

ICDL Warns Not to Renew Accreditation of Centers Failing to Meet its Standards

Centers required to provide certified trainers, approved content and legitimate software

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ICDL Arabia, the local awarding body of the ICDL certification, responsible for promoting digital skills and cyber safety has revealed that it will not renew the accreditation of those training centers that fail to comply with its international quality standards. The Foundation has been forced to take impartial measures on all accredited centers following a recent review of the network of 416 centers accredited by it to deliver the ICDL training and testing, indicating that several centers, particularly some private ones, are substandard and not up to par with the ICDL standards.

Since September this year, Egypt has ranked second globally in terms of the number of candidates enrolled in the program, moving it from fifth to second place surpassing Italy, Ireland and Poland. This is evident that the implementation of quality measures on the delivery of the ICDL program by centers had regained confidence among organizations and individuals leading to increased enrolments in the program. All these measures put in place by the foundation rewarded candidates, organizations and accredited centers with return on their investments in the program.

Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL Arabia, said: “We are not only responsible for safeguarding ICDL’s international standards, but also we consider ourselves accountable to governments, organizations as well as members of society to deliver world-class ICT skills by monitoring the training performance and testing integrity delivered by our accredited centers. We are finding serious shortfalls and we are taking serious steps to correct anything that compromises the reputation of our ICDL certification. We are

therefore enforcing new measures that will lead to improving the overall quality and are keen to disassociate ourselves with any center who fails to meet our standards. We understand that there are economic and logistical challenges facing the training industry, but we equally need to be mindful that ICT skills are a key to economic growth and are a national priority.”

In line with these efforts, ICDL Arabia has doubled up on its quality assurance staff, as well as required all its accredited centers to certify their trainers and use only ICDL approved content in training candidates; hence reducing test failures and the associated time and costs incurred by employers as well as candidates.

“Changes in technology and the need for relevant skills in the workplace are happening too fast; and those who cannot keep up on the delivering or receiving end will undoubtedly become obsolete. ICDL is fully committed to staying abreast with the latest ICT educational and training trends and ensuring that all its accredited centers live up to the upcoming challenges by having the capability to deliver our world-class certification program”, added Ezzo.

Coinciding with of these new measures, ICDL Arabia has recently introduced its newly redesigned ICDL certificate incorporating new security features to curtail the proliferation of fake ICDL certificates. ICDL Arabia vowed to pursue all fraud cases legally and is currently working closely with the concerned authorities to prosecute all those who illegally produce, sell, grant and carry fake ICDL certificates.

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