICDL Approved Centres that provide training and testing across the GCC. This includes schools, universities, commercial centres and government organizations. The aim of these organizations in adopting the ICDL qualification as a standard is to create an internationally recognized uniform knowledge base for all employees regardless of their role within the organization. The ICDL qualification is sure to enhance people’s personal and professional development and contribute to creating a culture for lifelong learning