



Michigan State University Dubai Hosts ICDL Certified Training Professional workshops

ICDL tapping academic partnerships to enhance computer literacy training throughout the Gulf

ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body and certification authority of the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) program in the Gulf region, is conducting two Certified Training Professional (CTP) workshops at Michigan State University (MSU) Dubai as part of the partnership agreement, signed in October 2009, which marked the establishment of a new ICDL Certified Training and Test Centre at MSU Dubai. The workshops started on January 30th and will end on 4th February 2010, with 26 participants from all GCC Countries.

Through the CTP program,, the Foundation aims to certify the competences of ICDL trainers in training performance, lesson plan development, and course evaluation for accredited institutes across the Gulf region. The Qualified CTP candidates selected for the workshops have been ICDL certified and are technically proficient in all seven

modules of the ICDL program. They have also acquired considerable training or teaching experience in delivering ICDL or IT training.

Mr Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL GCC Foundation, said: “This is an excellent follow-through to the agreement we made with MSU Dubai, recently. We consider the educational sector a vital partner in advancing our IT literacy goals throughout the region, especially those that adopt global best practices such as MSU Dubai. In the same manner that MSU is renowned for its substantial economic impact in its home state in the US, we want the Dubai branch to gain prominence as a major source of world-class information and communications technology knowledge and skills in the region.”

The CTP program covers non-end user certification designed specifically for ICDL trainers and is mandated in the ICDL GCC Foundation’s over 1,000 regional training centres. In addition to the CTP sessions, the Foundation and MSU Dubai are also collaborating on the introduction of a new ICT curriculum which will be offered both in Arabic and English.

Ms. Myra Khattab, Program Manager at MSU Dubai added: “Technology is rightly recognized as a cornerstone for the Gulf’s continued economic, commercial and social growth and development. We are delighted to host the ICDL CTP workshops and we believe that through our ICDL programs, we will be able to raise awareness across society and our students of the integral role of ICT in the study area, the workplace and daily lives, as well. Our partnership with ICDL will also help enable us to address concerns about the ability of local talent and expertise to keep up with the region’s rapidly expanding ICT landscape,”

ICDL, the world's largest vendor-neutral end-user computer skills certification, is recognized as the global benchmark in developing IT literacy. The program provides certification for fundamental IT skills such as word processing, file management and internet use. It is endorsed by education ministries, universities and government organisations in more than 168 countries and is available in over 48 languages, including

Arabic. The ICDL GCC Foundation is one of the global program's most productive regional arms.

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About Michigan State University Dubai

MSU Dubai was the first American university with a presence in DIAC, with classes beginning in August 2008. The University offers six undergraduate programs - Business Administration; Child and Youth Development; Computer Engineering; Construction Project Management; Early Childhood Education; Media Management and Research; and a Master's Degree in Human Resources & Labor Relations. The University attracts students from all over the Middle East and beyond and currently has more than 100 students enrolled across its programs.

Michigan State University is a top American teaching and research university. Faculty members at MSU Dubai hold doctoral and other appropriate degrees in their areas of expertise as teachers, scholars and researchers from MSU, and include a substantial number of regular faculty from the MSU main campus in the United States.

MSU is fully accredited by the American North Central Association Higher Learning Commission and has full academic authority and quality control over courses and programs. MSU's regular courses, program, degree, admissions and accreditation requirements are maintained in Dubai and diplomas awarded are standard MSU diplomas.

Michigan State University has been advancing knowledge and transforming lives through innovative teaching, research and outreach for more than 150 years. MSU is known internationally as a major public university with global reach and extraordinary impact. Its 17 degree-granting colleges attract scholars worldwide who are interested in combining education with practical problem solving.

MSU has been ranked one of the top 100 universities in the world, for six consecutive years, by Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education in its annual Academic Ranking of World Universities.