



5000 teachers and administrators in Qatar to obtain ICDL certification within two years

Supreme Education Council cooperating with ICDL GCC Foundation to promote digital literacy and bring paradigm shift in educational system

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The Supreme Education Council of Qatar (SEC Qatar) has revealed its plan to provide computer training to 5,000 teachers and administrators in independent schools in Qatar over the next two years. This is in line with SEC's commitment to develop the academic and learning community by providing opportunities to stay updated with the latest trends in the IT sector, thus serving as a crucial move to achieve comprehensive development in the country.

The move is also part of the strategic partnership between SEC and ICDL GCC Foundation, to enhance IT skills and promote the safe use of computers and the internet among teachers and students. It also aims to raise further awareness on the importance of promoting digital competence to drive the transition towards an integrated knowledge-based society.

Commenting on the program, Ms. Amal Al-Kuwary, Director of Information Technology Department and ICDL program Supervisor, SEC, said: "We are delighted to have partnered with ICDL GCC Foundation and Infocenter to implement a training program in the educational sector on the competent use of computers and IT, which will provide teachers and staff with the necessary skills to optimally capitalize on the digital revolution. The program fosters quality, efficiency and equality to further enhance the learning experience, under our motto "Education for a New Era"; and build a young generation capable of leading Qatar's excellence in scientific and educational development.. This initiative is of great significance as it targets a large number of teachers and administrators, which contributes to raising awareness on the importance of digital literacy in developing human competencies that can drive scientific research, as well as cultural and intellectual development under Qatar 2030 Vision."

The first phase of the ICDL training program has been implemented in early October 2011, in collaboration with Infocenter Qatar. It aims to improve education by focusing on the investment in the human element, which is a key contributor to change and development. The administrative

and teaching staff will be equipped with the necessary IT and computer-use skills to help them teach the modern curricula and courses with the use of interactive technological tools within a creative setting that allows easy access to information, in a way that enriches the students' learning experience and provides them with vast knowledge that will help their future development.

“We are pleased to work with SEC which has played a pivotal role in Qatar’s educational reform process”, said Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL GCC Foundation. “We are committed to offering our total support to the Council to help them achieve their objectives and bring in a paradigm shift in the development of the education system in line with the highest international standards. We also look forward to continue strengthening our strategic partnership in innovative ways. Given the role of education as a key pillar of community development, we have been working with SEC Qatar and Infocenter Qatar to implement this training program and enable all public administrators and teachers to pursue professional development by acquiring technical skills. This further promotes the learning environment and opens new prospects for students to obtain higher academic qualifications and actively integrate themselves into the local, regional and international job markets, thus contributing to the social and economic development in their country.”

For his part, Maaz Al Khatatba, CEO, Infocenter Qatar, said: “This initiative is a crucial step forward towards raising further awareness within the academic community on the importance of IT in driving development across the different segments in Qatar. It will also help develop the learning structure by adopting modern knowledge and innovative practices that would radically change the educational system and produce a whole new generation of students who are able to pursue excellence and creativity in various technical and scientific fields.”

Established by Emiri decree #37 in November 2002, the Supreme Education Council (SEC) directs the nation’s education policy. It currently supervises three executive authorities related to the implementation of the country’s development plan: The Education Institute, The Evaluation Institute and The Higher Education Institute. SEC works under the motto “Education for a New Era” to drive educational reform efforts in Qatar by focusing on the implementation of the highest standards of quality across the educational systems and promote innovation, creativity and scientific excellence.

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