



Press Release

Dammam first among Saudi universities to adopt New ICDL Profile

New ICDL offers flexibility and four new modules

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Dammam university – Preparatory Deanship announced today its readiness to implement the New ICDL Profile structure for its students beginning of the new university year, this comes in line with the ICDL GCC Foundation - an organisation that promotes digital skills and cyber safety across the Gulf region and Iraq – introduction last week in Dubai, UAE of an updated and more flexible structure of its international Information and Communications Technology (ICT) certification programmes incorporating four additional modules catering to all users.

The launching ceremony of the new structure was held at the Hilton Dubai Jumeirah Resort and was attended by representatives from 300 ICDL-accredited entities and training centres from across the GCC and Iraq, during the ceremony, an orientation on the

new ICDL programme offered guidance on how to apply the revised structure and the additional modules. The update will affect over a million current candidates, including those who completed their ICDL certification since the programme's launch in the GCC 12 years back by UNESCO.

The Dean of Preparatory Year and Supporting Studies at Damman University, Dr. Abdulbaqi M. Al-Taisan, mentioned that implementing such programs is in line with developments in the field of information technology being witnessed by the university, and that they are being given the utmost importance by the university's administration. This is especially so since they have an impact on learning output and quality among students in the preparatory year, by giving them the necessary skills to work with computers and enabling them to measure these skills by an international standard, in addition to obtaining an ICDL certificate.

Dr. Abdulbaqi Al-Taisan added that the certificate is taught as part of the learning requirements for computer skills, which are required of preparatory year students in order to pass and obtain their certificate. The percentage of students who obtained the certificate last year was 65%.

Mr. Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL GCC Foundation, has mentioned that the new changes include merging current modules and adding new content through four new modules in the options available to candidates, in order to ensure that they cover digital competencies and knowledge which is required currently and in the near future. This enables candidates and institutions to develop digital knowledge in addition to building up competencies and deepening knowledge in an appropriate way. This in turn gives individuals the chance for continuous learning without an end date or time constraints. He also added, "we realize that everyone uses technology for various purposes, which is why we launched the new format and structure as an important step in line with the fast-track changes which are being witnessed in today's world of information and communications technology".

Mr. Ezzo also added that “one of the practical aspects of the new ICDL program consists in the fact that each module represents an independent unit which can be amended to reflect the characteristics, updates, flexibility and variety of the new ICDL Profile”.

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