ICDL GCC Foundation announces cooperation with Abu Dhabi Police

Abu Dhabi Police signs agreement with ICDL on behalf of the Administrative Training Institute and the Rehabilitation & Employment Centre for Disabled People

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ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body of the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) programme in the Gulf States, has announced its cooperation with the General Directorate of Abu Dhabi Police today (Monday, 18 July, 2005), to further IT literacy within the police force, by accrediting its affiliate institutions Administrative Training Institute in Abu Dhabi, and the Rehabilitation & Employment Centre for Disabled People in Al Ain, as training and testing centres for the world-renowned ICDL programme. The ICDL training and testing accreditation will enable the Training Institute in Abu Dhabi to service officers and staff, while the Rehabilitation & Employment Centre for Disabled People in Al Ain will service the disabled throughout the UAE.

The accreditation to both institutions follows the directives of H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Interior, to promote IT literacy in the UAE. At a signing ceremony held today at the Abu Dhabi Police Headquarters, an agreement was inked by Brigadier Mohammed Khamis Salem Al Junaibi, Acting Director General of the General Directorate of Abu Dhabi Police, and Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL GCC Foundation.

Brigadier General Al Junaibi said: "The growth in population and an increasing emphasis on automation and e-Governance have made it essential for the police force to acquire the right skills and expertise in order to carry out their duties efficiently. Offering ICDL training and testing in-house and on-demand will ensure convenience for our employees and empower them with the computer skills as needed in our work environment. Naturally, we will work closely with the Foundation to ensure that our teaching and testing methodologies are in accordance with the international standards and syllabus of the ICDL programme."

"We would like to express our gratitude to HH Lt. General Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his farsighted initiatives to promote IT literacy in the UAE," Al Junaibi added. "Adopting the ICDL programme as an IT literacy standard demonstrates our commitment to equip our employees with the right skills for the latest technologies. We believe this move will inspire other governmental bodies in the region to adopt the ICDL programme."

Ezzo said: "We would like to commend Sheikh Saif for his persistent efforts to promote IT literacy in the country. We are proud that the ICDL program has been selected by Ministries of Education and government bodies all over the region to ensure that the benefits of IT reach all sections of the society. The accreditation of the Administrative Training Institute will ensure that the police force is equipped with competitive IT skills, thereby helping boost the overall organizational efficiency and productivity.

Colonel Mohammed Al Awadi Al Menhali, General Manager, Human Resources, Abu Dhabi Police, said, "Under the directives of H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Human Resources Directorate of Abu Dhabi Police issued instructions to the Administrative Training Institute, an affiliate of the Police Institutes and Schools Directorate, to enhance the IT skills of the Directorate personnel. Being accredited as an ICDL training and testing centre allows the Institute to provide world-class training to the police force. By the blessings of the Almighty, we see today the first step towards realizing Sheikh Saif's vision being implemented."

The Rehabilitation & Employment Centre for Disabled People in Al Ain, a community centre set up by the Abu Dhabi Police, has become the region's first rehabilitation centre for the disabled to endorse the ICDL programme and to become accredited as an internal ICDL training and testing center.

Commenting on the accreditation agreement with the Rehabilitation & Employment Centre for Disabled People, Jamil Ezzo said: "Undoubtedly, people with disabilities are an integral part of our society. Providing them with computer skills is critically important to open up ample opportunities for them to contribute in the development of the society. ICDL has been helping people from all sections of the society to improve their chances of achieving greater success at workplace through basic and advanced computer courses attuned to the needs of the modern market place. We are pleased to have granted accreditation to the Rehabilitation & Employment Centre for Disabled People as an ICDL training and testing centre."

Al Junaibi said: "By providing custom-designed training and testing solutions to meet the special needs of the physically challenged, the ICDL programme creates more avenues for growth and development of disabled people, while improving their employment opportunities. The Centre's standing as a premier provider of training opportunities for the disabled will be considerably enhanced by this move."

The Rehabilitation & Employment Centre for Disabled People, which was established under the directives of the late President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, has been at the forefront of efforts to rehabilitate disabled people in the UAE. The Centre offers various programmes designed to enhance the skills of the disabled in areas such as electronic secretarial and management, graphic design, and computer maintenance.

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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 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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