



**Press Release**

**Qatar's Supreme Education Council to renew partnership agreement with ICDL GCC Foundation**

*Council recently opened a certified training centre to provide training and testing to thousands of teachers in line with aim to further develop country's education system*

January 20, 2010

Qatar's Supreme Education Council (SEC) has announced that it has renewed its strategic partnership with the ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body and the certification

authority of the International Computer Driving License program in the Gulf States. The renewal of the agreement comes in line with the Council's vision to enhance the abilities and skills of the teachers, administrative staff and students, while underlining the role of Information Technology (IT) in further developing Qatar's education system. The move is expected to help Qatar's young generation easily join the local, regional and international job markets, and will in turn support the social and economic development process in the country.

The Supreme Education Council recently opened a certified ICDL training and testing centre, in cooperation with the ICDL GCC Foundation with the aim to develop basic computer and internet skills among the largest possible segment of teachers and employees in the education sector. The Council plans in collaboration with the ICDL GCC Foundation to launch a number of initiatives and awareness campaigns in schools and relevant departments to encourage staff and teachers to enrol in the digital literacy programs and promote the use of IT in learning and teaching.

Essa Saleh Al Hor, Manager – HR & Administration Standard Service at Qatar's Supreme Education Council, said, "The Council aims to develop IT and computer skills to further develop the quality of education and create a young generation that is able to contribute significantly to the all round development of Qatar in accordance with the best practices and highest international standards. Through our partnership with the ICDL GCC Foundation we aim to emphasise the importance of information technology in supporting the growth witnessed by Qatar at all levels, in addition to developing the education sector by promoting digital literacy among teachers and students. In this regard, we aim to provide ICDL training and testing services to thousands of teachers and students in the new centre. I would also like to reaffirm our commitment to cooperate with the ICDL GCC Foundation to promote information technology in the country in line with the government's guidelines, which aim to create an integrated knowledge-based society."

For his part, Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL GCC Foundation, said, “The education sector plays a vital role in the sustainable development process at all levels, which makes it imperative to intensify the joint efforts to further develop education in accordance with the highest international standards. Furthermore, amid the digital revolution, it has become necessary to rehabilitate the youth and develop their competencies and skills related to IT. This in turn will open new prospects for them and facilitate their integration into the job markets and involve them in the country’s development process. The renewal of this agreement complements our focus to cooperate and coordinate with all the leading players in digital literacy. In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to provide all the available tools and means to support the efforts of the Supreme Education Council in the area of digital literacy in Qatar’s education sector.”

As per the agreement, the Supreme Education Council will provide the training services in addition to supervising and monitoring the ICDL tests conducted in all the ICDL GCC Foundation-certified centres in Qatar, in accordance with the highest globally recognised standards to promote digital literacy in the education sector. Furthermore, within the framework of cooperation, both parties will collaborate in the preparation of the students’ summer camps for training and testing for the ICDL program in 2010. The Foundation will also support the Council’s efforts to implement the ICDL standard by funding an awareness campaign about the importance of digital information within the departments associated to the Council and in the private and public schools.

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