

## ADCO becomes accredited to provide ICDL training and testing to its employees

Abu Dhabi based oil company opens first of several ICDL training and testing centres in Abu Dhabi

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The International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL), the internationally recognised computer proficiency standard, owned by the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) and sponsored by the regional Cairo office of UNESCO (UCO) for Arab states, has further expanded the number of accredited centres that can train and test candidates for the ICDL certificate in the UAE, by recently accrediting the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Oil Operations (ADCO) for ICDL training and testing of employees.

The accreditation was officially confirmed with a signing ceremony that took place recently. Those present were Mr. Andre van Strijp, General Manager of ADCO; Mr. Saeed Khoory, Assistant General Manager (Technical), ADCO; Mr. Murshid Saleh Al Romaiithi Assistant General Manager (Administration), ADCO; Mr. Yehya Mohamed Al-Marzouqi, Head of Corporate Development and Training, ADCO and Mr. Rich MacLaren, Program Director, ICDL UAE.

ADCO has adopted the ICDL program as part of its e-learning project. Commencing at the beginning of this month, the initiative aims to ensure that all ADCO employees are equipped with basic computer skills, essential in the growing IT society of today.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. van Strijp said: "The ICDL program ensures a minimum competency level for all employees and provides them with the confidence and skills to perform basic IT procedures which in turn, reduce the burden on our helpdesk. Thus, reducing our overall cost and receiving a return on our investment in the hardware and software purchased to assist in our e-learning project."

"e-Learning is the key to further developing our employees. The ICDL certification will assist us in our aim to ensure that our employees receive the skills they require. The quality and content of the ICDL program meet our requirements of providing each employee with certification in basic computer skills. This internationally recognised certification will increase efficiency and productivity throughout the company," said Al Romaiithi.

"ICDL is an integral part of our initiative to introduce e-learning to our employees, in order to improve their IT skills. We plan to have approximately five additional accredited centres operating at our onshore locations so that employees can learn with ease, knowing that the IT training they receive is close by and flexible to use," stated Al-Marzouqi.

Mr. Rich MacLaren, Program Director, ICDL UAE, said: "The endorsement of the ICDL program by ADCO is yet another milestone in the national implementation of a unified standard for computer literacy in the UAE. ICDL has already been endorsed locally by Dubai e-Government, the Ministry of Education, and several other federal ministries as well as all the major colleges and universities in the country. 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."

"Our partnership with ADCO is a strong message indicative of international companies who are adopting and implementing the ICDL program across departments and organisations throughout the region," 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 employees. The ICDL program exists in over 132 countries, and is offered in 32 languages, including Arabic. The programs

## In the news

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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