



Press Release

Bahrain Polytechnic endorses ICDL programme and receives accreditation for its centre

Move is expected to assist the development of a skilled vocational Bahraini workforce

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Bahrain Polytechnic recently signed an agreement to endorse the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) digital literacy program, in line with its strategy to enhance the IT skills of its vocational students. Under the terms of the agreement which was signed on 26th October, the ICDL GCC Foundation, governing body and certification authority of the ICDL program in the Gulf region, will accredit Bahrain Polytechnic as an ICDL training and testing centre.

The Polytechnic recently hosted a three day Certified Training Professional (CTP) training session which was delivered by an ICDL training expert and was attended by candidates from various education institutes. The ICDL GCC Foundation have mandated the CTP program in its network of over 1000 training centres as part of its effort to promote best practices and to enhance the quality of ICDL training programmes across the Gulf region. The CTP programme is a non-end user certification designed specifically for ICDL trainers. The programme rightly complements the Polytechnic's commitment of providing Bahrainis with academic knowledge and practical skills which they can use to contribute to and benefit from the Kingdom of Bahrain's rapid economic growth.

Jan Holden, Acting Head of Business, ICT and Engineering Faculty at Bahrain Polytechnic, commented during the signing agreement "IT competency has become an important criterion for all industries throughout the regional and global job market. The global stature of the ICDL programme makes it a superior source of world-class computer, internet and general IT skills. Our partnership with ICDL-GCC will enable us to graduate highly skilled and competitive workers whom meet the job market needs and will be regarded as national assets."

Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL-GCC Foundation, said "If the governments of the GCC countries wish to succeed in their bid to build their national capability and transform their respective countries into digital societies of which I am certain, then they need to focus on educational platforms that emphasize on technology for the youth. We are pleased to form this partnership with Bahrain Polytechnic as part of our continuous efforts to spread digital literacy in Bahrain and reach as many individuals as possible."

Bahrain Polytechnic has been established by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa by Royal Decree No. 65 for year 2008 as a key initiative of the National Education Reform Project Board chaired by H.E. Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Education and Training Reform Committee. The Polytechnic will address the need for a skilled Bahraini labour force and will produce graduates who are work-ready. The programmes provided by the Polytechnic have been

developed in consultation with business, industry, professions and international education and training institutions.

Endorsed by education ministries, universities and government organizations worldwide, ICDL is an inclusive digital literacy program that empowers individuals with the essential concepts of computers and practical use of common desktop applications. The program is based on a recognized global standard acknowledged through testing and proves that the certificate holder has fundamental skills in IT, using the computer & managing files, word processing, spreadsheet, database, presentation, and information & communication (Internet and e-mail). The ICDL syllabus also offers a broader perspective on computer netiquette by focusing on responsible use of computers and Internet, covering important social areas such as intellectual property rights, virus protection and recycling.

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