



Press Release

ICDL raises the bar on the delivery quality of digital awareness across the GCC

The move aims to engage renowned institutions to accommodate large-scale national projects with reach to remote areas

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ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body of the ICDL certification program in the Gulf States and Iraq, announced today the launch of its Academy membership program with the aim of upgrading the standards of computer training being offered in the region. The Academy program plans to distinguish and engage those renowned Academic and training institutions that already have a longstanding partnership with ICDL, to accommodate large-scale national projects requiring wide geographical coverage with reach to remote areas.

The ICDL Academy program recognizes those training and academic institutions operating an ICDL Accredited Centre while meeting specific requirements pertaining to capability and capacity to address the masses. Member institutions that join the program become eligible to offer off-site training and testing giving them a regional scope and access to rural areas.

Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL GCC Foundation, said: “The ICDL Academy program was introduced in support of our region-wide digital initiatives. Many of the Academic and training institutions that have joined already have the infrastructure and geographical presence in place to help us achieve our vision of inclusiveness. These institutions have been recognized for their outstanding achievement with the ICDL program and deserve a distinction for their ability to cope with volume while maintaining the highest quality standards. Their unique standing combined with their credibility will boost benefits to candidates and maximize their value proposition to governments that support national digital awareness initiatives.”

ICDL will empower Academy members with exclusive privileges that distinguish their partnership with ICDL among its wide network of accredited centers and enable them to maximize the benefits being offered to organizations and candidates. ICDL Academy members can exclusively provide a more diversified range of ICDL

program offerings, allowing them to reach out to more groups of learners across different locations.

In addition to the e-Citizen program, which supports the e-government's vision for a knowledge-based society, ICDL Academy members can also offer ICDL Advanced, a higher-level certification for individuals who wish to confirm their expertise in specific computer applications, and ICDL Start, an introductory level program suitable for teenagers that is being offered through the ICDL Computer Summer Camps currently running across the GCC. Owing to their high capacity in running full-size projects and their superior capability and expertise, Academy members will also have priority access to initiatives developed by ICDL GCC Foundation in cooperation with government or semi-government departments and organizations and which propose the aforementioned programs.

ICDL already named Higher College of Technology - CERT (Center of Excellence for Applied Research and Training), UAE University – UGRU (University General Requirements Unit), Kuwait University –Khawarizmi Training Center, Al Khawarizmi International College, and Ibn Majed International Center, as the early entrants to the membership program and intends to expand the circle to include selected strategic partners in each country of the GCC.

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About ICDL

ICDL is an integrated digital literacy program recognized worldwide. The program empowers individuals with the essential skills and knowledge of computer and practical use of common desktop applications. ICDL is based on a recognized global standard, acknowledged through testing, and proves that the certificate holder has fundamental skills in IT, using the computer and managing files, word processing, spreadsheet, database, presentation, and information and communication (internet and e-mail). Available 41 languages, the program is endorsed by education ministries, universities and government organizations and is accredited by 148 countries.