

## **ICDL Training for Inmates**

*Best Practice Awards 2009  
Category: Social Contribution  
ICDL GCC Foundation*



During the opening of 3 class-room ICDL center, Major General Obaid Al Ketbi of Abu-Dhabi Police, Mr. Abdul Razzak Abdullah CEO of Dubai Islamic Bank Foundation, Jamil Ezzo, ICDL GCC Foundation Director General

### **The Opportunity**

According to the New York Times and a study carried out by the U.S. Department of Justice, inmates that receive reasonable level of schooling or vocational training during incarceration are less likely to return to prison. The same study has asserted that for every dollar spent on education or training, two dollars are saved by avoiding the cost of re-incarceration. This notion is quickly becoming a consensus among correctional facilities around the world. Education and training help inmates make productive use of their time during incarceration, develop marketable skills to obtain employment after release, and inspire them to become responsible members in society.

With the noticeable increase in numbers of inmates in the GCC prison systems, ICDL GCC Foundation has identified an opportunity to engage corporate citizens in the region for the funding of education and training of inmates for the betterment of society. ICDL GCC Foundation has launched a creative ICDL initiative to train, test and certify the computer

skills of inmates by tapping into the corporate social responsibility funds of GCC corporate citizens.



### **The Mechanism**

An agreement was signed between the UAE Ministry of Interior and ICDL GCC Foundation to jointly promote the ICDL initiative to corporate citizens. With the backing of governments of several countries in the GCC region, ICDL GCC Foundation sought the funding for its initiative through local banks and large-size organizations. Thanks to the support of many governments, semi-governments and corporate organizations that funded the set up of several ICDL training and test centers through their CSR (corporate Social Responsibility) budgets, offering inmates a second chance and the opportunity to acquire the ICDL certificate which is a relevant qualification to today's workplace.

Prisoners that qualify to enroll in the ICDL program have to have a history of good behavior and are within a 6 month period of their release. They are provided with an opportunity to learn and be tested on all 7 ICDL modules using in-application practical environment. Internet and e-mail however, are taught and tested using a simulated environment.

CSR funding generated for the installation of ICDL training and test centers is managed by the interior ministry and spent exclusively on ICDL related items. Instructors are contracted from already approved ICDL centers.



**Conclusion**

The future of correctional education is unclear; however, an increased emphasis on education has the potential to drastically affect crime rates and rehabilitate willing individuals. The use of technology tends to raise doubts and questions no matter what the circumstances are; but with correctional education, the pros outweigh the cons.

ICDL GCC gladly shares its experience with ICDL licensees and hopes to see other countries following the same steps. It will probably be of major importance to involve the authorities and officials in your area of the prison system, ministries of justice, education and labor. The ICDL GCC Foundation would be more than happy to assist and share more information with other ICDL GCC licensees that would like to implement the same Corporate Social Responsibility program in their country.

