



Press Release

ICDL GCC Foundation supports 2014 Safer Internet Day

Reiterates concern about safety of cyber citizens as part of celebration

February XX, 2014

The ICDL GCC Foundation, an organisation that promotes digital skills and cyber safety across the Gulf region and Iraq, has extended its support to the 2014 Safer Internet Day, an annual global campaign promoting the safe and responsible use of online technology, especially among youth. This year's event will be celebrated in over 100 countries on February 11, 2014 under the theme 'Let's create a better internet together.' It will focus on the online domain, which has emerged the latest and the best medium for information, communication and entertainment, and will discuss the roles and responsibilities of internet users in creating a safer cyber world.

As a staunch advocate of cyber safety, ICDL GCC Foundation continuously conducts campaigns on safe Internet etiquettes, digital safety education and appropriate online behaviour. It has recently launched Cyber Safety Workshops targeting law enforcement, government, educational, teachers, parents and youth across the GCC. The Foundation has also distributed to students among many schools in the region free guidebooks on 101 tips on Internet etiquettes and the responsible use of social media and other smart technologies. The pocket guide, which was distributed for example in UAE in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior's Child Protection Center, was aimed at educating children along with their parents and teachers about cyber safety.

Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL GCC Foundationsaid: "Our increasing reliance on Internet in our daily life has spurred considerable growth in cyber crimes, with children and youth the most vulnerable group to these threats. ICDL has always championed greater awareness on cyber safety and advocated for the implementation of stringent laws to the concerned authorities. By

supporting Safer Internet Day 2014, we reiterate our concern for the safety of cyber citizens. Through our workshops and programs, which we organize on a regular basis, we strive to empower all Internet users, particularly children, in the region with Internet best practices to avoid all forms of cyber threats.”

Safer Internet Day is organized by Insafe, a network of European Safer Internet Centers, to encourage safe and positive use of the internet and digital technologies. It started in 2004 as an initiative of the EU SafeBoarders project and gradually gained popularity across the globe. Now in its 11th edition, Safer Internet Day is expected to be celebrated by over 10 million people worldwide. For more information, log on to: <http://www.saferinternetday.org>.

ICDL GCC Foundation has been spearheading regional initiatives to place IT security and cyber-safety at the top of government agendas across the region. It has been supporting a wide scale implementation of awareness programs including skills validation through training and international certification programs centering on IT Security, Cyber Safety and the effective, safe, responsible and mindful use of Social Media. The Foundation continues to collaborate closely with the concerned authorities and experts to further elevate the level of awareness among the public.

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About ICDL:

The International Computer Driving License (ICDL) is a global computer literacy initiative developed to provide knowledge about Information Technology (IT) and enhance competence of 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 program across the GCC States and Iraq with the support of leading educational institutions and accredited bodies. The 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 around the world.