

## **ICDL Centres its 12<sup>th</sup> Computer Summer Camp Skills on Social Media and Cyber Safety Awareness**



***Annual event showcases private-public partnership in raising cyber vigilance among GCC teens***

Dubai, UAE (25 June 2013) – ICDL GCC Foundation, an organisation that advocates digital skills and Internet safety for all, and the exclusive operator of the ICDL programme across GCC and Iraq, announced that its 12<sup>th</sup> ICDL Summer Camp programme will commence from the beginning of July till August 31. The annual event reflects a major and long-standing partnership between ICDL, government organisations, educational institutions and corporate citizens, all of which are buoyed by a common goal to increase digital and safety awareness among the young generations in the GCC.

Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL GCC, said: “since the ICDL Summer Camp programme was launched in 2001, more than 50,000 regional youth have received the ICDL certification, motivating them to be more resourceful, committed and independent learners.”

“The summer camp is a major part of the foundation’s mission to raise digital awareness and increase technological adoption rate in order to encourage today’s youth to broaden their computer competency. The event also promotes new social skills through interaction among like-minded youth. Not only will participants gain new skills and have fun this summer, they will also obtain an international certification recognized for credit hours by many academic institutions worldwide,” Ezzo added.

Like previous ICDL Summer Camp, this year’s activities will be supported by organisations from the public and private sectors and it is expected to have record participation due to the introduction of new intriguing topics such as social media and IT security. It’s worth mentioning that the competence in the offered courses will empower participants with essential computer skills enabling them to responsibly use computers and the various social media websites. They will also be treated to a series of recreational activities and exclusive gifts from event sponsors. Meals and transportation will be available throughout the four week programme.

In this year’s ICDL summer camp, each participant will benefit from the distribution of a free pocket guide containing 101 tips on cyber safety and the responsible use of Internet and social media websites. This pocket guide is funded by ICDL GCC Foundation, UAE Ministry of Interior (Child Protection Committee) and the Abu Dhabi Systems and Information Center (ADSIC). Other sponsors for this year’s camp include: funding (HSBC and Mashreq Banks), recreational sites (Atlantis Water Park, Dreamland Aqua Park, Dolphin Show in Dubai Dolphinarium, Yas Island water world) gifts providers (Sharaf DG, Emirates NBD Bank, Coca Cola, Canon, Brother International, Nokia, Seawings Seaplane tour operator) in addition to the media partner (ATB Group), and printing partner (UPP).

“Social media and mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets have become an essential part of the GCC population’s daily life. They are used not only by adults and professionals, but also

by students in their teens as well, which makes cyber safety and digital literacy skills all the more important in this part of the world,” Ezzo added.

Endorsed by stakeholders and advocates of modernised education, the ICDL Summer Camp is primarily funded by governmental organisations and delivered through renowned universities with multiple campus locations: Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) makes it possible through “Centre of Excellence for Applied Research and Training” of “Higher Colleges of Technology”, the Abu Dhabi University and UAE University in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi; Sharjah Ruler’s Court assigns the camp project to the University of Sharjah; while Kuwait University and Sultan Qaboos University deliver the ICDL Summer camp in their respective countries. Additionally, many private ICDL accredited centres take part in the annual ICDL Summer Camp offering this programme to reach to a wider scope of the GCC youth.

For details regarding the ICDL Summer Camp, please log on to [www.icdlgcc.org](http://www.icdlgcc.org) or contact **+971 4 4540420**.

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**The International Computer Driving License (ICDL) concept is a global computer literacy initiative developed to raise the level of knowledge about Information Technology (IT) and increase the level of competence in using personal computers and common computer applications for all the citizens of the world. The ICDL GCC Foundation is the sole body to implement and disseminate the programmes across the GCC States and Iraq with the support of leading educational institutions and accredited bodies. The ICDL GCC Foundation mission is to enable proficient use of Information and Communications Technology that empowers individuals, organizations and society, through the development, promotion and delivery of quality certification programmes throughout the world. For dates, locations and further details on the Cyber-safety workshops, visit [www.icdlgcc.org](http://www.icdlgcc.org).**

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