



Press Release

Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization joins forces with ICDL to raise IT awareness among volunteers and personnel

Strategic partnership to promote humanitarian work in line with rapid IT developments

March 28, 2012

ICDL GCC Foundation has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Riyadh-based General Secretariat of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies. The strategic partnership aims to raise digital awareness among Red Crescent and Red Cross establishments and further support their efforts to promote humanitarian work and volunteerism. The agreement was signed at the Movenpick Hotel in Dubai by Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hazza, Secretary

General, Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, and Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL GCC Foundation; as part of the 39th meeting of the General Authority of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization.

Under the partnership, Red Crescent and Red Cross personnel in the Arab world will be able to obtain the ICDL certification, which is recognized as a global standard for end-user computer skills, and receive incentives that will further motivate them to help in achieving the objectives of the MoU. Both parties have also agreed to cooperate in awareness campaigns targeting Red Crescent and Red Cross personnel about the importance of ICDL for both personal and professional development. The partnership also demonstrates a shared commitment to introduce pioneering projects that drive the economic and social development of GCC countries, focusing primarily on empowering the families of volunteers as part of a social responsibility effort with mutual support from both organizations.

Abdullah Al Hazza underlined the importance of the agreement with ICDL GCC Foundation to support the Organization's efforts in enhancing computer skills and promoting IT awareness within Red Crescent and Red Cross establishments, while helping them promote humanitarian work and volunteerism in the Arab world with the use of modern technology and devices. He further noted the critical role of ICDL in the success of the partnership, being a leading entity in raising IT awareness and skills among all members of the society. Al Hazza also expressed his satisfaction with the cooperation with ICDL GCC Foundation to implement the ICDL program, which is the only IT certification in the world to be endorsed by United Nations Organizations. He said that the partnership will positively influence the performance of the Organization and enhance the impact of humanitarian work and volunteerism in the Arab world. He added: “We are confident that this move will provide a solid foundation for our efforts to improve the IT skills of our personnel. This will ultimately help improve the performance of the Organization and further drive our efforts to promote humanitarian activities in the Arab region.”

Jamil Ezzo stated that the strategic partnership with the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization is in line with ICDL's commitment to cultivate the IT culture and support efforts to establish a knowledge-based economy. ICDL is fully committed to provide necessary support for

the successful implementation of the ICDL program within the Red Crescent and Red Cross establishments, while raising greater IT awareness among volunteers and supporters of its charitable initiatives.

Ezzo added, “The Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization further strengthens our network of strategic partnerships with ministries, governmental authorities, major academic institutions, private organizations and civil society organizations in the GCC region and Iraq. Leveraging our expertise in implementing the ICDL program at the local and international level, we aim to promote digital competence within different Red Crescent and Red Cross departments and organizations. In light of the rapid advances in IT, we also look forward to further expand our cooperation with the Organization to serve more members of the community in line with our continuing efforts to establish strong partnerships, support economic growth, strengthen relations within local communities and enhance the quality of life in the Arab world.”

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