

ICDL GCC Foundation grants free computer proficiency certification to thousands of youngsters in the region

Children 12 and under to benefit from ICDL's free digital literacy certification initiative

September 24, 2008

ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body and certification authority of the International Computer

Free Enrollment



**If you are 12 or under,
you might qualify for
free ICDL Certification
contact your school for
more details**

Driving License (ICDL) program in the Gulf, will once again extend its goodwill throughout the region by granting free ICDL certification to thousands of children aged 12 and under across the Gulf. The initiative aims to develop computer literacy at an early age in order to prepare Arab youth to use information technology as a tool for sustainable education.

The Foundation will intensively promote its latest children-oriented campaign through the region's education ministries, educational zones, schools and other academic organizations. Teachers will be briefed on the campaign details and objectives beforehand so that they can properly prepare their students. Several public and

private sponsors have already committed to participate in this initiative with prizes and rewards to outstanding participants as well as funding as an expression of full support and appreciation. Gulf education ministries and other authorities have likewise lauded the ICDL GCC's latest initiative and its positive effect on regional social development.

“As part of its campaign toward a digital society for all, ICDL GCC Foundation is committed to supporting the governments of the region by funding programs that benefit their community with computer skills. The inclusion of children in our digital literacy movement has become instrumental to reforming educational systems around the world and we are proud to contribute with such initiatives that reach out to the youngest children. We encourage organizations from the public and private

sectors to also participate in similar programs through their own Social Corporate Responsibility (CSR) budgets to further digital literacy not only among children but also among women, retirees, people with special needs, job seekers and other social groups,” said Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL GCC Foundation.

This new ICDL initiative, which will run until the end of the 2008-2009 academic year, complements region-wide efforts to establish a digital society and reflects the importance placed by the organization on the role of youth in the Arab World’s sustained development. The Foundation had in fact recently honed the IT skills of more than 10,000 students throughout the Gulf during special training camps held during the summer of 2008. Aside from proficiency, these and other ICDL GCC youth programs also emphasize on the ethical and safe use of computers.

ICDL GCC Foundation is the regional operator of the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL), a vendor-neutral global computer literacy initiative owned and coordinated by the European Computer Driving Licence Foundation, a not-for-profit organization with the aim to promulgate digital literacy around the world. ICDL GCC Foundation, which reported last October more than 600,000 registrations in its program in the Gulf region, presently administers and oversees the ICDL program through 1,800 approved centers in Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

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