



ICDL GCC



### Press Release

## **ICDL center opened in Abu Dhabi's Al Wathba prison**

*Move aims to engage inmates in constructive activities that will help them become productive members of society*

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

H.E. General Obaid AlHiri Salem Al Ketbi, Vice President Abu Dhabi Police, inaugurated the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) center at Al Wathba prison which has been set up in cooperation with ICDL GCC Foundation, Dubai Islamic Bank Humanitarian Organization and Real Time Institute. The opening of the center was also attended by Colonel Mohammed Saif Al-Zaabi, deputy administration manager, Abu Dhabi Police and other senior officers.

General Al Ketbi emphasized the instructions of Lt. Gen. Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Interior, to provide rehabilitation facilities for inmates and engage them in activities that will develop their knowledge and skills to make them productive members of society and enhance their contribution to national development.

He pointed out that the new ICDL center will ensure that the inmates will make productive use of their time and will also encourage their family members to become IT literate. General Al Ketbi highlighted the government's commitment to rehabilitate inmates through educational and rehabilitation programs to make them responsible members of society.

“Having an ICDL center within Al Wathba prison is a major step forward in equipping inmates with necessary IT skills that will help them lead productive lives upon their release. I urge the inmates to make the most of this opportunity and join the first course the center will be offering,” said H.E. General Obaid AlHiri Salem Al Ketbi.

“We see our partnership with Al Wathba Prison as a major achievement in our goal to promote digital literacy for all. We hope that correctional facilities throughout the region will be inspired to implement similar initiatives that use IT as a tool for rehabilitation. We shall continue to support the Abu Dhabi Police and other activities that improve social conditions while promoting IT as a means for personal and professional growth,” said Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL GCC Foundation.

The total of 32 inmates – divided into two batches – who will be taking the first ICDL course expressed their joy following the opening of the ICDL center within the prison as they were confident that this will enable them to find suitable jobs and make valuable contributions to the society. They also thanked H.E for his continuous support and for his interest in developing rehabilitation programs in the prison.

Endorsed by education ministries, universities and government organizations worldwide, ICDL is an inclusive digital literacy program that empowers individuals with the essential concepts of computer 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

netiquettes 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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