

ICDL GCC Foundation partnership with HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum IT Education Project generates outstanding results

Over the past 18 months 8977 teachers, government employees and students enrolled in the ICDL programme

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ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body and certification authority of the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) programme in the Gulf region has announced that its partnership with H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum IT Education Project (ITEP) has generated outstanding results in advancing the United Arab Emirates towards a digital society.



ITEP and the Foundation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding 18 months ago to provide the ICDL program initially for teachers and government employees in Dubai. The two entities have taken their partnership to the next step by delivering the ICDL through student summer camps, developing ICDL training and testing solutions for the visually impaired, following the ICDL syllabus and international standards. So far, 1604 teachers, 811 students and 6562 governmental employees have received ICDL training and testing.

Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL GCC Foundation said, "We have had great results in the UAE since our partnership with ITEP. The project has been instrumental in supporting and implementing the ICDL programme as a benchmark for basic IT skills of the educational and governmental sector in Dubai. Identifying and addressing the dire need for basic computer skills within the education system and the government workplace in Dubai; and it remains a significant contributor to the success of the ICDL programme not only locally, but also regionally. We appreciate ITEP's innovative contribution to the ICDL program. Recently, ITEP developed ICDL content to address various needs such as training solutions to the visually impaired, teachers, and the general public."

Commenting on the partnership, Dr Abdullah Al Karam, Director of ITEP said, "ITEP and ICDL GCC Foundation have a common goal, to provide Digital Literacy to all members of society in the country. ITEP's mission has been to focus on technology while providing better education. We are pleased with the results of our relationship which made a positive impact on the performance and productivity within the educational sector. We have been receiving positive feedback from the various bodies that have adopted the programme. The synergies of ICDL and ITEP have helped in achieving this success. We will continue our efforts to realize our ultimate goal of a fully e-literate UAE society."

"In the UAE, the ICDL GCC Foundation has made considerable headway in spreading computer literacy by partnering with various private and public sector organizations. The Government of Dubai has been extensively supporting our joint efforts with ITEP. We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai for his guidance and support," Ezzo added.

ICDL GCC Foundation and ITEP have been working closely in preparing to launch the ICDL e-Citizen project, which aims to raise IT awareness level and increase the number of computer and internet across the various sections of society. The e-citizen project is expected to play a major role in the implementation of the various e-government services as well as in the transformation to a digital knowledge-based society. Another project ICDL and ITEP are implementing is Tamkeen, which aims to offer ICDL training and testing to the visually-impaired individuals. ITEP is also in the final stages of submitting its Braille version of ICDL Syllabus for the Tamkeen program.

ICDL GCC Foundation and ITEP plan by the third quarter of this year to retain the services of a world's leading research and advisory firm to tabulate the impact of the ICDL program undertaken by the Foundation and ITEP. The study additionally aims to measure the impact of the certification on the productivity of employees in various government departments in Dubai.