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### **Ministerial** Welcome

I am honoured to welcome you all to MENA Innovation 2019 and to the warm hospitality of Oman. I am delighted to see so many of my counterpart ministers and officials from across the Middle East & North African region. We very much appreciate the time you have taken out of your busy schedules to come to our beautiful country.

It is also hugely encouraging that many industry partners and international investors have travelled from far and wide to take part in this forum. The growing populations of young people, not just in Oman, but across the region along with the changing technological society we live in determine that we are all responsible for delivering an expansion of access to guality education. This is a demographic trend that absolutely focusses the minds of ministers and officials here at the forum and can be achieved through a holistic commitment to ICT innovation in education.

That commitment must entail strong partnerships with industry and the private sector – from technology to content to assessment to training. Investing in education to create a society that learns, thinks and innovates requires that commitment and partnership of all stakeholders, many of whom I am delighted to see here in Muscat at

this event and look forward to further our discussions. outlining potential future agreements and work with all of those who are committed to joining our journey of making students ready for life in an ever-changing and ever-more unpredictable world.

I am looking forward to some stimulating panel discussions and the pre-scheduled private meetings. As the host country, Oman is ably represented by the government, universities and multiple stakeholders including our youth/students.

I look forward to meeting with many of you individually, throughout the event. Oman is a country that is experiencing economic growth and along with our stability and considerable young and skilled population, represents an outstanding investment destination. Of course, we also trust you can spare the time to visit the many wonders of our historic and hospitable country

Warmest regards,

H.E. Dr Rawya Saud Albusaidi **Minister of Higher Education** Government of the Sultanate of Oman

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### Welcome to **MENA Innovation** 2019

The Government of Oman and ArabBrains are delighted to welcome all delegates to the MENA Innovation 2019. The purpose of the event is for government officials, civil society and industry leaders to meet under one roof and engage in opportunities to advance greater public private partnerships in ICT innovation for education.

We would like to offer our warmest gratitude and appreciation to all attending government officials, industry partners, university officers and delegates. This forum is a unique meetings-based event, allowing for valuable one-to-one meetings during the afternoons of 16th & 17th September between government, industry, universities and civil society stakeholders. We are especially grateful to the Government of Oman, the Steering Committee and all Omani stakeholders who have made this possible under the initial patronage of HE Dr Rawya Saud Albusaidi, Minister of Higher Education.

A special thank you is reserved to all our event partners and delegates without whom such considerable organisation would not be possible. We appreciate the support of everyone who has travelled far and wide to be in Oman this year and the time you have dedicated to be part of this important meetings based forum.

On the evening of 15th September there will be a reception for all delegates at the poolside of the Kempinski Hotel. For the 16th & 17th September, these two days are structured around our innovative program of panel discussions in the mornings and then converting to pre-scheduled oneto-one meetings during both afternoons. This includes a special Young Innovators session during the morning of 17th September. The evening of 16th September sees a gala dinner at the Grand Hyatt, Muscat organised by Omantel. Transport has been arranged and we trust all delegates will join this important social occasion. Please see the separate forum agenda for event timings.

There will be 50 meeting areas in the main conference hall. After lunch on both days, the pre-scheduled meetings will start. Government ministries, universities and other key agencies will be hosting these meeting tables and we kindly ask that all officials and delegates start the meetings promptly after lunch each day. The floor plan of tables is available at the entrance to the conference room. Prior to the start of the forum, partners and delegates will have



utilised our online scheduling system to arrange their afternoon meetings. There will also be the opportunity to arrange ad hoc meetings through the course of the event.

We trust this forum can play its own small part in bringing together key decision-makers from both government and industry to build their own relationships and strengthen public-private partnerships. We are grateful for your support and participation and we trust your time at the event is enjoyable, and productive.

Warmest regards,

John Glassey **CEO, ArabBrains Brains Innovation Summits Ltd** 



Download the MENA Innovation 2019 App to your smartphone or tablet now. Available for Android and Apple devices as well as desktops & laptops.

Engage with fellow delegates, see the up to date agenda and your meetings diary, see the profiles of corporate, government, university & media partners and view floor plans to find out where exhibitors and meeting tables are.

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- ICT و STEM التطبيق يساهم في دعم المبادرات التعليميه حسب طرق STEM و ICT
  - التطبيق ملائم مع المناهج التعليميه بالدوله
- بالامكان تشغيل التطبيق بكل جهاز تكنولوجي (حاسوب, تابلت, هاتف ذكي)
  - التطبيق يعزز من قدرات الفهم عن طريق محفزات بصريه-تصويريه
  - یوفر تعلیمات خاصه ومتلائمه مع قدرات ومستوی مستخدمی التطبیق
    - يشجع الوالدين على مشاركة ومرافقة ابنائهم ببرنامجهم التعليمي





18-17

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HIGHI



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# Education that prepares for the future

### Building an effective curriculum in today's schools

ducation prepares students for the future, providing the knowledge, tools and skills needed to enter the world of work. But how do we prepare students for that world when it is changing so rapidly? Advances in robotics, AI, and other emerging social and technological trends, mean governments and national education providers worldwide are asking themselves how best to organise school curricula. What are students expected to learn? Should the curriculum focus

on traditional academic disciplines taught by teachers or be topic based and led by student inquiry? How much emphasis should be given to developing lifelong learning and employability skills? Should team project work be more prominent and academic study reduced?

The greatest concern for educators is to help students learn better and learn more. Policymakers and schools have a responsibility to ensure that what students learn in the classroom – and more importantly, how they learn – The importance of knowledge versus skills is a fundamental concern. Students need to be communicators, collaborators and critical thinkers in order to thrive in new situations and solve world problems, but they also need to have a secure foundation of knowledge

### A broad and balanced approach

The most effective education systems prepare students to get on in life. One of the ways they do this is to offer a curriculum that is broad and balanced, offering choice and flexibility so that students can discover where their strengths lie and what really motivates them.

Breadth is important, but the curriculum should not be so crowded with content that students do not get the opportunity

to master a subject in depth. Deep subject knowledge helps students develop the ability to solve problems, to apply understanding to new situations and progress to the next stage.

Higher order thinking skills – such as problem solving, critical thinking and creativity – can be developed through subject disciplines as well as self-regulated learning, and students should be given opportunities to work in teams and at their own pace. Technology gives students even more opportunities

develops the skills they need to be successful in the future.

The importance of knowledge versus skills is a fundamental concern. Students need to be communicators, collaborators and critical thinkers in order to thrive in new situations and solve world problems, but they also need to have a secure foundation of knowledge. Well-designed curricula focus on both of these priorities, helping students to develop a love of learning.

to collaborate, within their own school and across districts, nationally and internationally.

Opportunities for students to take part in broader educational experiences which are not assessed through external examinations, such as local community projects or work placements, can help prepare them for life after formal education and should be welcomed.



#### Establishing a learning orientation

At Cambridge our work with governments is based on helping to build education systems that have a learning orientation, rather than a performance orientation.

Research such as John Hattie's Visible Learning for Teachers (2012) and the Teaching and Learning Toolkit from the UK based Education Endowment Foundation tell us that building students' capacity to think about their thinking and to understand how they think, creates the conditions for sustained improvement in educational achievement. Students who are able to think explicitly about their own learning have been shown to make better progress than those who don't. Being able to work this way helps learners to prepare for employment and enables them to acquire new knowledge and skills throughout their working lives.

In a world that is constantly evolving, changing the way in which students learn early on in life, can equip them with the tools they will need to cope well with uncertainty and to adapt to new situations in the future.

#### Developing global citizens

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, our future depends more than ever on cooperation across borders in the face of shared challenges and increased globalisation means that employers can recruit from a global pool of talent. It is therefore important that education



systems harness effective teaching and learning practices to drive improved outcomes for young people, enabling them to access international as well as local opportunities.

At Cambridge, we believe that education needs to inspire students to love learning. By actively tailoring our approach to each context we work in, evolving in response to changing needs, and sharing best practice in teaching and learning, we can help to develop education systems that ensure students are ready for the world.





### A partnership with Cambridge provides access to specialist knowledge, experience and support in the development and delivery of education reform.

- We work with governments to make real change in global education systems.
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Visit the Cambridge stand to find out more.

### New Licensure and Accreditation Standards for UAE HE Institutions

Dubai, UAE: The Ministry of Education has unveiled a new set of standards to be used for licensing higher education institutions in the UAE and accrediting their academic programmes, scheduled to go into effect as of September 2019.

The launch forms part of the UAE's National Strategy for Higher Education and serves to achieve the country's ambitions for enhancing the quality and global reputation of its local higher education sector.

The new accreditation standards cover 11 academic and administrative aspects of higher education institutions, namely: governance and administration; quality assurance; scientific and research activities; students; faculty; educational facilities; health, safety, and environment; legal compliance and public disclosure; educational resources; financial capacity and sustainability; and community service and integrity.

The new standards have been developed to cover the licensing and accreditation of all types of higher education institutions, including government universities (federal and local), private universities, specialised universities (e.g. police and army), branches of international universities, and free zone universities.

His Excellency Dr Ahmad bin Abdullah Humaid Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of State for Higher Education and Advanced Skills, said: "This new set of standards we are launching follows the directives of our wise leadership to develop the higher education system, upgrade our academic institutions, and promote scientific courses as a means to meet the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, all while achieving the UAE's strategic objectives and empowering a generation of qualified professionals to come up with solutions to local challenges in all sectors."

"Students are our true wealth," H.E. AI Falasi added; "they are the motivation behind all of our efforts. With the new standards, we look forward to creating a positive environment at higher education institutions, where graduates leave with in-depth knowledge, having developed the necessary advanced skills to meet the requirements of the future. We are confident that the coming years will see more UAE universities join the ranks of the world's top 100 universities, further enhancing the reputation of Emirati education and the opportunities it affords to students in the region and the world."

Meanwhile, H.E. Dr Mohammed Ebrahim Al-Mualla, Undersecretary for Academic Affairs of Higher Education, said: "The newly launched accreditation standards serve to ensure the quality of higher education and raise awareness among both students and parents about the importance of pursuing higher education at institutions accredited by the Ministry of Education. Furthermore, they add value to qualifications obtained from UAE institutions both locally and abroad, which, in turn, boosts students' and their parents' confidence in these institutions and enriches the educational system across the country."

What truly sets the new criteria apart is the fact that they embrace quality-based accreditation and licensing procedures, where higher education institutions are classified into several levels according to quality, and "high-quality" institutions will be rewarded."

H.E. Al-Mualla urged students and parents to make sure they enrol exclusively in Ministry licensed institutions and their accredited programmes.



"Students are our true wealth, they are the motivation behind all of our efforts." *H.E. Al Falasi* 



For his part, Dr Mohamed Yousif Baniyas, Director of the Commission for Academic Accreditation of the Ministry of Education, said: "The new standards seek to facilitate the licensure and accreditation procedures applied to higher education institutions without compromising the quality of education."

Dr Baniyas called on higher education institutions to cooperate and ensure that their applications for licensure and accreditation contain the necessary information to avoid delays in procedures, and to respond in a timely manner to comments and requirements of the external review teams assigned by the Ministry, in order to allow the Commission to issue licensure and accreditation certificates quickly and seamlessly.

### **Seamless Licensing and Accreditation Procedures**

The new accreditation standards allow the Ministry of Education to facilitate the licensure and accreditation procedures applied to higher education institutions without compromising the quality of education. Higher education institutions are now required to, electronically, submit a brief "self-assessment report" outlining their strategy, quality assurance principles, syllabi, faculty members, educational resources, facilities, and laboratories. The Ministry is currently working on launching an electronic platform in order to remain up to date on technological developments, and promote a paperless approach to licensing higher education institutions and accrediting their programmes.

### **Quality-Based Evaluation**

The new standards are rooted in a quality-based evaluation, which considers the national and international ranking of an institution, its reputation, academic history, international accreditations it has secured for its programmes, and its compliance with the Ministry of Education's standards, decisions, and requirements. Institutions are then classified along several levels.

The standards were designed to be applied flexibly, where "high-quality" institutions will have many advantages, most notably, a seven-year interval between reviews for licensing and accreditation; the opportunity to have multiple programmes reviewed at once; smaller evaluation teams to visit the institution during a review; shorter evaluation visits; and priority in introducing new programmes, which cuts licensing and accreditation costs by more than 50%.

Meanwhile, the criteria will be implemented differently at "lower-quality" institutions, which will be subject to reviews every three years, with longer visits from larger external review teams, as well as more regular and extensive inspections from the Inspection Department at the Ministry. In addition, a more stringent process will be used to evaluate applications for new programmes from such institutions. These institutions and their programmes can also be placed under probation if their quality drops below a certain level and/or if they maintain low quality scores for long periods.

### **Comprehensive Standards with Specific Indicators**

The new standards also include improvements to address the gaps in existing standards: They outline a clearer procedure for establishing new institutions; identify the measures needed for closing institutions and suspending programmes; clarify violations and corresponding penalties; and set standards for e-learning, recognising prior education, and for educational hospitals and training centres; in addition to determining the financial obligations of higher education institutions.

Specific indicators have been put in place to measure each standard and provide a detailed explanation of its requirements. One of the new standards, for instance, pertains to faculty members. It determines the ratio of faculty members to number of students in a particular discipline and the criteria for selecting faculty members according to the requirements of various specialisations within the university, among other requirements. Furthermore, the indicators cover all criteria related to the educational process from curricula, programmes, and facilities, to activities, and admission conditions for students.



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### Let's first ask what women scientists want

Contrary to stereotypes, women scientists often fare better in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) than they do in other parts of the world, says Rana Dajani, a biologist from Hashemite University in Jordan. Statistics from the OECD, from UNESCO and elsewhere show high percentages of women in scientific fields. The picture of gender inequality is complex and has deep historical roots globally, she says.

Dajani, who recounts how she came to carve a niche in world-class science in an article published in Nature Middle East, has won multiple international honours, both for her contributions to genome-wide association analyses of disease and for her broader influence as an Arab woman in science and education advocate. A book she wrote about gender equality and notions of success, which charts her personal journey, was published earlier this summer.

SciDev.Net spoke to her about misconceptions around gender inequality, and how measures to boost the numbers of women in science are missing a key piece of the puzzle.

### You believe that gender inequality in science isn't a problem specific to MENA or the developing world, though it's often assumed to be. Can you explain that?

In general people look at [regional] statistics in isolation from the world statistics. They see that you have less women in academia [in MENA] for example; and they say this is because they're oppressed, it's because of religion, it's because of culture and so on. However, if we compare the statistics in MENA to the statistics for women in science in the whole world, or specifically for 'developed countries', we find that our numbers are not worse – if not even better.

In the Arab Jordanian context – I teach in the faculty of science, pharmacy, and allied health sciences – all of them [are] over 70 per cent female. And in biology it's 90 per cent.

This [inequality] is a more fundamental problem, much deeper historically, and didn't happen in the MENA region in isolation of other [countries].

So that's what the figures say. What about attitudes between colleagues for example?

In Arab countries the attitudes, the complaints [from women] are similar to [what] you hear in the US and Britain and Europe. It's in terms of competition, not equal opportunity, men's clubs. On top of that, many female scientists have said that although they feel there [are] sometimes not equal opportunities in the Arab world, they did not feel oppressed by their colleagues until they went to the West. There's some kind of respect for women in the Arab countries and I'm speaking [about attitudes] in the workplace. It's very subtle things... there's more respect for a female as she is, and I think even more of her role in society. So for example, even at MIT – I was there a month ago - [women] were complaining that if they wanted to breastfeed there was no place to go [at the workplace]. In Jordan, if a woman is pregnant and she needs time off, all her male colleagues will respect that.

### Let's talk about the more general obstacles that any woman might face. Do you think that lack of retention is one of them?

Yes and no... Many reports [show] that even after you introduce [measures such as maternity leave or flexible hours], that doesn't necessarily translate into increased retention in the workplace.





I think that we're asking the wrong question. Rather than asking 'how can we retain even more women?', let's first ask what women want. Not every woman necessarily wants to be a senior leader or a full professor. So although [it's] very important to make sure there's equity, there's good opportunities, I'm arguing that traditionally, there has been only one definition of success. To me, the way we, as a society, look at success is only one version, [a] kind of capitalistic version – which is how much you earn, how senior you are. And this is a very masculine [way] of looking at the world.

There could be other definitions of success that women may see. But even men themselves – who said they're all the same? It's more about helping humans identify their passions, giving them the right training, the freedom to pursue what they want. This may not translate [to] more women in science. It's about having the right people, in the right place, with equal opportunity.

I don't want to be misunderstood [as saying] companies don't have to do anything about equal opportunity. It's [about] working on both sides.

### How should we go about promoting this different definition of success?



One, you have to educate – for people to really know what they want, you have to expose them to everything. You have to make sure they have the skills to pursue [it]; to have the courage, the identity and the confidence to say 'this is what I want regardless [of society]'.

Second, [you have] to work on society's respect [of] others for whatever they choose. How do we actually do this in practice? Two ways: one is having more role models of different versions of what success looks like – the only role model we see is a successful business person who earns a lot of money. There's no role model that puts value on, say, social [contribution]. And two, mentoring – I help empower [young people] to think on their own.

### What advice would you give a young woman scientist who looks to you as a role model?

I would tell her to find out where her passion lies, and to trust herself and have confidence in herself to pursue that passion regardless of the society around her. And that nothing's impossible; you will achieve what you want if you really want it in the long run; to be patient.

I wanted to be a scientist and didn't get the chance until I was 30 to go towards my PhD. The dream was there, cooking slowly, until the right time. Just find your passion, and follow it, and things will work out.

And my advice to scientists, to the whole community, is to trust women. Society doesn't trust women enough – they always assume that they know better what is good for a woman. The more we trust women, the better we'll be.

This Q&A was edited for brevity and clarity.

#### Anita Makri



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## **LEADING WITH** COURAGE

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### EDUCATION FOR LIFE +

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student experience and a secure learning environment for both students and teachers. The programme provides fully managed online student print services – lowering and controlling the cost of print, fully integrated and secure examination process – saving time and effort for teachers and ensuring peace of mind, and access to data analytics and reporting – providing institutions increased visibility on their operations and effectively control costs.

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### UK strengthening educational ties with the UAE

Universities across the world are increasingly interconnected by the exchange of resources, knowledge and people. Emerging ties include research initiatives, strategic partnerships, study abroad programmes, and the opening of new international campuses. More UK higher education institutions are embracing internationalisation and bolstering their global connections.

In particular, the UK's educational ties with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are becoming increasingly prevalent. The UAE is a country that has some of the top universities in the Persian Gulf region. Apart from its location with sun, sea and sandy beaches, the UAE is developing as a hub for high-quality learning. As educational ties strengthen between the UK and UAE, we take a closer look at the relationship because it is an important one for university staff and educators to understand more fully.

### **UK links**

The UK already has strong links with the UAE, with both the University of Middlesex (UoM) and Scotland's Heriot-Watt University (HWU) involved. UoM has established a campus in Dubai and offers several undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The university also offers several short professional courses, expanding their curriculum for a broad range of prospective attendees.

HWU is an international institution with campuses in the UK, Malaysia and the UAE. Its campus in Dubai offers a range of courses, from entry level qualifications all the way to PhD programmes. It has implicated a "Go Global" student programme that allows enrolees to take part in "Inter-Campus Transfers".

Study abroad programmes can be an eye-opening experience for students interested in getting out of their comfort zone. It exposes them to new cultures, people, places and educational approaches, providing a spectrum of valuable learning experiences and opportunities for both personal and professional development.

"Study abroad programmes can be an eye-opening experience for students."



### **Quality assurance**

University educators or staff must consider the reputation and recognition of partner institutions when advising their students or even colleagues.

For instance, when sending students abroad, they need to understand how a degree or qualification translates in relation universal UK standards. Fortunately, in the UAE, there is a keen understanding of the need for quality control of courses and the overall student experience both in terms of pastoral care and leisure options. The UAE's Ministry of Education is currently partnering with the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA).

As an independent body, the QAA aims to safeguard standards and improve the quality of higher education in the UK. It is also responsible for quality wherever higher education is delivered anywhere in the world.

University representatives must be certain that their students or colleagues that embark on international exchanges or initiatives do so in line with the accepted standards here in the UK. But with the UAE working closely with the QAA, you should be reassured that the quality of educational ties is taken very seriously.



### **Incoming international students**

The educational relationship between the UK and UAE is reciprocal. In fact, the majority of UAE students that elect to study at universities in other countries choose the UK.

University professionals should be aware of this connection because international students are a crucial component of most modern higher education institutions. The UK has an unrivalled international reputation for high-quality education, and there are many students from other countries who are keen to study here. Making links by establishing partnerships or exchange programmes further facilitates this international exchange, an academically and culturally beneficial arrangement for all involved.

### **Financial options**

For those taking part in the internationalisation of higher education, reliable access to finances is a major consideration. Students and staff that travel abroad must clearly understand how they will fund their endeavours, incorporating the nuances of the local financial systems at the same time. Of course, this depends on a range of individual circumstances like the destination, embassy fees, healthcare costs, institutional or governmental funding and a host of other aspects. When you are researching the financial context in the UAE, look at these factors, but also consider how those that embark on international exchanges need to send their money across the globe. Exchange rates are flexible, and when you are transferring large amounts, you should always check the exchange rate from the UK to the United Arab Emirates to get the best possible deal.

### A new beginning?

The educational ties between the UK and UAE are strengthening, and there is great potential in this developing relationship for those in higher education. Any students or staff that explore connections with the UAE will enjoy the support from their Ministry of Education, strict quality control agreements, and a burgeoning community of international institutions that offer high quality learning environments for those that engage with them.



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### Transforming lives by improving education around the world

Education Development Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that transforms lives around the world by improving school systems at scale. Headquartered in the United Kingdom, we have been working with governments and donor agencies to effect and embed sustainable change for over fifty years.

Our specialist knowledge and authoritative research mean we design and deliver effective solutions based on evidence. We have supported clients in over 90 countries with needs ranging from rapid technical assistance, through to designing and delivering longer term programmes across a region or country – operating at scale with highly contextualised solutions.

We have a longstanding commitment to improving education in the Arab world, having served in MENA for over 30 years. From our regional base in Dubai, we have supported important reform projects for government and donor clients across the region.

This substantial experience gives us a strong understanding of local education systems and the importance of working in a flexible, responsive way from relationships built on trust. We remain committed to supporting the region to achieve better educational outcomes for their young populations.

Of particular focus in recent years has been our ambition to support regional governments in addressing challenges around employability. In the UK we provide best in class careers support for young people finding their way into the workforce. This capability, combined with our deep understanding of the Middle East, enables us to work with governments on a regional approach to employability skills for the region's youth.

Dr Patrick Brazier, CEO of Education Development Trust, will be sharing at MENA Innovation insights into how schools in the region can help students to develop agile minds, ready for the world of work in the 21st century.

Education Development Trust is proud to be a diamond sponsor of MENA Innovation 2019. To find out more about how we are transforming lives by improving education around the world, come and meet our experts on our stand or visit our website.

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### Future-focused employability skills







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### Oman & Ireland sign MoU on Higher Education

A memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Irish minister for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor and the Sultanate of Oman minister of Higher Education, Rawya Al Busaidi. The MoU will further develop and enhance the cooperation between Ireland and Oman in the sector.

The MoU provides for the mobility of professors and researchers as well as students, exchange of visits, particularly in the fields of science and technology, and execution of joint research projects. It also encourages participation in scientific conferences and educational workshops.

In 2018, the two sides met to discuss means of developing relations between the two countries at higher education and research level.

Oman is aiming to mirror what Ireland has achieved by combining colleges of Applied Sciences and technological universities to create institutions that would help the Department of Higher Education identify and fill their skills shortages.



Mitchell O'Connor said during the signing ceremony in Dublin that the MoU will allow for an enhanced level of academic, staff and student exchange between HEIs in both countries.

"The Irish education system plays a key role in forging crucial global relationships and building international outlook and awareness.

"One of the core ambitions of the Government's International Education Strategy is to support the development of internationally-oriented, globally competitive institutions and this agreement will assist us in delivering on this ambition," she added.

Bilateral cooperation in education between Ireland and Oman has been reflected in the growing numbers of Omani students currently studying in Ireland – the country now hosts more than 500 Omani students.

Ireland has a growth target of 33% in the HE sector which will result in an increase in international students to approximately 44,000 by the end of the 2019/2020 academic year.

### "The Irish education system plays a key role in forging crucial global relationships and building international awareness."

Kerrie Kennedy gained international print and online media experience during five years of working in various newsrooms and the music industry across Ireland, Australia and the UK. After completing a Master's in Journalism at the University of Limerick in Ireland, Kerrie kicked off her media career as a reporter for The Irish Examiner before moving to Sydney to take on the role of Content Manager for concert streaming site Moshcam.



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### The adoption of Cloud can increase Security and reduce Costs

Use of the cloud to handle IT workloads by education institutions is set to increase by 2020, bringing numerous benefits to the education sector in terms of efficiency, cost reductions and security management, according to the first ever global Enterprise Cloud index commissioned by Nutanix. The study, which examined the education sector's plans for adopting private, hybrid and public clouds\*, found that 55% of educational institutions' workloads will be running in the cloud by 2020, compared to 38% currently. The results depict a future powered by 'hyperconverged' infrastructure, with education institutions to benefit from advantages including improved scalability, lower total cost of operation and flexibility of workload applications.

The Enterprise Cloud Index – produced by Vanson Bourne on behalf of Nutanix – also revealed that in the education sector specifically, 32% of IT decision makers envision all of their applications will be working in a hybrid cloud environment within the next two years, mostly due to the flexibility offered by the hybrid cloud. Overall, seven in ten (70%) IT decision makers stated that the flexibility to choose the right cloud for each application is a major benefit of hybrid cloud. The findings also revealed that application mobility across any cloud is a top priority for 97% of respondents – with 88% of respondents saying it would "solve a lot of my problems".

Aaron White, Regional Director, Middle East at Nutanix comments: "Educational institutions in the Middle East face serious challenges with their legacy IT infrastructure. With the continual growth in online testing, BYOD adoption, the increased need for mobility and remote access by faculty and students, and the surge in learning applications and instructional video, the supporting IT infrastructure needs to be more adaptable than ever. Hyperconverged infrastructure is the perfect solution for colleges and universities. It provides the ideal combination of high performance, easy scalability, simple management, and low cost for server and desktop virtualization, and campus mobility initiatives."

### "Supporting IT infrastructure needs to be more adaptable than ever."

Other key findings of the report include:

- Middle East outpaces rest of the world in the deployment of hybrid cloud: The Middle East runs slightly fewer workloads in traditional data centres and outpaces the global and regional averages in its deployment of hybrid clouds, with 22% penetration reported as compared to the global average of 19% and EMEA (Europe, Middle East & Africa) average of 17%.
- Hybrid cloud better addresses business needs over single public cloud, including the price tag: 87% of respondents said that hybrid cloud was having a positive impact on their businesses, and more hybrid cloud users reported all their needs were being met (49%) compared to single public cloud users (37%).
- Security is top of mind for determining workloads: 71% of respondents surveyed for the report ranked data security and regulatory compliance as the top factor in determining where to provision workloads.
- App developers circumventing IT: 57% of respondents said developers are circumventing IT when it comes to deciding where applications run, putting the organisation at potential risk.
- Finding hybrid IT talent is difficult: With clear benefits to a hybrid model, respondents say scarcity of hybrid experts is a challenge.

Nutanix commissioned Vanson Bourne to survey IT decision makers about where they are running their business applications today, where they plan to run them in the future, challenges in setting up their cloud environments and how their cloud initiatives stack up against other IT projects and priorities. The survey resulted in approximately 2,300 respondents from multiple industries, business sizes and geographies in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa (EMEA), and Asia-Pacific and Japan (APJ) regions.

\* For the purposes of this study, hybrid cloud "describes the combined use of at least one private cloud and at least one public cloud service, with some degree of integration between the two cloud environments."



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## VitalSource<sup>®</sup> MISSION POSSIBLE

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### Dubai schools to be 'fully inclusive' by 2020

Schools in Dubai will now have more reasons to be 'fully-inclusive' with the launch of a guide by Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) aimed at further enhancing inclusive education. All private schools in Dubai will now have to ensure the formation of an inclusion support team to support the principal in achieving a vision of inclusive education in practice.

The measures are being introduced as part of Dubai's move to become a fully-inclusive city by 2020 and part of a new guide aimed at creating a system-wide change and helping build an inclusive system of education. Schools are encouraged to move away from a medical model of assessing any special needs and instead being asked to create life-defining experiences for students of determination and their families.

Fatma Belrehif, CEO of the Dubai School Inspection Bureau at KHDA said, "We are aware of the challenges and opportunities in our journey towards building a fully-inclusive education system. The launch of this new guide for schools is a reflection of our commitment to scale-up efforts and enable schools to create a welcoming environment for everyone. This will only be possible when the entire school community values diversity and believes in creating engaging, relevant and meaningful experiences for students of determination."

Fatma added, "Our conversations with schools are now centred on how we can make progress in overcoming barriers to educational access, participation and engagement. We want to enable schools to have a better understanding and more effective implementation of the standards set out in Dubai Inclusive Education Policy Framework."

### Leadership for inclusive education

Further enhancing the role of school principals and governing boards, the guide outlines the importance of strong leadership:

- Effectively communicate a vision of inclusion, ensuring the engagement of the entire school community
- Develop and implement a comprehensive and strategic inclusive education improvement plan
- Ensure staff are able to use inclusive education practices
- monitor and review progress of strategic plans

### **Three-level planning for schools**

Identifying a common need to support inclusive education, the guide outlines a three-level plan for school leaders.

- Level 1: High-quality teaching where teachers accommodate individual differences in ability, learning style and behaviour, through effectively differentiated classroom practice. Other teaching strategies that can be used include frequent informal and formal assessment and different types of grouping.
- Level 2: Personal support and/or curriculum modification to enable a student to engage with and participate in, appropriately challenging learning experiences and achieve within age-related expectations.
- Level 3: Individualised programmes to accelerate progress or enable students to achieve their potential. This provision is likely to include the use of specialist approaches, intervention or support services.

### **Clearer roles for school staff**

New roles will be added to all private schools across Dubai to ensure better support for students of determination:

- **Inclusion champion:** A knowledgeable educator and a skilled practitioner who support the development of inclusive attitudes and approaches
- Leader of provision for students of determination: Plays a crucial role in supporting classroom teachers to identify and develop specific approaches in the classroom so that every student is empowered to succeed.
- **Support teacher:** Applies inclusive approaches within their teaching practices. They should spend no less than 60 per cent of their time engaged in activities that directly influence the inclusive competence of classroom teachers.
- Learning support assistant (LSA): Replaces the former 'shadow teacher'. LSAs should be trained in using different approaches to lower barriers to learning and to facilitate student engagement and participation within relevant and meaningful learning opportunities.



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Our work includes designing and implementing programmes in curriculum, assessment, publishing, teacher training and raising standards of English language learning and teaching. We create coherent solutions that are scalable, sustainable and have a record of success.

As departments of the University of Cambridge we are committed to delivering the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

#### www.cambridge.org/educationreform www.cambridgeinternational.org/education-services www.cambridgeenglish.org/consultancy

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Canon Middle East FZ LLC (CME), a subsidiary of Canon Europe, is the regional headquarters of Canon in the Middle East. CME was set up in the United Arab Emirates in 1998, and later established as Canon Middle East FZ-LLC (CME) in 2001 as a free zone company. Based in Dubai, UAE, Canon has a strong history of presence in the region. For over 50 years, it was represented in the Middle East through distributors and partners that helped Canon in securing a strong customer base and significant market share in the region. The inception of CME brought Cannon closer to its customers and adds value to its partners.

Canon Middle East today manages sales, marketing and technical support activities across 12 countries in the Middle East and has 286 employees. CME is committed to Canon's corporate philosophy of Kyosei – 'living and working together for the common good'. It pursues sustainable business growth, focusing on reducing its environmental impact and supporting customers to reduce theirs using Canon's products, solutions and services.

Canon's product range is divided into two broad segments: Business Solutions (developing IT products, solutions and services for both the office and professional print environments) and Consumer Imaging (photography, video and digital camera, Laser and Inkjet printers). Canon Middle East has received a number of awards including: the Global Meets Local ranking, Arabia CSR Award, the Dubai Chamber CSR Label, the Best Environmental Practices in the Arab World Award from The Arab Organization for Social Responsibility, amongst others.

Further information about Canon Middle East is available at **www.canon-me.com** 

#### Education Development Trust



Education Development Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that transforms lives around the world by improving school systems at scale. Headquartered in the United Kingdom, we have been working with governments and donor agencies to effect and embed sustainable change for over fifty years. Our specialist knowledge and authoritative research mean we design and deliver effective solutions based on evidence. We have supported clients in over 90 countries with needs ranging from rapid technical assistance, through to designing and delivering longer term programmes across a region or country – operating at scale with highly contextualised solutions.

We have a longstanding commitment to improving education in the Arab world, having served in MENA for over 30 years. From our regional base in Dubai, we have supported important reform projects for government and donor clients across the region. This substantial experience gives us a strong understanding of local education systems and the importance of working in a flexible, responsive way from relationships built on trust. We remain committed to supporting the region to achieve better educational outcomes for their young populations.

Of particular focus in recent years has been our ambition to support regional governments in addressing challenges around employability. In the UK we provide best in class careers support for young people finding their way into the workforce. This capability, combined with our deep understanding of the Middle East, enables us to work with governments on a regional approach to employability skills for the region's youth. Dr Patrick Brazier, CEO of Education Development Trust, will be sharing at MENA Innovation, insights into how schools in the region can help students to develop agile minds ready for the world of work in the 21st century.

#### www.educationdevelopmenttrust.com

**York Press** 



York Press – digital, print, assessment, e-learning – versatile educational materials and e-learning solutions now sold in over 100 countries. Founded by Khalil Sayegh in 1944, York Press is a major force in international educational publishing, drawing on the skills and resources of a wide range of experts, consultants, authors, designers, developers and creative professionals.

York Press offers tailor-made, market-leading courses as well as providing a full range of educational services which focus on: curriculum development; assessment; e-learning; classroom materials including kindergarten, primary and secondary courses; teacher training and professional development. In the UK York Press is well-known for the York Notes, the best-selling series of English Literature study guides, print and digital, published in collaboration with Pearson. This series now covers revision materials for Undergraduate, GCSE, A Level, English Literature and English Language, and Primary English test preparation. York Press also publishes English Language (ELT) materials used in classrooms internationally, as well as Maths and Science – print and digital, including IWB resources. Powered by York-E – The York-E ecosystem incorporates an LMS and a wide range of customised digital assessment resources, deliverable via different platforms according to the needs of the client.

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in the Middle East and the whole world to advance in their careers and life's journey. Offering video courses and motivational/informative talks in Arabic and English. With Offices based in Dubai and Cairo, the video content is developed in-house. Our mission is inspiring and empowering you to achieve your professional and personal learning and development goals by offering you the knowledge and expertise of the top mentors and instructors. Our vision is to inspire Arab self-learners to excel and reach their greatest potential through almentor.net – the Arabs' leading Self-Learning platform.

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#### www.almentor.net

Classera stands with a mission to revolutionize e-learning all over the world, focusing on developing smart e-learning solutions. We are passionate about maintaining a sustainable engagement and motivation cycle for students everywhere, and our vision is to be a game-changer for the e-learning industry worldwide. By inventing inspirational, intelligent, and sophisticated – yet simple – solutions that generate a new learning culture, we aim to provide the environment for a transformative learning experience. Classera has undertaken the challenge to innovate heavily and lead the trends in the educational technology sector, for which we were recognized in 2017 with the Bett Innovation Award, Innovation Product Award-GESS 2018 and Digital Learning Transformation Learning Award London 2018.

#### www.classera.com

jp.ik is number one in the world in implementing innovative large scale Educational projects. Our ambition is to transform Education through Technology and transform the World through Education. The integrated approach developed by jp.ik – "Inspiring Knowledge Ecosystem" – covers three key pillars of a technologybased education project: Technology, Engineering and Pedagogy. With the educational ecosystem, jp.ik delivers more than technology, assuring the knowledge transfer as a key success factor for the long-term sustainable development of communities. Currently, jp.ik is present in over 70 countries, has led over 20 large scale education projects, impacted 15 million students and engaged over 300k teachers.

#### www.jpik.com



#### Matific

### matific

Matific is a globally recognised, award winning online teaching and learning resource for primary school mathematics (Kindergarten to 6th Grade). Headquartered in Sydney, Australia, Matific awards include Best Mathematics Instructional Solution, Best Game-Based Curriculum Solution, and Best Educational App. Matific is currently available in over 25 languages (including Arabic) and is aligned to mathematics curricula in over 45 countries.

Matific's pedagogy combines rich content with adaptive and interactive games. The Matific content is carefully localised and mapped to each country's curriculum and popular textbooks. Children learn at their own pace, improving their quantitative skills and analytic ability in preparation for jobs of the future. Getting started with Matific is as easy as distributing student logins. Teacher training is minimal as Matific was specifically designed for easy implementation.

Matific is known for: Proven to raise test scores, reduce maths anxiety, and increase motivation to learn maths; The ideal program to support and enhance investments in ICT; Provides teachers with engaging, enquiry based maths resources and lesson planning; Offers real time student and school performance reporting; Low cost program that runs on existing infrastructure at schools; Works on all devices and offers online and offline capabilities; Supports STEM learning initiatives.

#### www.matific.com

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We've been in the learning space for over 100 years and have built a deep-rooted understanding of how learning happens. For us, it's developing authoritative content, applied through effective with pedagogy and delivered via personalised learning. We pride ourselves on fully listening and fully understanding each of our customers' challenges. This means we are able to provide powerful solutions tailored to achieving your learning outcomes. Whether you want the latest adaptive digital provision, access to world-leading content, or a blend of the two, we pride ourselves on our capacity to listen, understand and build solutions together.

#### Find out more: www.mheducation.co.uk

MiStore is the leading Apple Premium Reseller in Oman. Through its 5 retail stores and 3 service centers, it offers the complete range of Macs, iPads, Pods, and iPhones, together with a large number of accessories and software. MiStore is a One Stop destination for everything Apple, not only does it house the entire range of Appleproducts – Macs, iPhones, iPads and iPods – but also the latest versions of these products. So whether you are looking for an iPod or a Mac or an iPhone or an iPad with retina display, your search for Apple products and their variants ends here.

Apple Experts – Be it a Mac, iPad, iPhone or iPod, our team of Apple experts guide you through every step of the purchase. These trained professionals help you put a finger on the exact product you want depending on your business and requirement at the workplace or at home. These experts, trained by Apple, are abreast with the latest trends in information-technology and help you find the right device. Apple-certified staff is at hand to answer your questions, troubleshoot problems and perform repairs.

Training – MiStore helps you understand your Apple device from people who know it best. With a dateline to each course schedule, stores in different location hold regular training programs for both beginners and pros. Any problems that you face on a new device can all be addressed to our experts who will handhold you to get started on your new Apple product.

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Education – MiStore is also a solution provider for education that helps schools develop and deliver ICT strategies that transform teaching and learning and ensures that these educational environments work perfectly and smoothly.MiStore has experience in providing Apple solutions to schools, academies, colleges and universities throughout the Sultanate of Oman and provide much more than just the devices. Our expert advice, combined with our professional development program and technical services, enables us to ensure every school, we partner with, achieves their desired outcomes. We provide ongoing support and service based every school's needs. We work hard to provide the best customer service, training, and comprehensive support.

#### www.mistoreoman.com

### **SMART Technologies Inc.**



SMART is a world leader in classroom technology, providing interactive solutions to help every student and teacher discover and develop the greatness within them. A consistent innovator for over 30 years, SMART is the inventor of the SMART Board® and the developer of SMART Notebook®, the world's most popular collaborative learning software, and part of the SMART Learning Suite. With their full range of interconnected displays, software and accessories, used in over 3 million classrooms, SMART helps students and teachers around the world achieve better learning outcomes.

To learn more, visit smarttech.com

### **Silver Partners**

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A\*Star Education Professional resources for education A\*Star Education is a British education technology company of 15 years standing which has launched products in three main curriculum areas – mathematics, coding and history. Code The Curriculum is a complete new coding environment designed to teach coding and critical problem-solving skills to help train the mathematicians, engineers and scientists of the future.

As coding becomes the essential skill for workers in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, those who have the knowledge and skill will design robots and software systems that make other forms of employment redundant. Code The Curriculum provides a self-study course for all teachers, including those who are not computer science specialists, enabling them to improve their understanding and skills and bring coding into their own subject areas as an integral part of their lessons instead of teaching their subjects in isolation, as if computers do not exist.

Students can create any kind of program they can imagine, and a suite of projects is also provided, with source code, which can solve the problems that they encounter in other parts of the curriculum. In mathematics, students' computational thinking can produce algorithms that decompose numbers into their prime factors, factorise quadratic expressions, solve differential equations or create a graphing calculator, and provide a visual illustration of the process. In chemistry, students can produce an interactive periodic table which reveals the electronic structure of any element when selected. In physics, they can model the output of a variable transformer or build a working schematic model of an internal combustion engine.

#### www.codethecurriculum.com

ADVANTESCO is Peplink distributor for the Middle East, Africa and India and Middle East's only certified Apple Consultant Network partner. With Peplink, we provide solutions to all verticals in need of reliable and secure connectivity. Peplink's 10-year experience in SD WAN is completed by their cloud and on-premise management software. Just this year Peplink introduced their new 5G ready device line.

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ApplianSys is the world leading specialist in designing, building and supplying dedicated web cache solutions to schools – in particular to large regional or national education authorities. Founded in 2000, ApplianSys has customers in 150 countries, a network of channel partners around the world and a portfolio of products designed with schools for schools.

Connecting classrooms to the internet can transform education and enable entire nations to leap forward a whole generation. However, the sheer scale of nationwide deployments, the countless number of details that you need to plan and the high cost of reliable internet connectivity present considerable challenges and pitfalls at every step.

Web caching is vital for the success of E-learning, ensuring sufficient and affordable bandwidth for all schools and delivering fast classroom content. ApplianSys is the only vendor to offer a fit-for-purpose schools caching appliance, CACHEBOX, which is at the centre of its comprehensive Education Authorities offering. It's EDUGATEBOX multi-function appliance provides caching, filtering, firewall and more, getting remote schools online easily, safely and at best value. Having worked with Education Authorities for over 15 years, ApplianSys can leverage lessons learned at each phase and across the scope of your connected classroom projects, delivering comprehensive insight to ensure successful nationwide deployment.

www.appliansys.com

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Barco is a global technology leader that develops networked visualization solutions for the entertainment, enterprise and healthcare markets. Our solutions help people to enjoy compelling entertainment experiences; they foster knowledge sharing and smart decision-making in organizations and help hospitals provide their patients with the best possible healthcare.

Barco's mission is to enable bright outcomes by transforming content into insight and emotion. In order to achieve that mission, we offer best-in-class, networked visualization solutions (hardware and software) and related services.

Barco was founded in 1934 in the town of Poperinge, in the Flemish-speaking region of Belgium. Founder Lucien de Puydt's initial business was to assemble radios from parts imported from the United States-hence the name of his company, the Belgium American Radio Corporation, or "Barco".

#### www.barco.com

### Blackboard Blackboard

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Blackboard is an EdTech leader offering a portfolio of connected capabilities aimed at making measurable and sustainable impact on the student experience. Our mission is to serve the global education community and enable student and institutional success with innovative technologies and services. Blackboard partners with clients to facilitate engaging learning experiences – experiences that are seamless, intuitive and insightful. In the classroom, across campus, from enrollment to graduation, institutions are using Blackboard solutions to deliver the type of connected learning, support network and community today's lifelong students demand.

Our solutions provide institutions education insights that are accessible, relevant and actionable. In partnership with Blackboard, institutions are using data to inform decisions and change behaviors. They are leveraging data from all touchpoints and delivering insights at every level, providing the right information, to the right person, at the right time. With education insight, institutions are enhancing understanding, making informed decisions and defining and validating institutional performance.

Our portfolio of solutions is open, scalable and integrated to support excellence in all things teaching and learning. Institutions are seeking technology ecosystems that fit the specific needs of their users. As Blackboard partners, they are establishing adaptable platforms that simplify integration across all solutions and work seamlessly across existing systems. Institutions are maximizing resources, creating dynamic ecosystems and anticipating the future driving academic effectiveness. With 100 million users across 90 countries, an unmatched partner ecosystem, the most comprehensive student success solutions and best-in-class technology, Blackboard is education's partner in change.

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Cengage is the global education and technology company built for learners whose products create learning experiences, building confidence and momentum toward the future students want. Cengage has a single belief, that every student has the potential to be unstoppable, so Cengage designs tools that keep them moving toward their goals.

Visit us at www.cengage.co.uk/education or follow us on Twitter @CengageEMEA and @Cengageskills

D2L is the software leader that makes learning experiences better. The company's cloud-based learning platform is built by educators, for educators and works on any device. It's secure, worry-free technology puts customers first — allowing you to create engaging courses within your existing technology to fit your unique needs.

With Brightspace, you can easily set up individualized learning paths for your students, keep them on track with automated nudges, provide them with personalized feedback and increase their engagement through gamification, social tools, video and other powerful features. The company is a world leader in learning analytics: its platform predicts learner performance so that organisations can take action in real-time to keep learners on track.

Brightspace is used by learners in higher education, secondary schools, and the corporate sector, including the Fortune 1000. D2L has operations in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Brazil, and Singapore.

www.D2L.com Twitter: @D2L @D2L\_EMEA

### Encyclopaedia Britannica

n CENGAGE

Encyclopædia Britannica is a global educational publisher with online products that promote knowledge and learning. Now an online resource for schools, colleges and universities throughout the world, Britannica Digital Learning provides timely, relevant, and trustworthy content that can be used in the classroom and from home, with compatibility to any device.

We're deeply involved with schools, parents and educators, designing products for the 21st-century classroom and today's home learning environments. We're a pioneer in digital education, and produce resources that support the least-to-most able with specifically designed features that aid EAL learners and students with reading difficulties.

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About Epson Middle East: Epson Middle East oversees Epson's operations in the Middle East markets, in close coordination with Epson Europe. Headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Epson Middle East works closely with a network of resellers and distributors across Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Syria and Yemen, ensuring the availability of its wide, technologically-advanced product range to businesses and consumers in the region. www.epson-middleeast.com

Environmental Vision 2050 – eco.epson.com

#### **Finland University**



Finland is a leading country by almost any indicator of prosperity, happiness, equality, cleanliness and innovation. Thanks to investment in education, healthcare, information technology and more, Finland has been able to build the society it has become today. Along the way, we've learned about many things of benefit to other countries too. From maternity care to early childhood education, from public administration to sustainable development and circular economy – we believe there is a lot we can share with the world about societal advancement in the 21st century.

Finland University is a consortium jointly owned by four leading multidisciplinary Finnish research universities: Tampere University, University of Eastern Finland, University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University. We have delivered short courses, professional development programmes and Bachelor's or Master's degree programmes in over 20 countries worldwide. We create new educational solutions to different learning environments, societal structures and needs in close co-operation with our partners and customers who include educational institutions, governments, companies, NGOs, foundations and public or private organisation. We provide leading-edge educational solutions based on scientific research and help our customers to find the best solutions for their needs with tailor-made courses, trainings and capacity building programmes.

Our member universities have over 63 500 students, 1000 professors and 75 international degree programmes ranging from education, innovation, future studies, entrepreneurship and leadership to health sciences and data sciences including for example IoT, AI and cyber security. Finland University has successfully carried out courses and capacity building programmes in e.g. Teacher education systems in the KSA and in Oman, where Finland University has a branch office (since 2015).

#### www.finlanduniversity.com

Gale connects libraries to learning and learners to libraries.For more than 60 years, Gale, a Cengage Company has partnered with libraries around the world to empower the discovery of knowledge and insights by all people, for all purposes. Knowledge is power, and the act of learning is empowering. Access to knowledge offers learners an opportunity to discover the motivation and inspiration vital to making a positive contribution in not only their own lives, but the rest of the world. That's why Gale provides libraries with original and curated content, as well as the modern research tools that are crucial in connecting libraries to learning, and learners to libraries.

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#### www.genuineitav.com

Since 2012 Kortext has established itself as the leading partner for universities and national educational organisations in providing unique personal digital learning content and solutions at a time when content is transitioning from printed textbooks to digital multimedia. The Kortext platform enables students to engage deeply with the multimedia learning content and simultaneously connect with their peers and their teachers to improve their results. Comprehensive analytics provides insights into content usage and utilisation along with student engagement and study patterns, leading to better outcomes.

The Kortext platform aggregates access to all the learning content from over 1,400 of the top global education publishers including Pearson, McGraw Hill Cengage, and Wiley. Today over 100 universities in the UK, and many more overseas, use Kortext to deliver digital learning content directly to students. On the national level projects like the Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB) is using Kortext to provide access to digital learning materials to students across an entire country. Kortext partners with key organisations across the learning spectrum to deliver the best learning experience including Microsoft, HP, Samsung, The British Library, OCLC, and EBSCO along with the learning management system providers such as Blackboard, Moodle, Instructure (Canvas) and D2L.

#### www.kortext.com

# Gale, a Cengage company

#### **Genuine IT Systems LLC**





#### Labtech



Looking for Solutions for creating Employable Skills? Do you wish to exchange ideas on Best Practices for Educational Policy drawn from examples in dozens of countries on six continents? Are you looking for a reliable partner with decades of experience in 75 countries to help build out vocational and technical training systems for rapidly developing countries?

Labtech has been assisting developing countries for over 30 years and has created the largest range of technical training systems in the world that especially suits their needs. Our training systems are used in thousands of schools in over 75 countries and we are able to adapt to your needs to help you achieve your goals. We believe that developing employable skills for both industry and self-employment is a key factor in economic development. Labtech is also a leader in e-learning and Virtual learning for technical education. We have a "Virtual TVET" program which can lower the cost of TVET training by half as compared to traditional approaches.

Come talk to us about what we can do together to strengthen and develop your TVET system! Our services: Lab Facilities Design; Curriculum Design; Provision of Lab; Equipment; Teacher Training; Educational Development Consulting. Our range includes seven major technology areas which covers about 50 trade areas. Electronics Technologies; Electrical Technologies; Computer ICT Technician and Networking; Air Conditioning and Refrigeration; Automotive and Heavy Equipment; Renewable Energy; Virtual TVET: 21st Century Skills and 3D Digital Content.

#### labtech.org

#### **LEGO Education**



We are LEGO® Education. For more than 37 years we have been working with teachers and educational specialists to deliver playful learning experiences that bring STEAM subjects to life in the classroom and make learning fun and impactful. We have a wide range of physical and digital educational resources that encourage students to think creatively, reason systematically and release their potential to shape their own future. Our solutions for teaching and hands-on learning inspire interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and reach from preschool up to high school. These are based on the LEGO® system for playful learning combined with curriculum-relevant material and digital resources.

With educational sets, lesson plans and curriculum material, assessment tools and teacher training and support, we can help teachers meet their curriculum objectives and provide them with the tools they need to make learning inspiring, engaging and effective. We believe that expanding knowledge and building academic and 21st century skills will create active, collaborative, lifelong learners. Together with educators, we aim to enable every student to succeed in education and be prepared for future life challenges.

#### https://education.lego.com

Lenovo (HKSE: 992) (ADR: LNVGY) is a US\$45 billion Fortune 500 company with a vision to become the global leader in Intelligent Transformation through smart devices and infrastructure that create the best user experience. Lenovo manufactures one of the world's widest portfolio of connected products, including smartphones (Motorola), tablets, PCs (Thinkpad, Yoga, Lenovo Legion) and workstations as well as AR/VR devices and smart home/office solutions. Lenovo's next generation data center solutions (ThinkSystem, ThinkAgile) are creating the capacity and computing power for the connections that are changing business and society. Lenovo works to inspire the different in everyone and build a smarter future where everyone thrives.

Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Weibo, or visit us at www.lenovo-education.com

Montessori Centre International (MCI) is one of the UK's leading providers of Montessori and Early Years training. The Montessori Principle is the world's largest global education movement, inspired by Dr. Maria Montessori in the early 1900s.

MCI offers a range of training opportunities, including nationally recognised qualifications, professional development for practitioners, courses for childminders, parents or for those who simply want to find out more about Montessori methods. At MCI, we have a vibrant learning community of students from all over the world who come to learn about the Montessori Principle and what it offers young children. Our blended learning approach combines face-to-face and online learning using our innovative Virtual Learning Environment. Our prime objective is to help you, whether you are a student wanting to train as a practitioner, a current practitioner, a potential Montessori parent, a Montessori setting Manager or Owner, or a member of the public wanting to know more about Montessori pedagogy. MCI is part of the Montessori Group, which includes the Montessori St Nicholas Charity that carries out social impact work. The Group also includes a membership organisation and accreditation service to guarantee the quality of Montessori settings.

#### www.montessori.org.uk



Naseej is the leading knowledge solutions provider in the Middle East serving the region's top Academic institutes, cultural centers, and government organizations since 1989. Naseej provides Academic and Higher Education institutes in the region with comprehensive and integrated solutions and services designed to enable Academic institutions to actively contribute to the success of their students.

Naseej employs over 400 highly skilled professionals throughout the region in the fields of Knowledge management, Information Technology and Business Development that work together to deliver cutting-edge solutions to its partners that includes, e-learning solutions and services, Campus Management Systems, Knowledge Management Solutions, and much more.

To learn more about Naseej please visit **www.naseej.com** 

Lenovo



**Montessori** Centre

MONTESSORI CENTRE

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#### National Geographic Learning







National Geographic Learning, is a leading provider of English Language Teaching materials for learners at kindergarten through to adult and academic education. Our unique partnerships with National Geographic and TED mean we can offer a unique range of authentic materials that can inspire and bring your classroom to life. For information on any of our titles, visit our website **ELTNGL.com** 

OEP is a Finnish company offering international public and private sector customers tangible solutions for a wide range of education and training related challenges. We support education reform and curriculum design and arrange teacher professional development as well as reskilling and upskilling corporate programs. Most of our programs are offered as part-time learning journeys blending workshops, work-based learning, mentoring and e-learning. Our competence-based diplomas are widely recognized in the EU and OECD countries. Why work with a Finnish education and training company? Finland is a leading country in education, innovation, human capital development and digitization. The ICT and games industry sectors are vital to our economy. With all companies in the sector born global, our education and training solutions have already proven to be successful.

Our digital innovation services offer programs for both the education and corporate sectors. The training programs for careers in the games industry range from programming to games design and project management, serving also as a bridge to entrepreneurship. The Digital Innovator program supports the needs of the education sector, with modules focusing on devising a digital learning strategy, digital components of the learning environment and introducing innovative digital approaches to teaching and learning. For more information, meet us at MENA Innovation 2019.

#### www.oep.fi

For Oxford University Press, there is no higher goal than educational excellence – and no better way to achieve it than by working in partnership. Our offering extends from: Learning materials and technologies; Curriculum development; Assessment; Professional development. As part of the University of Oxford, we combine historic learning with the most advanced ideas and expertise to raise levels of attainment globally and in the MENA region. We further our mission of research, scholarship and education by publishing worldwide, combining history with innovation to help deliver educational excellence. From our home in Oxford we reach out to the world, with partners in over 150 countries. Our experts in publishing, international curricula, assessment, professional development and pedagogy are based worldwide and give us deep understanding of local contexts and requirements.

OUP's bespoke options help to integrate materials and technology in a meaningful way to create lifelong learners. Our history may go back centuries but we're at home in the Digital Age, pushing back the frontiers of interactive learning both inside and outside the classroom. We further make it our mission to support teachers, offering training in various formats including courses which are accredited by the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education. We look forward to extending a warm welcome to all at the 2019 MENA Innovation Forum.

#### global.oup.com/about

Panworld Education, headquartered in United Arab Emirates (UAE), is one of the leading providers of content & technology solutions to the K-12, Higher Education, Governments & Ministries and corporate sectors, across Middle East & Africa. The company brings to its customers the best of the solutions of Content, Technology & associated services to support Curriculum content, Reference content, Enrichment content and the associated technologies & services to deliver, disseminate, manage & discover the content. The company cooperates with some of the leading solution providers & OEM from across the world to provide cutting edge solutions in the region. The company is associated with leading educational institutions, academic consortia, national level initiatives and strategic government projects across the region.

#### www.panworldeducation.com

Ruckus provides high-performance, secure, reliable access to applications and services no matter how tough the environment, innovating across wireless and wired access technologies to meet industry-specific needs and deliver great end-user experiences. We serve small, medium and large enterprises and organizations across targeted industries and the most demanding use cases, including education, hospitality, service providers, retail, smart cities and public venues. Our solutions start with the Wi-Fi access points that have, for a decade, consistently outperformed their counterparts. Our WLAN controller portfolio supports every kind of deployment scenario, from the simplest single-site business to multi-tenanted solutions for managed service providers. Our line-up of ICX switches covers the needs of the entire campus from access or edge, powering the APs, to aggregation and core. Our most powerful switches are able to provide the capabilities of chassis-based switches, without the upfront investment.

We also provide secure device access software, in the form of our Cloudpath product, allowing any user and any device to join any network, wired or wireless, securely. We embed network intelligence into our controllers and provide a stand-alone capability for larger networks, where we also support predictive analytics. Our location software provides footfall and asset location data while simultaneously serving as an enabler for location-based services delivered by ecosystem partners. Ruckus will be working with Exertis IOT vendors to showcase how its new IOT controller transforms IOT from a collection of closed solutions into an open enterprise interoperable architecture to deliver multi-vendor IOT as a secure scaleable enterprise solution, transforming outcomes and user experience.

www.ruckuswireless.com

Panworld Education

**Oxford University Press** 

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#### Ruckus



#### **ViewSonic**

VitalSource

Vita



ViewSonic Corporation, headquartered in Brea, California, is a leading global provider of computing, electronics, and communications solutions. Founded in 1987, ViewSonic's mission is to be the preferred global brand of visual solutions as we continue to focus on display-centric product offerings including LED monitors, projectors, commercial displays, and cloud computing solutions. ViewSonic continues to pioneer in visual technology innovation to build a connected and ever-reaching digital future.

#### www.viewsonic.com/me

The World's #1 Digital Content Platform, VitalSource® Bookshelf leads the way, improving the learning experience by making it easier to create and deliver effective and affordable content and is dedicated to providing publishers and other content creators with the ability to enhance their existing content or create new, customised, digital-first products. Our platforms and services support student success and outcomes, pushing the limits of educational technology through innovation, accessibility and simplicity. With more than 1 million titles from over 1,000 educational content providers, no other company rivals the depth of VitalSource's catalogue. We are the partner that 7,000-plus institutions trust to provide premier digital learning experiences to students and educators alike, with access to immersive, engaging digital content, interactive study and comprehensive analytics tools. We give users experiences and insights they cannot achieve with print textbooks, with a long-standing commitment to meet the needs of learners of all abilities. We work to ensure our products are designed from the beginning with accessibility in mind and conduct user studies and a variety of research and usability studies. Collaborating with consultants and advocacy groups, such as the National Federation of the Blind, JISC, Tech for All, to grow the community and the capabilities of each part of the system, we go beyond simply adhering to industry standards.

The complete platform for digital content, from authoring to real-time analytics, we are mobile-first, responsive, accessible, native and 100% offline-enabled. Whatever your digital learning needs, we have the solution.

To learn more, visit **www.vitalsource.com** 

# WILEY

It's the knowledge age – and knowledge is our business. Our challenge is to embrace the opportunities technology brings and share it in new, exciting and rich ways.

We are part of a dynamic, inventive, changing world that uses learning, research and knowledge to find answers to today's challenges. Wiley is a learning business that helps people and organizations to develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

We commit ourselves to helping to drive a successful knowledge economy, supporting quality education, lifelong learning and employment. We commit ourselves to helping our customers to contribute their full potential to the world.

Website - www.wiley.com

#### **Branded Partners**

Acer



blackbaud

Blackbaud

Founded in 1976, Acer now is one of the world's top ICT companies and has a presence in over 160 countries. As Acer looks into the future, it is focused on enabling a world where hardware, software and services will fuse with one another to open up new possibilities for consumers and businesses alike. From service-oriented technologies to the Internet of Things to gaming and virtual reality, Acer's 7,000+ employees are dedicated to the research, design, marketing, sale, and support of products and solutions that break barriers between people and technology.

#### Education website - www.acer.com/ac/en/AE/content/professional-education-home

#### Blackbaud is the world's leading cloud software company powering social good, providing cloud software, services, expertise and data intelligence to over 1,600 non-profit organisations across the Middle East, Africa and Europe, and over 35,000 globally. They work exclusively with higher education institutions, and the wider social good community of foundations, schools, charities and healthcare providers. Their solutions are purposebuilt to meet the needs of higher education institutions, from powering fundraising and alumni relations, scholarship, bursary and grant making programmes, marketing, analytics and payments services.

Blackbaud solutions for higher education institutions enable you to: Advance your institution with increased revenue; Deepen alumni engagement and enhance community outreach; Connect departments and students to save time and effort, while driving increased outcomes; Improve the student and alumni experience through high-impact life cycle management

www.blackbaud.co.uk/who-we-serve/higher-education-institutions

#### Canterbury Christ Church University



Canterbury Christ Church University has a student population of over 20,000, studying a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across four faculties (Education, Health and Wellbeing, Social and Applied Science, Arts and Humanities). Based in Canterbury, with two other campuses across Kent, the University is the largest centre of higher education in Kent and Medway for public services – notably teacher training, nursing, policing, health and social care and career guidance and counselling.

The University has established a national and a growing international reputation as a leading research, training, and consultancy body. In the 2014 UK-wide Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, nearly 90% of the university's research was recognised as 'world leading' or 'internationally significant'. In 2018, our Teacher Education Improvement Project in Palestine, funded by the World Bank, won the Times Higher Education 1 Award for International Impact and was recognised by the World Bank for excellence and for its potential to be replicated in other regions where teacher training is an essential component of strengthening higher education systems. The international and national reputation for cybercrime and forensic policing is very attractive to international partners who are seeking to build capacity in their security services as well as those wishing to engage in research area.

University's priority areas of interest for building partnerships in the MENA region: Capacity-building; Teaching and learning, including transnational education (dual and joint degrees, franchise, articulation and validation partnerships); Research and innovation; Student/staff mobility; English language training and CPD.

#### www.canterbury.ac.uk

#### **Crick Software**

**Crick**Software

Crick Software creates award-winning reading and writing software for children of all ages and abilities, including those learning Arabic, English language learners, pupils with dyslexia and those with other special educational needs/disabilities. The company's best-known product is Clicker, which is currently used in thousands of schools all over the world. The latest version, Clicker 7 Arabic / English, builds on the success of its predecessors and makes it easier than ever before for teachers to provide personalised literacy support across the English and Arabic curricula – from planning, to writing, to proofing.

DocsPlus is Crick's exciting new exam-friendly word processor for struggling writers in secondary school and Further Education. DocsPlus support features include speech feedback, word prediction, subject-specific writing frames and word banks, and a mind-map creator. Crick has also developed an incredibly popular range of apps, which give learners access to proven literacy tools developed specifically for iPads and Chromebooks. The impact of our software: Improved literacy standards in Arabic and English; Students enthusiastically engage in writing; Students are more attentive; Language acquisition accelerated in English and Arabic; Achievement boost for students with dyslexia; SEND\* students access the curriculum. \*SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We believe "that too many children struggle with their learning due to their literacy difficulties. We created our products to overcome those difficulties, and we made them accessible for all. With the right tools, every child can achieve their potential."

#### www.cricksoft.com

Discovery Education transforms classrooms and education systems. It empowers teachers and captivates students by leading the way in providing high quality, dynamic, digital content to governments, school districts large and small, rural and suburban and everything in between. Student achievement is accelerated with Discovery Education as it captures minds and fires imaginations, tapping into students' natural curiosity and desire to learn.

Discovery Education offers a portfolio of opportunities for governments, regional and national, to meet students where they want to learn in the digital age. With award-winning digital content, interactive lessons, real time assessment, virtual experiences with some of Discovery's greatest talent, classroom contests and challenges, professional development and more – Discovery is leading the way in transforming classrooms and inspiring learning.

#### www.discoveryeducation.com

Edmentum International is a provider of K-12 integrated digital curriculum and assessment solutions, working with schools in over 80 countries across the world to personalize learning for each and every student. Our suite of solutions includes Academy, a fully-accredited virtual school which offers students the opportunity to achieve their academic goals, including a state-department-approved US High School Diploma, no matter where they are in the world.

Academy also offers a solution to common challenges faced by schools globally such as teacher shortages and teacher quality. Courses are available across all subjects and grades including specialized and advanced courses. We understand the challenges that implementing a virtual program can bring, but with over 50 years' experience in the education sector, Edmentum International can support a variety of implementation models to ensure any new programs ultimately drive student success. Meet the team at MENA Innovation to discuss how your schools can find innovative solutions to their educational challenges.

www.edmentuminternational.com



## Edmentum International

#### **ETS Global**



Gallup

GALLIP

ETS Global B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of ETS, is the international arm of ETS that brings ETS expertise to educational and business communities around the world. At nonprofit ETS, teams are passionate about their mission to advance quality and equity in education for all people worldwide because they believe in the power of learning. ETS teams strive to provide innovative and meaningful measurement solutions that improve teaching and learning, expand educational opportunities, and inform policy.

At ETS Global B.V., we bring expertise to educational and business communities around the world, including companies, language schools, academic institutions and public service organizations. ETS Global serve 80 countries across Europe, South America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. We offer a range of ETS products, services and learning solutions, including English-language assessments, standardized assessments, training and consulting.

#### www.ets.org & www.etsglobal.org

Gallup delivers analytics and advice to help leaders and organisations solve their most pressing problems. Combining more than 80 years of experience with its global reach, Gallup knows more about the attitudes and behaviours of employees, customers, students and citizens than any other organisation in the world. Gallup supports education leaders by measuring key outcomes and providing insights to create thriving, engaged learning communities where students and educators can reach their greatest potential.

Gallup believes that every organisation has enormous – but largely untapped – potential for breakthrough improvements in employee productivity, customer retention and profitability. Our 2,000 professionals – amongst whom are noted scientists, renowned subject matter experts and bestselling authors – help leaders understand and leverage human nature to achieve sustainable growth and other vital outcomes.

#### www.gallup.com

#### **Hologo World**

hologo

Hologo World – Augmented Reality for Education. Hologo World Inc, is an establishment dedicated to producing educational content for students, teachers, schools and lifelong learners in cutting-edge technology. Hologo employs technologies such as Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Mixed Reality and Artificial Intelligence to choreograph solutions for the education industry.

On April 2018, the company released its flagship AR application "Hologo" for IOS devices. The global launch of Hologo was marked at BETT Middle East & Africa conference in Abu Dhabi. The AR based mobile application boasts cutting-edge features of customization for schools and teachers. The Hologo App consists of three main categories: "JOURNEYS" which allows users to teleport to different parts of the world and even out of space; "STEAM" explaining complex concepts for science, arts, engineering and maths in 3D lifelike visual aids; "WILDLIFE" which will allow students to get up close and personal with wildlife creatures in Augmented Reality.

Furthermore, in collaboration with leading educators, authors, and industry leaders Hologo introduced TeachingTube.com on April 2017. Teaching Tube is a rapidly growing online resource for secondary students studying across Cambridge & Edexcel with over 500 GB of customized educational content and a student population of 160,000 students across 83 countries. At BETT MEA 2018, Hologo World announced the future developments including deploying AR capabilities for Android and Web devices with a massive increment to its AR library by September 2018.

#### www.hologo.world

HP Inc. (HPQ) is a new, publicly listed corporation and a global leader in printing and personal systems. Backed by nearly 50,000 employees and drawing from a 76-year legacy of engineered innovation, the company is focused on creating technology that makes life better for everyone, everywhere. Through its portfolio of printers, PCs, mobile devices, solutions, and services, HP Inc. engineer experiences that amaze.

#### https://www8.hp.com/emea\_middle\_east/en/home.html

Intajy serves educational organizations by providing attractive educational software (Web, Mobile Apps and more) used by Higher Education & Training organizations to help you make your students love learning. Our job is to help you deliver a reliable, measurable, and high-quality learning experience. We serve organizations through our two flagship products, Intajy LMS and Rafid BEM.

Intajy (LMS) – Through easy to use designs used by millions of students and education experts across the Arab world, Intajy LMS makes sure your students love to learn your lessons, and that your staff can track learning progress.

Rafid (BEM) – Our Blended Education Management platform, Rafid, helps organizations interested in managing the day to day operations of traditional teaching with ease, with the ability to include a blended experience with e-learning in one elegant bundle. To achieve that we've included the tools you'd expect in a world class e-learning portal, as well as tools for offline user schedule management, detailed reporting, student attendance, faculty task management, and many more. Intajy brings you the best of both worlds: Estonian values built for the Arab world.

intajy.com





#### **Knowledge E**

LD DIDACTIC

D DIDACTIC



Established in 2012, Knowledge E's name was fast to become synonymous with collaboration, professionalism, and innovation. Headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and supported by a team of 30 highly engaged professionals, Knowledge E works closely with over 100 clients worldwide from various types of organisations and government entities within the research and education sector to support their continued innovation and growth. This is achieved by providing leading professional development programs, information resources, and software solutions. Since its inception, Knowledge E has prudently expanded its expertise, services, and technology in line with its vision of developing 'a more knowledgeable world'.

The KnE Learning division offers expert training solutions that foster the advancement and sustainability of knowledge economies by designing and delivering bespoke development programmes that build the capacities of professionals engaged in academia and research such as: scientific, academic, & medical researchers; university leadership & faculty; medical & healthcare professionals; editors & research managers; librarians & information professionals KnE Learning approaches every project with the mindset of a strategic solutions partner; rather than a simple service provider. By leveraging its domain expertise, expansive industry network, and dedication to excellence and innovation, KnE Learning supports clients to maximise results and achieve goals.

#### www.knowledgee.com

The LD DIDACTIC Group is a leading global manufacturer of high quality science and engineering teaching and training systems for: Schools (secondary schools); Vocational colleges; Technical colleges; On-the-job training; Universities.

Our service and product spectrum covers much more than just experiment equipment. We offer consulting for all respects of education projects (e.g. curriculum, financing) as well as training (just technical or comprehensive didactical) in corporation with German vocational training centres or universities. Our focus is on teaching solutions for: Physics; Chemistry; Biology; Photonics; Electrical Engineering; Automotive Technology; Renewable Energy.

By collaborating very closely with teachers and instructors, we have developed our training systems and adapted our solutions to their specific curriculum requirements thus ensuring maximum practical relevance, easy use and successful learning. Our wide range of services – such as free software updates, comprehensive training programs, as well as local technical after-sales service – ensure that our educational systems operate smoothly on a daily basis. LD DIDACTIC markets its comprehensive products and solutions under the brand names: LEYBOLD; ELWE Technik and Feedback.

#### www.ld-didactic.de

Luminus Technical University College (LTUC) presents a smart, practical, world-class educational experience that helps students select a suitable major that enables them to realize their goals and secure sustainable jobs that foster enhanced livelihoods. This is particularly relevant within today's landscape, especially given the evident gap between the outcomes of the higher education system and the evolving requirements of the job market, which has resulted in a steadily rising unemployment rate of 24.4% as of the first quarter of 2019 amongst students graduating from Jordanian universities.

Prior to launching any educational specialty or program, LTUC connects with leading companies and institutions to learn more about the organizational requirements and employee qualifications they seek. As such, curricula are designed to simulate real-life work environments and are delivered by experts from various industries and academic professors – consequently preparing LTUC students to embark on rewarding educational journeys that offer the knowledge, skills, readiness and confidence necessary for entering today's dynamic job market, immediately upon graduation.

As a progressive, flexible and adaptable organization, LTUC remains up to speed on the latest developments and trends within the business and employment arenas. This methodology ensures that LTUC revisits and recreates existing programs based on actual job market needs, and introduces modern educational approaches such as blended learning – ultimately arming students with a distinctive educational experience that empowers them to venture into the real world and establish the successful professional careers they aspire towards.

#### www.luminuseducation.com

#### Mangahigh



Mangahigh has developed one of the world's first game-based learning (GBL) websites, where students learn mathematics and coding through creative activities that balance play and learning. Designed by a team of experienced educators and gaming experts, the adaptive platform builds individualised learning pathways for each of its users. Al further personalises this learning journey. Comprehensive data collection affords teachers a variety of summary and reporting tools, which can be used to track performance and assure adequate progression in key subject competencies. Mangahigh's ever-growing extensive content is aligned to various international curricula in multiple languages, and this has underpinned the platform's adoption by over 5,000 schools in 50+ countries.

#### www.mangahigh.com

احلمعا قالتقنا



Manipal Global Education Services is a part of Manipal Education and Medical Group – one of the largest education services group, running physical and online Universities in India, Nepal, Malaysia, Dubai and Antigua addressing learners from across the Globe. Its ambit includes a wide range of higher and professional education services to individuals, institutions and corporate training programmes for leading enterprises. In addition, Manipal Global offers technology-led services in assessments and education delivery.

Manipal Global has been playing a leading role in improving employability of students focussing on IT/ITES, BFSI, FMCG, Retail, Manufacturing, and Automobile industries. Corporates use its learning services in order to maintain continued employability through relevant reskilling and upskilling programs. The end-to-end service offering, deep domain understanding, decades of experience in education industry, robust technology platform and strong partnerships with corporates help Manipal Global provide holistic solution to solve the global employability challenge.

Services offered – Manipal ProLearn: Professional learning for corporates and individuals – through online, Face to Face and blended modes – in various fields like Information Technology, Analytics, Digital Marketing, Finance, and Quality; Manipal Global Academy of BFSI: Building talent pipeline at entry-level for Financial Services industry across functions. The academy offers talent development services leading financial services players among public and private sector banks, NBFCs and insurance companies in India, ASEAN, South Asia and Middle East; MeritTrac: Testing and assessment services to leading educational institutions, government organizations, corporate entities as well as individuals for admissions, evaluations, recruitment and workforce development.

#### www.manipalglobal.com

Founded in 1938 with a vision to empower the Arab reader and learner, the group has grown to become an icon of knowledge to all segments of the Arab world. What started as a modest publishing house has now become an essential provider of cultural development. The Group has greatly developed over the years; establishing six different companies that now function as one harmonious entity, striving to achieve its noble vision.

Nahdet Misr Publishing Group offers an assortment of integrated quality solutions in publishing, education and digital content/solutions. Such solutions that were first offered in print, later adapted into digital formats of educational, edutainment and entertainment material.

Nahdet Misr Services & Solutions: Publishing Solutions: Books (Children, Youth & Adults); Magazines; Printing; Distribution; Intellectual Property Rights; Translation and Localization. Educational Solutions: Educational Products; Curriculum Development; Professional Development for Educators; Vocational Education; Life Skills Programs; Character Development Programs; Literacy Programs;Educational Supplies. Digital Solutions: Digital Educational Products; Digital Content; e-Learning; Learning Games; Assessment; Animation Production.

#### www.nahdetmisr.com

ODILO is the leading provider of intelligent digital libraries and virtual classroom solutions and considered by many as the "Netflix for Education". We work in partnership with government and companies worldwide to achieve UNESCO 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. We are passionate about what we do and strive to: Democratise access to high quality education; Improve literacy levels and critical thinking skills; Promote lifelong learning; Develop powerful insights on learners and content activity.

We are proud to be supported by the European Commission to improve literacy across Europe and founded the ODILO Young Reader Awards – helping countries foster and find the best young readers across their nation. We currently have access to over 140M of readers in 43 countries and are supporting nationwide reading programs in both developed and emerging economies.

Our solutions are fully personalised, data-driven, inclusive, work offline and online, multi-device and e-learning focused. We today collaborate with over 5,000 publishers worldwide to offer over 2M titles of high quality ebooks, audiobooks, video, magazines, scorm and others, across over 40 languages. To learn more about our passion for education, please visit www.odilo.us

To learn more about our passion for education, please visit **www.odilo.us** 

#### Renaissance RENAISSANCE<sup>®</sup>

Renaissance<sup>®</sup> is a global leader in pre-K–12 education technology, providing award-winning assessment, reading, and maths solutions to primary and secondary schools in more than 96 countries worldwide. Since 1986, we have been committed to accelerating learning for individuals of all ages and ability levels.

Today, Renaissance helps educators accelerate growth for more than 18.5 million learners in 55,000 schools. We also collaborate with ministries and governments, sharing insights from the 2.8 billion real-world data points we've collected about student learning to help strengthen school improvement initiatives, predict and improve student performance, and close the attainment gap.

www.renlearn.co.uk

#### Nahdet Misr Publishing Group



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#### **RM Results**



Software2 Software2 RM Results is a UK-based company that specialises in providing e-marking software to awarding organisations globally. Its e-marking solution, RM Assessor was used to mark over 200 million exam pages in 2016, making it the most widely-used high stakes examination marking software in the world, trusted by some of the most prestigious names in assessment.

RM Results currently supplies e-marking software to clients administering high stakes examinations in countries including India, Poland, Slovenia, the UK and the Caribbean; as well as international bodies such as ACCA, the International Baccalaureate and Cambridge International Examinations.

#### www.rmresults.com

Software2 is the home of AppsAnywhere, the world's only dedicated education app store, used and loved by students, colleges and universities across the globe. AppsAnywhere is a super-cool software deployment and delivery solution. It offers a friendly way for students to access their software on any device and with it an awesome student learning experience, by integrating with a variety of technologies and by using leading application virtualization software; the only solution on the market capable of delivering 100% of software applications on-demand.

Software2's solution combines the IT department's vision with the 21st century student's expectations: to be able to access any app on any device, at anytime and anywhere, both on and off campus. It transforms the students' technology and learning experience, and allows the university to take advantage of true BYOD (bring your own device), on both Windows and Mac, whilst reducing the overheads associated with traditional solutions like virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI).

AppsAnywhere is used by more than 2 million students in 200 education establishments across North America, Europe, Australia and the Middle East. 20 apps are launched by students and staff through AppsAnywhere every second, worldwide!

#### www.software2.com



At Texthelp, we've spent over two decades developing innovative education software tools that support literacy, maths and science. Now in use by over 20m people across the globe, our software tools are having a tangible, positive impact upon the educational development of countless students. Our recent efficacy study in the UK has demonstrated clear and measurable improvements in reading age, writing ability, fluency and vocabulary. Offering support in Arabic and English, our tools help the widest range of students – in both age and ability. Including those with additional learning needs such as dyslexia or those who are English Language Learners – right across the curriculum.

Shortlisted in the 2019 GESS Education Awards, Read&Write, our flagship literacy product, offers exceptional bi and multilingual features to support reading, writing, fluency and comprehension development in both Arabic and English. With added support for organisation, study and exams, it's helping deliver independence and improved outcomes to students. EquatIO, our powerful and unparalleled maths & science tool, lets everyone create mathematical equations, formulas, graphs and more on their digital device, and enable technology and online learning to be integrated into maths lessons like never before.

With WriQ, we provide a standard measurement for writing. Using defined rubrics, WriQ automatically grades writing papers digitally and helps provide meaningful feedback to students. It's faster, more accurate and consistent than traditional manual and subjective grading – giving students, parents and teachers clear visibility of writing progress over time against peers and standardised norms that can be used as a comparison benchmark of progression for teachers and schools.

#### www.texthelp.com

### Twig Education **'twig** EDUCATION

Twig Education is a multi-award-winning STEM education company, specialising in short films and rich-media teaching and learning materials for K-10. At Twig, we believe that engaging students from a young age with the world around them is critical to creating a scientifically literate society, as well as tomorrow's scientists, engineers and technologists.

Our approach is to work with top educators and academics to create modern, innovative and interactive content, mapped to global curricula. We aim to make complex science concepts accessible, engaging and understandable for all.

We embrace technology to transform learning outcomes. This approach has led to partnerships with some of the world's top education companies and organisations, including Imperial College London and Stanford University's Center for Assessment, Learning and Equity. Available in over 60 countries and in 20 languages, our content is used by governments and leading education publishers around the world to deliver an engaging multimedia STEM curriculum.

#### twigeducation.com

#### Wacom



Wacom's vision to bring people and technology closer together through natural interface technologies has made it the world's leading manufacturer of pen tablets, interactive pen displays and other digital interface solutions. The advanced technology of Wacom's intuitive input devices has been used to create some of the most exciting digital art, films, special effects, fashions and designs around the world. Wacom devices provide business and home users with the ability to explore digital content in a comfortable and natural way. Today millions of customers in the creative industries, at home and in education are using its cordless, battery-free, pressure-sensitive pen technology.

The company also offers its products as OEM solutions to leading manufacturers serving incremental markets. Wacom's interface technology, called Wacom Feel IT Technologies, is also offered as an integrated solution to strategic partners. Most Tablet PC manufacturers count on the advanced features and reliability of the brand to deliver a superior user interface experience.

Wacom Europe GmbH is a subsidiary of Wacom Company, Ltd. Founded in 1983, Wacom is a global company based in Japan with subsidiaries and affiliate offices around the world to support marketing and distribution in over 150 countries.

#### www.wacom.eu

#### **Endorsing Partners**

#### Petroleum Development Oman

#### **Young Innovators Partner**

ت که تشمیه نفط عُمَان Petroleum Development Oman Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) is the leading exploration and production company in the Sultanate of Oman. We deliver the majority of the country's crude oil production and natural gas supply, but above all we focus on delivering excellence, growth and sustainable value creation within and well beyond our industry.

The Company is owned by the Government of Oman (with a 60% interest), Royal Dutch Shell (34%), Total (4%) and Partex (2%). The first economic oil find was made in 1962, and the first oil consignment was exported in 1967.

PDO operates in a concession area of about 90,000 km2 (one third of Oman's geographical area), has around 209 producing oil fields, 55 producing gas fields, more than 8,000 active wells, a diverse workforce of more than 8,500 employees, comprised of 70 different nationalities, and more than 70,000 contractors. The primary objective of PDO is to engage efficiently, responsibly and safely in the exploration, production, development, storage and transportation of hydrocarbons in the Sultanate.

#### www.pdo.co.om

The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) has overall responsibility for promoting UK trade across the world and attracting foreign investment to our economy. Many international governments and institutions recognise the advantages of UK education, and our world-leading education providers are passionate about collaborating with overseas partners. DIT can help you access this education and training provision, support your educational delivery and enable the financing of educational projects through UK Export Finance. DIT Education is Great is strategically placed within government to bring together UK organisations to deliver effective, comprehensive solutions in areas including: Education and training provision, Educational technology and resources, Qualifications, assessment and quality assurance, Teaching and leadership, and supporting educational delivery.

#### United Kingdom, Department of International Trade "Education is Great"



## MENA Innovation 2019 welcomes the following Omani Stakeholders

#### Ministries

#### **Ministry of Education**

**Ministry of Higher** 

Education



The Ministry of Education (MOE) in the Sultanate of Oman has formal responsibility for education system administration in grades 1–12. Education provision is governed by a legal framework based on directives and decrees of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and the basic laws of the State. Free access to school is provided for all boys and girls and education is compulsory till grade 10 in Oman.

The vision of the MOE calls for improving the educational environment for management, teachers, and students at school in a manner that ensures cooperation to build a good, working, and loyal generation capable of continuous learning, coexisting with others and fulfilling the labor market requirements with commitment and sense of responsibility, in order to accomplish its mission in preparing a generation that can achieve economic and social development for the society.

Education has witnessed a qualitative leap in terms of quantity and quality. While in 1970, there were only 900 students in three schools, now there are 579024 students in 1125 government/public schools and 105,680 students in 636 private schools by 2019. Now, Oman's education enrollment levels are similar to those of other countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). In particular, girls in Oman achieve high levels of completion of higher education, equal to those in countries with high levels of performance in this area, such as Singapore and South Korea (MOE& The World Bank, 2012).

#### www.moe.gov.om

Oman has paid a concentrated attention to spreading Education. The country started to focus on fulfilling the need to build a knowledge-based economy, and achieve economic diversification rather than depending on oil. Here, the role of the Ministry of Higher Education in Oman (MoHE) comes to promote the Higher Education system, and insure its quality to meet the requirements of sustainable development and particularly to achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040, which states that Education, Learning, Scientific Research and National Talentsrepresent the top national priorities for the Sultanate.

MoHE is the supervising authority for five Colleges of Applied Sciences in Sohar, Nizwa, Ibri, Sur, and Salalah, as well as the Rustaq College of Education. Through these colleges, the Ministry is seeking to provide responsive graduates who meet the needs of the labour market and contribute to the achievement of sustainable developments objectives. MoHE is also regulating the private higher education sector, which witnessed an exponential growth during the last two decades.

Moreover, MoHE is managing the scholarship program for Omani General Diploma students to study their undergraduate level degrees at both national and international higher education institutions (HEIs) through internal and external scholarships. MoHE also handles a separate scholarship program for postgraduate studies. Recently, the Sultanate is highlighting innovation and scientific research through the National Strategy for Education 2040, as it recommends improving the quality of scientific research, allocating special budget for research at HEIs, supporting the Research and Innovation Parkproject by reinforcing the role of HEIs, establishing scientific incubators at the HEIs, and finally, establishing Oman University with special focus on research and innovation.

#### www.mohe.gov.om

#### **Ministry of Manpower**



To achieve the Ministry of Manpower's vision of contributing to an effective national economy based on innovation for sustainable development; the Ministry launched an innovation system to spread the culture of innovation among the students of technical and vocational colleges, as well as Ministry staff, through the open data innovation portal. The system focuses on three key areas: to attract these participants to highlight their creations and innovations, to further the crystallization of ideas, and ultimately transform them into projects with added value to the national economy. These actions will serve to encourage entrepreneurship and small enterprises, in addition to strengthening the strategic partnership between the three production partners (government, employers and workers) to support emerging projects.

www.manpower.gov.om/OpenData/home/home

#### Ministry of Transport & Communication



#### **Organisations**

#### Advanced Cybersecurity Academy



أكاديمية الأمن الإلكتروني المتقدم Advanced Cybersecurity Academy

#### Information Technology Authority (ITA)



سلطنة عمان هيئة تقنية المعلومات Sultanate of Oman Information Technology Authority

#### **Oman Technology Fund (OTF)**

الصندوق العماني للتكنولوجيا Oman Technology Fund The transport and communication sector received a close attention and care by HM government, due to its role of holding the pillars of infrastructure for social and economic development in the Sultanate. This attention is shown by constructing and paving roads between the governorates. Another is establishing airports and airports as well maintaining them. Drafting the general policy of communications sector as well its regulatory legislations. The ministry is holding the task of implementing the plans which the government drafted as well work on developing the level of services in the entire sector which the ministry oversees. This sector is still getting the government attention and care by achieving the subsequent aims which the country witness.

The Advanced Cybersecurity Academy is the first national initiative with high level endorsement specialized in hands-on cybersecurity training in the Sultanate of Oman. The Academy will be positioned as a future "Center of Excellence" for providing not only professional training, but also consultancy and R&D for critical networks and systems which will deliver cutting edge programs using simulations environment to meet current and future Cybersecurity professional requirements. The Information Technology Authority (ITA) was set up by the Royal Decree 52/2006 promulgated on the 31st May 2006. ITA is responsible for implementing national IT infrastructure projects and supervising all projects related to the implementation of e.oman Strategy while providing professional leadership to various other e-Governance initiatives of the Sultanate. ITA serves as a competency centre on best practices in e-Governance and in harnessing Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), thereby offering efficient and timely services, integrating processes and improving efficiency in service delivery.

ITA undertakes several projects to increase technology penetration and empower its people with required digital literacy and higher levels of competence through training and innovation centers. The strategic pillars and the implementation plans of the e.oman Strategy which ITA is leading, are focused on the capacity and skills development of the society and ICT professionals as they represent the ultimate beneficiaries and implementation workforce. Together they drive the demand and supply sides of the knowledge economy. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry ecosystem is the driver of the economic and social growth in any nation. ITA has given a great emphasis to the development of a vibrant ICT industry that contributes to national economy through a number of projects and centres that serve boosting the Industry in Oman and the ICT entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises to increase the onshore production and delivery capabilities that by result encourages and supports the job creation and development of Omani talents.

Oman Technology Fund "OTF" aims to put Oman firmly on the map of knowledge leaders in the Middle East, and this can be achieved only through investment in the emerging Omani IT companies, across Oman and in the region. OTF will effectively work on attracting these types of promising projects to launch their operations in Oman to enhance knowledge-based economy, and to develop the ICT sector in general, in addition to providing the opportunity to the Omani youths to participate in this high added value business. OTF operations focus on defining the futuristic ideas in the technology sector, and amongst the entrepreneurs who have high potential technology and technical innovation ideas/projects, within a geographic area covering Oman and the Middle East, through a phased plan that includes investment, guidance and cooperation. OTF will develop the promising projects, and provide it with the opportunity to reach the global market by employing the high potentials of global partners and investors from USA and Europe. Our aim is to make Oman the preferred destination for the emerging tech companies in the region, and an attractive and stimulating destination for venture capital. OTF has three investment projects, investment in the early stage of ideas, under the investment program (otf Techween), the acceleration stage (otf Wadi Accelerator) and growth phase (otf Jasoor Ventures). OTF aims to become the innovation hub in the region and position Oman as the preferred destination for national and international entrepreneurs.

#### **Oman Vision 2040**



Since attaining independence, the sultanate has achieved numerous development goals, with massive investments in human capital and core infrastructure. The sultanate has also been a part of the most significant international integration processes and become an active and sound international partner in global efforts towards peace and security, respect for human rights, cultural diversity and the rule of law. The government has actively pursued Oman Vision 2040 to establish a systemic approach to sustainable development; revolving around four major pillars: social development, economic development, governance and sustainable environment. Oman vision 2040, was developed with broad societal consensus and with the participation of all segments of society including public and private sectors, NGO's, residents and individuals, with more than 41,000 participants involved.

Based on enhancing international integration and attracting FDI, the vision is focused on diversification, industrialization, and privatization. Our national priorities, focuses on reshaping the roles and relations between public, private and civil sectors with primary objective of a high quality of life for all. Achieving 5.0 percent annual average real growth rate and doubling GDP per capita in real terms, were our main targets. As the speed of technological progress has completely changed societal expectations, brings new opportunities and increased development potentials, promoting innovation came as cross cutting for all national priorities, with system established to nurture talent, creativity and entrepreneurial potential. Developing different levels of the educational system and improving educational curricula and outcomes is a cornerstone to promote innovation and to build a knowledge-society.

www.2040.om/en/oman-vision-2040/about-the-vision

#### The Research Council (TRC)



مجلس البحث العلمي The Research Counci

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for small and medium

enterprises developme

**Riyada** 

The research Council in Oman's exclusive research funding body and leader of research development in the country. TRC serves as a focal point and hub dedicated to promoting and supporting research, scientific enquiry, and innovation in the Sultanate of Oman. Established in June 2005, TRC has been founded by Royal Decree No. 2005/54 under the chairmanship of His Highness Sayyid Shihab Bin Taraq Al-Said, adviser to His Majesty the Sultan. This was notably followed in 2010 by Royal Decree No. 2010/30 with TRC set to lead the way in drawing up a national plan for scientific research in the Sultanate. As a policy-making body and funding agency, TRC encourages the promotion and application of research, innovation and science to create value that service business, markets and the wider needs of society. It is our believe that the research conducted in Oman should further the public good with commitment to the spread and transfer of knowledge.

Mission: Create an innovation ecology that is responsive to local needs and international trends, fosters social harmony, and leads to creativity and excellence. Vision: Regional hub of innovation – leader in producing new ideas, products and services; Significant research capacity; Research excellence in selected areas; Receptive to local social and economic needs – with alacrity!; Infrastructure for evidence-based policy decisions. Objectives: Research Capacity; Research Excellence; Knowledge Transfer; Enabling Environment.

Riyada was established as the Public Authority for Small & Medium Enterprises Development as per Royal Decree No. 36/2013, whereby it enjoys financial and administrative autonomy and is headquartered in the Muscat Governorate with the right to establish branches in other governorates according to a resolution from its board of directors. The Public Authority for Small & Medium Enterprises Development (Riyada) is the Sultanate of Oman's arm for the development of small and medium enterprises and the strengthening of their contribution to the local economy through a wide range of business advisory services and training programs. The Vision: Small and medium-sized enterprises to become a key pillar in ensuring creation of jobs and accomplish added value. The Mission: To develop and cultivate small and medium-sized enterprises.

Riyada Objectives: Develop small and medium enterprises, plan, coordinate and promote their deployment, and enable them receive the finances and services required in coordination with the government and private agencies concerned. Instill a culture of entrepreneurship and self-employment among emerging and young people. Strengthen the role of institutions by providing multiple renewable Omani youth employment opportunities. Assist pioneers and entrepreneurs in the initiative with the establishment and implementation of their own projects and leadership in both management and development. Enhance the competitiveness of existing institutions. Increase the capacity of institutions to bring added value to the national economy, contribute to economic diversification, and support both innovation and the use of modern technologies.

#### **Colleges & Universities**

#### **Arab Open University**



The Arab Open University (AOU) is a pioneering Arab university which was founded in 2002 and started with its operations in seven Arab countries. Presently, AOU operates in nine countries across the Arab world. AOU began with its operations in Oman in March 2008 and currently has around 1800 students in its master, bachelor and diploma programs. The AOU vision is to build a science and knowledge society. Its mission is to develop and disseminate knowledge and build expertise according to international quality standards without time or geographical barriers for the sake of contributing to development needs.

The AOU is committed to high academic standards. AOU Oman offers programs for open learning students who otherwise would find it difficult to continue their university education. Hundreds of Omanis and residents have improved their careers through the open-learning programs offered by AOU. AOU Oman also offers a full-time option for students who prefer this mode, especially the students sponsored through the Common Admission Center of the Ministry of Higher Education.

The AOU system of common and highly regulated academic provision ensures high quality processes of instruction and assessment resulting in credible learning outcomes attained by graduates. As well, the university enhances its communication and relationship with its Alumni. As part of its continued commitment to academic standards, AOU has renewed its institutional accreditation by the Open University – UK (OU) and revalidated its academic programs affiliated with the OU. New tracks in the IT degree include web development and network security. New tracks in Business include finance and human resources. AOU is continuing to grow by adding to its academic program portfolio the bachelor of accounting, as well as the bachelor of law to cater to varying demands of the job market.

The Colleges of Applied Sciences (OMAN) – There are six colleges of applied sciences in the Sultanate of Oman under the management of the Ministry of Higher education (Directorate General of the Colleges of Applied Sciences). These colleges are: College of Applied Sciences, Sohar; College of Applied Sciences, Ibri; College of Applied Sciences, Nizwa; College of Applied Sciences, Salalah; College of Applied Sciences, Sur; Rustaq College of Education.

These six colleges are located in major cities in the Sultanate with the aim of bringing higher education provision closer to young Omanis in these areas. Historically, the colleges have evolved from being teacher training institutes in mid-seventies of the previous century to intermediate teacher training colleges offering a two year diploma in 1984, to Colleges of Education offering 4 year Bachelor of Education Degree in 1994. In 2005, the colleges were transformed to Colleges of Applied Sciences in response to the development in the labour market needs in the country. Currently the colleges offer the Bachelor Degrees in the following programmes and majors: Engineering: Mechanical Engineering; Electrical Engineering & Chemical



Mass Communication: Public Relations; Journalism; Digital Media; Media Management & Advertising; Design: Multimedia Design; Graphic Design & Interior Design; Applied Bio-Technology: Applied Marine Biotechnology; Applied Environmental Biotechnology & Applied Food and Agriculture Biotechnology; Education: ELT, Mathematics & Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Engineering; Information Technology: IT Security; Computer Networks; Software Applications Development & Data Management; Business Administration: Business Administration; Tourism Management; Accounting; Hospitality Management; Supply Chain Management; Marketing; Insurance & Banking and Financial Services;

GUTECH – A PLACE WITHOUT LIMITS – Founded on the principle of excellence in education, research and innovation, the German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech) opened in 2007 with just 60 students. Since then it has carved a reputation as an academic institution where a clear focus on quality is sustained and continuously demonstrated.

The beginning of GUtech dates back to 2006, with the signing of a 'Collaborative Agreement' between the Omani founders and RWTH Aachen University in Germany, for the purpose of bringing German excellence in education and research to Oman and the wider region. Inspired by the vision of H.M. Sultan Qaboos Al Said for the Sultanate of Oman and dedicated to the ongoing purpose formulated by its founders, GUtech is committed to providing the best academic undergraduate and postgraduate programmes that meet the requirements of local, regional, and international markets by providing highly qualified graduates who can adapt to the fast growing developments in all industries and sectors.

The commitment to quality has been demonstrated through different strategic decisions and initiatives. The inaugural deans of GUtech were all professors from RWTH Aachen who pioneered the development of curricula of GUtech's Bachelor programmes. The establishment of a focal point of the German Academic Exchanges Services (DAAD) at GUtech has also strengthened the collaboration with Germany through DAAD funded research projects, scholarships and quality enhancement initiatives. Numerous educational trips for students to Germany and RWTH Aachen University in particular are facilitated by DAAD.

#### **Middle East College**



Middle East College (MEC) is one of the leading higher education institutions in the Sultanate of Oman. It is located in the Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM), the first technology park in Oman. The college has over 4500 students from 25 different nationalities around the world specializing in 13 undergraduate and 4 postgraduate programmes offered in affiliation with Coventry University (CU), UK and Breda University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands in the areas of Engineering, Science and Technology, Business and Management, Logistics management, and Archives and Records Management. MEC is the first educational institution in the region to offer a specialized degree in contemporary Archives Science, in collaboration with the National Records and Archives Authority of Oman.

The teaching and learning systems at MEC focus on producing employable graduates who are not only knowledgeable in their field of study, but are also forward-thinking, creative, and responsible members of society. A wide spectrum of teaching and learning methods are applied to create an active and research-based learning environment. Technology-enhanced learning is an integral feature of course delivery supported by well-equipped laboratories and classrooms to facilitate the use of technology in learning.

MEC continuously focus on research initiatives that contribute to quality enhancement of scholarly research, student innovation and research culture within the context of its strategic plan and value statements. MEC collaborate with professional bodies such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), European Council for Business Education (ECBE), the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the British Computer Society (BCS). It is an active member of University associations like UNIMED, the Mediterranean Universities Union and Association of Arab Universities (AARU).

#### www.mec.edu.om

#### **Muscat University**



Muscat University was officially established on 14th August 2016. It is a private higher educational institution delivering high quality teaching supported by research that is both rigorous and relevant to the social and economic priorities of Oman and the region. It aims to be a beacon of excellence in innovation and entrepreneurship in its chosen focus areas.

Muscat University has a unique, distinctive and compelling identity, distinguishing itself clearly from all the other HEIs in Oman. To fulfil its mission, Muscat University is building close and productive links with the business communities in Oman and the surrounding region. After sound research to determine the needs of the labor market, partnerships with two prestigious UK universities were established. The partner institutions, Cranfield University and Aston University are renowned for their excellence in academia, research and employability. The synergy between Muscat University academics and those in our partner institutions results in the delivery of excellent quality programmes and innovative research.

Muscat University is clear in its objective to position itself as comparable with other high-quality international universities. It offers a viable local alternative for Omani students and expatriate students residing in Oman who otherwise might feel obliged to travel outside Oman for access to appropriate higher education opportunities. Muscat University attracts a significant proportion of international students from outside Oman in order to enrich the learning environment for all students and to strengthen social, cultural, economic and business links between Oman and the international community.

www.muscatuniversity.edu.om

#### National University of Science & Technology



الـــجامـعــة الوطـنيــة National University

The National University of Science and Technology (NU) is a multi-campus, and multi-disciplinary academic initiative established by the merger of two renowned professional institutions in Oman, namely, the Caledonian College of Engineering (CCE) and Oman Medical College (OMC). The strategic initiatives of National University of Science and Technology (NU) are formulated and guided by a Board of Trustees, the members of which are eminent personalities drawn from diverse domains of activities across the globe.

The National University operates across four campuses in Oman. The College of Engineering is located at Caledonian Campus AI Hail; the College of Medicine & Health Sciences at Sohar; the School of Foundation Studies at Airport Heights; and the College of Pharmacy together with the University Headquarters at Bousher Campus. Today, Oman stands as a proud Nation where 8000 of National Engineers, Doctors, and Pharmacist graduated from National University constituent colleges are serving the Country. The University has a multicultural environment, having 4000 students currently enrolled from 33 nationalities and staff from diverse nationalities, makes National University vibrant and truly international.

The aspirations of the owners of National University are enshrined in its Vision which is stated, "to be an internationally recognized University renowned for its excellence in education and research, driven by social values." The University carries the mission "to transform students into global citizens with a quest for knowledge and its application, for the betterment of society." To bring global practices and standards in the delivery of academic programs, the National University has secured affiliation with leading institutions from UK and USA as well as 22 other international collaborations for research and student exchange activities. The Universities partnering with the National University include Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland UK, West Virginia University and the University of South Carolina in the United States.

#### www.nu.edu.om

Sohar University is proud to have served the Sultanate since 2001. The University applies international quality standards in the field of higher education, with the aim of producing a generation of students with the knowledge and skills to play their part in the developing labor market.

Why Sohar University: Meet Career Aspirations – 85% of engineering graduates are employed in prestigious institutions; Training and job opportunities are coordinated annually with major industries; Research assignments provide opportunities connect with the community. Academic Excellence – Studies are informed by contemporary research; Students are treated as partner in education; Committed, talented and qualified staff. Everything on your Doorstep – Study on a world class campus; Student – focused learner support in the Learning Resources Centre; Shops, accommodation, restaurants and leisure activities are easily accessible.

Sohar City – Second largest city in Oman; Friendly, secure environment; Fast growing commercial and industrial centre. Connecting Communities – Opportunity to live and study in a diverse multicultural environment; Working in partnership with major international institutions; Degree and programmes are recognizes in many countries. Student Success – 1st prize in Colleges Debating Championship; 1st prize in TECHOFEST Competition; 1st position in National Beach Football Championship.

#### **Sultan Qaboos University**



جامعة السلطان قابوس Sultan Qaboos University

#### University of Nizwa



Vision – SQU's vision is to continue its national leading role in higher education and community service and also to be internationally recognized for innovative research, quality of its graduates, and strategic partnerships. Mission – To excel in teaching and learning, research and innovation, and community service by promoting the principles of scientific analysis and creative thinking in a collegial and stimulating environment and to participate in the production, development and dissemination of knowledge and interact with national and international communities.

Values – Sultan Qaboos University is committed to preserving the following core values: Excellence; Loyalty; Integrity; Credibility; Equity; Commitment; Collegiality.

The University of Nizwa (UoN), established in the Sultanate of Oman in 2004 as a faculty governed not-for-profit private university. The university seeks to provide a progressive and safe learning environment that is respectful of the traditions and values of the Sultanate. The University aspires to be a beacon (minaret) of knowledge and enlightenment as a prominent higher education institution of excellence. It is to achieve a worldwide reputation for the quality of its programs and graduates and international distinction for innovation, progress and development.

www.unizwa.edu.om

#### Sohar University جامعــة صحــار SOHAR UNIVERSITY

## MENA Innovation 2019 welcomes the following Government Ministries & Departments





The ministry of education and vocational training provides academic and vocational education which includes a variety of scientific and IT fields. The Ministry was created to develop a national training system. Vocational education was expanded and diversified to be available to the large number of students completing primary education but "not qualified by disposition or grades" to continue secondary education. Vocational education was intended to provide graduates with immediate employment and to provide the country with a trained work force as Algeria concentrated on developing heavy industry. The existing general educational program was refocused toward technical and vocational subjects. The Offices for Practical Works in Vocational Training, created specifically for aiding the production activities of vocational training centres, act as intermediaries between enterprises requiring products and the training centres that provide them. The main topics through which life skills education takes place in the programme are: Sustainable human development, Livelihoods (generic skills), and financial literacy and Entrepreneurship.



#### **Djibouti Ministry of Communications**

The ministry aims to invest in public school's technology by providing tablets to each starting primary student and laptops for secondary students, and promotes reading by working to improve the average number of French, Arabic, and mathematics textbooks-per-student in primary years. The ministry is dedicated to success with Vision 2035, a long-term strategy whose core pillars include investing in human capital: Building a hardworking, healthy and educated workforce.

#### **Djibouti Ministry of Higher Education & Research**

The Republic of Djibouti created the ministry in 1999 and has since aimed to improve primary, secondary, and tertiary education in the country, ensuring access to an education for all. To achieve this, the ministry uses legislative intervention to create gender parity, incentivizes families to settle in one area and send their children to school, invests in public schools technology by providing tablets to each starting primary student and laptops for secondary students, and promotes reading by working to improve the average number of French, Arabic, and mathematics textbooks-per-student in primary years. The ministry is dedicated to success with Vision 2035, a long-term strategy whose core pillars include investing in human capital: Building a hardworking, healthy and educated workforce.

#### **Djibouti Ministry of National Education & Professional Training**

Vision: Innovative Education for a Knowledge, Pioneers and Global Society. Mission: To develop an innovative education system for a knowledge-based and competitive society, for all age groups, to meet the future demands of the labour market, ensuring the quality of the results of the Ministry of Education and providing the best students.



#### **Egypt Ministry of Education**

The Ministry of Education is committed to developing a pre-university education system in Egypt to provide a model for leadership in the region by providing quality education for every basic human right, preparing all children and young people to inform citizenship in the knowledge society in the light of a new social contract based on freedom, democracy, and social justice. The establishment of an educational system that supports decentralized community participation and good governance and ensures efficient reform of the Ministry of Education at the school and all levels of administration.

#### **Egypt Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research**

The Ministry of Higher Education was established in November 9, 1961 to assume the responsibilities of higher education. The public education assigned responsibilities was given to the Ministry of Education. As a result of the establishment of the Ministry, higher education expanded considerably, with respect to universities, which began to spread in different regions, in addition to state and private higher institutes, and intermediate institutes. The Ministry is assigned of a number of important responsibilities: proposing higher education policy, setting the plans, projects and programs necessary to implement this policy, putting the means that lead to spreading university and higher education in light of the current and future needs of the country, in addition to developing the means that lead to strengthen the relationship between universities, colleges and higher institutes, on one hand, and the environment, on the other, to realize the best public service to society, as well as supervising the Egyptian cultural bureaus and centres overseas, and the foreign cultural relations.



#### **Irag Ministry of Education**

Iraq Ministry of Education is the Iraq government agency responsible for education in Iraq. The Iraqi Ministry of Education is the largest government agency in the country. The Ministry aims to enhance the sector by rehabilitating the educational institutions, building the human, institutional and administrative capacities at all levels and formulating plans and polices for better planning for the future of Education in Iraq. A strong current program is "Enhancing the Right to Education in Iraq" to look into the challenges and risks faced by the Iraqi students and academics in their daily lives and in their access to educational facilities.

#### Iraq Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research was established by virtue of the Iraqi Higher Education Law in 1970. The Directorate of the Scholarship Department was established in the Ministry of Education and merged with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research aims to make quantitative and qualitative changes in the scientific, technical and cultural movement in Iraq. It directs the scientific and research institutions to undertake the process of creating a new generation with knowledge. The ministry also aims to develop scientific and cultural relations and expand friendly relations in these fields with other countries and scientific and academic organizations around the world in order to achieve harmony and integration in the fields of science and knowledge.

#### Iragi Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research

The MHE's objective is to help Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Kurdistan to achieve excellence in teaching and research and become internationally competitive; make higher education increasingly market orientated and to help future graduates to be competitive and highly employable. Our strategy is to reform of the management structure of the ministry and HEIs, and introduce dynamic, democratic and accountable systems; Help HEIs to become increasingly independent; Introduce a Teaching Quality Assurance, based on student and staff evaluation; Introduce mechanisms of monitoring performance and linking them to pay and promotion; Review and modernise postgraduate studies, including Diplomas, MSc and PhD programmes; Review the diversity and distribution of specialties in Kurdistan Universities, and harmonise them with the labour market in the Region; Introduce audit mechanisms to ensure quality, equality, accountability and human rights; Review the system of research funding and administration; Review scholarship programmes and launch cycles of scholarship calls with protected funding for the next five years; Introduce new funding schemes for training established academic members of staff in international centres of excellence; Review the HE law and work closely with the relevant Parliamentary committee on redrafting a new law that would allow modernisation of the system.



#### Jordan Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship

Vision: "Sustainable and Secure Digital Sectors for a Connected Society". Mission: Strengthening the legislative and regulatory environment and upgrading infrastructure to enable digital transformation, creativity and innovation.

#### Jordan Ministry of Education, Higher Education & Research

Vision: Internationally Distinct Higher Education. Mission: Enabling and supporting higher education institutions to fulfil their principal duties and responsibilities, compatible with the higher education policies and strategies based on competing towards putting down the standards of integrity, strengthening the principles of accountability, justice and transparency and adopting entrepreneurship, excellence and creativity in partnership with the private sector.



#### **Kuwait Ministry of Education & Higher Education**

The tasks of this ministry are to assume all aspects related to university education, applied and scientific research, and to employ them to serve the society and improve it. It also sets the general framework for policies and plans for the development of higher education in both university and applied sectors. And encourage and coordinate the scientific research movement among the various educational bodies and institutions in the country.



#### Lebanon Ministry of Education & Higher Education

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education shall take care of public affairs in education in its official and private sectors, and the conduct of public education, ensuring the availability and remuneration of educational opportunities, quality of education and building a knowledge society, social integration and economic development. The Directorate General of Education, headed by the Director General of Education, Mr. Fadi Yark, consists of a number of directorates, through which they provide educational, preparatory and preparatory requirements for primary, secondary and special education students, supervise the application of the curricula and rehabilitate the educational body.



#### Libya Ministry of Education

The mission for the Ministry is to provide quality education, an environment and a stimulating educational culture for all groups and in all its stages. Supported by a plan to develop and raise the efficiency of the educational staff in general and teachers in particular, and the implementation of supportive and encouraging educational programs for both children and youth including special groups to contribute to the progress of Libya in the world. The vision is to provide equal and high quality educational opportunities for all members of society to be able to contribute effectively to sustainable development and to participate effectively in the national economy. Values include ethics, excellence and creativity, openness and learning, mastery, exchange of experiences and scientific research.



#### Mauritania Ministry of Higher Education, Research, ICTs & Media

The Minister develops and implements the Government's policy on Higher Education and Scientific Research. In this context, he is responsible in particular for: To propose strategies and programs for the development of the higher education and scientific research sector that are submitted to the government for approval; Develop an offer of professional higher education tailored to the country's needs; Develop and implement a national policy on scientific research; To set the conditions of opening and access of Public and Private Higher Education Institutions, the conditions of accreditation of programs and courses of higher education; Information and Communication Technologies, National Cyber Security Strategy, Legal texts, Old technology, ICT Observatory, Establishments under guardianship.



#### **Morocco Ministry of Employment & Vocational Integration**

The Department is in charge of developing and implementing government policy in the areas of Employment, Labour Protection and Welfare Social Workers. In this capacity, it is responsible for:

Preparing draft legislative texts and regulations relating to Employment, Labour and Social Protection of workers and ensuring their application control; Promoting negotiations among social partners, facilitating social dialogue and participating to the settlement of labour disputes; Conducting studies and research necessary for the promotion of employment, labour and social protection of workers; Defining required actions and measures needed for expanding employment opportunities; Following up, first in conjunction with the government authority in charge of the affairs of the Moroccan community residing abroad, issues prospect of employment abroad and dealing with the application of employment policies and social security; Representing the government among international and regional organisations working in conjunction with the departments concerned; Participating in any regional or bilateral, multilateral negotiation, in relation to the functions of the Ministry for Employment and Social Security; Promoting and controlling the actions of social protection for workers.

#### Morocco Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education & Scientific Research

The Ministry of National Education develops and implements, under the laws and regulations in force, the government policy in the field of pre-school, basic and secondary education, BTS training and training preparatory classes for the university colleges. The ministry ensures, within the limits of its attributions, the State's control over private school education. The Ministry aims to empower individuals by providing them with the opportunity to acquire the values, knowledge and skills that prepare them to integrate into the workforce, and to provide them with the opportunity to continue their learning. The Ministry aims to empower society by providing it with skilled and qualified workers and managers who are able to contribute effectively to the continuous construction of their country at all levels.



#### **Palestine Ministry of Education**

Palestine's Ministry of Education seeks to know and innovate, and interact positively with the requirements of scientific and technological development and is able to compete in the scientific and practical fields and open to regional and global cultures and markets and able to build a society based on gender equality and adhering to In terms of human values and religious tolerance, and the advancement of the education system, which is characterized by: accessibility, diversity of programs, its versatility, flexibility, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, responsiveness to local needs and quality. The message of the Ministry of Education in ensuring the provision of education for all and improve the quality and standards of order to meet the needs of learners to adapt to the requirements of this era, and provide an environment balanced sound and qualify to defend the rights of national and perform duties efficiently and the ability to think.

#### **Palestine Ministry of Telecommunications & Information Technology**

The Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) fosters international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance and in the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication and ICT equipment and networks in developing countries. ITU-D is required to discharge the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/ICT development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.



#### **Qatar Ministry of Education & Higher Education**

Students graduating from high school today are entering an increasingly competitive, rapidly changing global society. To meet the new demands of the 21st century, students will need to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge. Increasingly, higher education will serve as the driving force for students to gain these skills and knowledge needed to succeed. The Supreme Education Council's Higher Education Institute recognizes the fundamental role higher education will play in enabling Qatar's youth and the entire nation to prosper. Through a variety of scholarship programs, the Higher Education Institute is encouraging Qatar's youth to pursue higher education and helping prepare them for the rigors they will face in applying to and attending the top colleges and universities around the world. It is working to help students advance their dreams, explore their interests and improve their abilities, while addressing the evolving needs of Qatar's labour market.



#### Saudi Arabia Ministry of Education

Vision: Distinguished education to build a globally competitive knowledge society. Mission: Providing the opportunity for education for all in an appropriate educational environment in the light of the educational policy of the Kingdom, raising the quality of its outputs, increasing the effectiveness of scientific research, encouraging creativity and innovation, developing the social partnership and improving the skills and abilities of the educational staff.

#### Saudi Arabia Ministry of Communications & Information Technology

The Ministry of Communications & Information Technology works to achieve Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 while coordinating all communications and digital data in the country. The Ministry has a philosophy that data is the new oil, and technology is the engine driving the knowledge economy of the 21st century. That is why the digital transformation of the Kingdom lies at the heart of Vision 2030. It will fuel Saudi Arabia's growth and development into the future and empower the people of Saudi Arabia to seize the opportunities of the digital age. The MCIT will lay the foundation for digital transformation and create the conditions to make it possible, and has an approach that is underpinned by one, clear principle: putting citizens, innovators and job creators first. The Ministry seeks to invest heavily in skills, ensuring the people of the Kingdom develop the knowhow to create and innovate; make technology available to small and medium sized companies; create a diverse e-commerce environment that provides high grade platforms for major retailers and the growth of new and creative enterprises; develop new industries encompassing robotics, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things; and create the largest innovation incubator in the Arabic world, and to remain a country at the cutting edge of research and development.

#### **Somalia Ministry of Education & Higher Education**

The Ministry of Education of Somalia is a ministry responsible for education in Somalia. The current Minister of Education of Somalia is Abdulahi Godah Barre. Vision Statement – Fulfil the right of every Somali to education and build an adequate, well educated, better skilled and competent workforce that contributes to the spiritual, economic and human development of the nation. Mission Statement: To ensure equitable access to inclusive, life-long quality education and training for all Somali citizens, through the sustained implementation and resourcing of a comprehensive Education Policy and Sector Strategic Plan Policy Goal. The provision of an equitable and inclusive education system that affords all learners access to free and compulsory basic education and training, so enhancing their personal development and contributing to Somalia's cultural development, socio-economic growth and global competitiveness.

#### **Sudan Ministry of Education**

The Basic Education Recovery Project helps address the needs of Sudan's most vulnerable and isolated communities and seeks to improve their educational status. Project components also focus on increasing the availability of textbooks as well as strengthening education planning and teaching management systems. Sudan joined the Global Partnership for Education in 2012, and has since received a grant to assist the country in implementing its Interim Basic Education Strategy (2012-2014). Sudan implemented its sector strategy for 2015/16-2016/17 and has commenced the development of a full education sector plan covering 2017-2021. Sudan has made progress in building a strong education system ensuring that all children get a quality education is core to the development of a strong economy.



#### United Arab Emirates Ministry of Cabinet Affairs & The Future, Prime Minister's Office

The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future plays a key role in the government through its key entities: the General Secretariat of the Cabinet, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Public Diplomacy Office. The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and the Future is responsible for following up on the decisions and directions issued by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. In addition, it oversees the implementation of the government vision and national agenda and monitors government performance. It also strives to boost the efficiency of the federal government sector; enhance the quality of government services; lead innovation and excellence efforts; develop government communication systems as well as policies, general frameworks and mandates of government entities; and to provide consultations and recommendations to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

#### **Endorsing Partner**



#### United Kingdom, Department of International Trade "Education is Great"

The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) has overall responsibility for promoting UK trade across the world and attracting foreign investment to our economy. Many international governments and institutions recognise the advantages of UK education, and our world-leading education providers are passionate about collaborating with overseas partners. DIT can help you access this education and training provision, support your educational delivery and enable the financing of educational projects through UK Export Finance. DIT Education is Great is strategically placed within government to bring together UK organisations to deliver effective, comprehensive solutions in areas including: Education and training provision, Educational technology and resources, Qualifications, assessment and quality assurance, Teaching and leadership, and supporting educational delivery.



## MENA Innovation 2019 welcomes the following Universities & Organisations

#### Al-Nisour University College, Iraq



#### American University in Beirut



#### Arab Open University, Kuwait



#### **Arizona State University**



# Al-Nisour University College was established in 2011. It was directed to be a university college specializing in the fields of computer technology engineering, analytical techniques, law, business management and the English language. Also established to be useful and distinct in higher education and scientific research, the university college aims to lead the development of knowledge and community service, and the graduation of qualified staff and work to expand horizontally and vertically in the specialization and transfer of the college into a university of the future.

The American University of Beirut (AUB) is an institution of higher learning founded to provide excellence in education, to participate in the advancement of knowledge through research, and to serve the peoples of the Middle East and beyond. Chartered in New York State in 1863, the university bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. The university believes deeply in and encourages freedom of thought and expression and seeks to foster tolerance and respect for diversity and dialogue. Graduates will be individuals committed to creative and critical thinking, life-long learning, personal integrity, civic responsibility, and leadership.

A pioneering Arab Open University dedicated to building the science and knowledge society. Their mission is to develop and disseminate knowledge and build expertise according to international quality standards without time or geographical barriers for the sake of contributing and preparing manpower for development needs, and to build science and knowledge society in the Arab countries. The AOU has more than 28,460 students in eight countries and has celebrated graduation of more than 20,690 students, more than 50% of which are females.

Arizona State University (ASU), ranked No. 1 "Most Innovative School" in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for four years in succession, has forged a new educational model as an academic enterprise. ASU is a comprehensive public research institution, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves. ASU is the largest public university in the US under a single administration and is deemed in the top 1% of the world's most prestigious universities by Times Higher Education.

ASU operates on the principle that learning is a personal and original journey for each student; that students thrive on experience, and that the process of discovery cannot be bound by traditional academic disciplines. ASU attracts some of the highest caliber students from all 50 states and is the No. 1 public university choice for international students from more than 130 nations.

ASU has drawn pioneering researchers to its faculty who have made its research enterprise one of the fastest growing in the US. Through a commitment to innovation, ASU ranks in the top 10 universities worldwide for patents. A hallmark of the University is a bias towards partnerships. A robust and expanding network of global research, academic and enterprise collaborations allows ASU, together with valued partners, to achieve significantly expanded intellectual and social impact.

#### **Beirut Arab University**



BAU has been committed, since its establishment in 1960, to offer outstanding educational programs and to provide an embracing environment for academic creativity and development of leadership skills, instilling the concept of social responsibility, while respecting diversity and multicultural understanding. The University promotes a stimulating academic atmosphere for its academic staff to ensure excellence in research and the dissemination of its outcomes to address community needs, both nationally and internationally. BAU relies on the contribution of the University's expertise in the sustainable development of the local community while maintaining engagement with its alumni. BAU believes in its highly efficient leadership, well-structured governance system and greatly motivated academic staff.

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#### **British University in Dubai**



#### City University of Mogadishu, Somalia



#### Emirates College for Management & Information Technology



#### German Jordanian University



#### **Hashemite University**



## Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE



The Mission of the British University in Dubai (BUiD) is to provide world class scholarship, education and research that make a distinctive British contribution to supporting the aspirations of the Dubai Government to become a hub for education and research in the region.

"The University's vision is to be recognised and supported as Dubai's premier resource and focus for the reflective pursuit, inclusive accessibility, effective transfer and liberal application of scientific, academic and professional knowledge."

Vision: City University of Mogadishu will strive to become the preeminent leader in instruction, research, and service of society in Somalia and the region, and will pursue international recognition through excellence and rigorous standards.

Mission: Our primary mission is to educate morally upright, capable leaders equipped with relevant knowledge and transferable high skills to achieve their professional goals and offer leadership and service to their society and nation. Through quality assured excellence in instruction, research, and service, the university seeks to promote the well-being of the Somali people and contribute to the development of the nation, the continent, and our increasingly interconnected world.

Vision: Emirates College for Management and Information Technology will be a premier and sustainable institution of higher education which is recognized, respected and valued in the region for its excellence.

Mission: ECMIT aims to develop competent and innovative graduates by offering high quality degree programs in alignment with international standard that are accessible and affordable; expose the students to community services in order for them to value and appreciate the community they belong; develop and maintain highly qualified faculty who deliver an excellent teaching and produce quality research.

The German-Jordanian University aspires to become one of the region's leading universities and to be highly regarded for its learning and teaching excellence, focused research and enterprise, multiculturalism, and effective engagement with the community. The German-Jordanian University (GJU) is a public, comprehensive university devoted to academic distinction in teaching, research, and community service. The conduct of research, scholarship, and creative activities is at the core of The University, including multiple missions of education, research, service, and outreach to the nation, the region and beyond. GJU is committed to advancing Jordan and the region through the benefits of higher education, offering undergraduate, masters and PhD programs as well as a variety of outreach and vocational training programs.

The Hashemite University is oriented toward achieving an academic pioneering position, with excellence in university teaching and scientific research at both the national and regional levels. The university aims to serve society through its educational functions and to participate in the advancement of knowledge. Established in 1991, Hashemite University, as a youthful and prominent higher education institution, is committed to actively participate in achieving the goals of the comprehensive national development. This is done by preparing students who are not only technically competent in their professional fields, but are also life-long learners who have a breadth vision, loyalty to their nation, and a sense of civic and moral responsibility with a devotion to the fundamental values of human life.

The Higher Colleges of Technology is the largest higher education institution in the UAE, renowned for its leadership in applied and technological education. Around 23,000 students attend 16 modern men's and women's campuses across the UAE – in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Al Dhafra, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and Fujairah. In line with international criteria, the UAE vision and future development requirements, HCT offers approximately 100 majors in the academic programs in Engineering Technology, Health Sciences, Applied Media, Business, Computer Information Science, and Education.

The programs are constantly reviewed to ensure that they meet the UAE's diverse labor market requirements. Through its "Hybrid Education Model", the HCT introduced a system of awarding students with professional certificates from international awarding bodies, together with the academic degrees, so as to make HCT graduates the number one choice in the UAE labor market. The HCT has established dynamic relationships with UAE companies and organisations and the world's leading universities and organisations.

#### Jordan University of Science & Technology



Kingdom University, Bahrain



Mogadishu University, Somalia



#### Notre Dame University, Lebanon



#### Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



# The Jordan University of Science and Technology, or JUST, is a comprehensive, state-supported university. Since its establishment in 1986, JUST has been at the forefront of institutions of higher learning in the Arab world, it also maintains a high reputation and standard amongst the universities of the Middle East. The university was described as the best scientific institution in the Kingdom by King Abdullah II. At the present time, the university comprises 12 faculties and 55 departments providing 52 bachelor's degree and 95 postgraduate programs. It is ranked as the top research university in the country, and amongst the top 3% of universities in the Islamic world, according to a study carried out by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC).

Vision: "Kingdom University will be an eminent University for its quality of academic programs, research and community engagement, contributing to the economic development of the region."

Mission: "Kingdom University offers quality and challenging teaching and learning experiences, relevant research, and community engagement activities that nurture future leaders and professionals capable of making positive contributions to the society and economy of Bahrain and the region."

OUR VISION: Mogadishu University to be the premier non-state and non-profit university in Somalia, dedicated to provide affordable and accessible high quality education attuned to the national values of the Somali people.

OUR MISSION: To instill hope in the Somali society impaired by the collapsed state institutions and civil war, and revitalize community – based initiatives; To educate and nurture creative generations committed to peace, good governance and Community services; To encourage intellectual and scholarly developments, and foster openness to a wide range of ideas; To integrate social and Islamic values, scientific knowledge, and technical skills required for sustainable development of Somalia.

Mission: Consistent with the mission statement of Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences (FNAS) addresses itself to meet the needs of undergraduate and graduate students in the scientific disciplines and to improve the scientific literacy of its students. The FNAS is committed to develop and disseminate scientific and technological knowledge through quality teaching, research, and outreach activities. The FNAS guides students to be ethical, innovative, life-long learners, and leaders in their professions and communities.

Vision: The Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences will be a reputable locus of educational and intellectual excellence in the exact sciences, fostering creative learning systems, building a solid research tradition, sustaining an environment that supports the education of the whole person, and promoting a culture of joyful quest of the ultimate truth (Gaudium de Veritate) about man and nature.

The vision of the founders is to ensure that the University is a unique and distinguished higher education institution that participates in: Preparing future leaders in various fields of human knowledge and its application; Enriching and developing intelligence; Exploring innovative methodologies and technologies to achieve its objectives; Breaking the barrier between the academic and business society; Provide community service through continuous training and education.

The university mission is to achieve the following objectives: Contribute to the advancement of human intelligence and promulgation and development of knowledge; Prepare specialized candidates in various fields of human knowledge through utilizing modern technologies in the education process; Transform the graduate to play a pioneering and leading role in the community, enabling him or her to take responsibilities and contribute to solving problems through innovative thinking, collective work, reflection and self-development; Link academic programs and specializations with actual requirements of the surrounding work environment. This is undertaken by maintaining effective participation and cooperation between the University and local business firms; Guide research activities to create solutions for persistent problems in surrounding communities, through applied research and technical consultation. The importance of performing basic scientific research for enriching human intelligence should not be neglected; Provide community service through continuous training and education.

#### Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University



Vision: A university recognized for excellence in education and community partnership.

Mission: The university endeavors to produce high-caliber graduates by providing education that aligns with international standards in an academic and research environment of outstanding human resources, effective community partnership and supportive administrative structure.

#### Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT)



**Qatar University** 

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OATAR UNIVERSIT

Founded in 1991, Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) is the only private and non-profit university in Jordan. It is owned by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the foremost applied research center in Jordan. Like RSS, PSUT is part of El Hassan Science City located in Amman, Jordan. PSUT's main mission is to educate students and qualify them to pursue careers in the fields of information and communications technology (ICT), electronics, computer engineering, communication engineering, and business. PSUT offers Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degrees in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Computer Graphics and Animation, Network, Computer Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Communications, E-marketing, Accounting. Also, Masters of Science (M.Sc) degrees are conferred in Computer Science and Environmental Management, Computer Security & Criminology, Electrical Engineering, Enterprise System Engineering, as well as Global Master of Business Administration (MBA) in collaboration with Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. Being part of El Hassan Science City, PSUT strives to create a culture of entrepreneurship among its students. PSUT is licensed and all its programs are accredited by the Jordanian Higher Education Accreditation Commission.

Vision: To be regionally recognized for distinctive excellence in education and research, an institution of choice for students and scholars and a catalyst for the sustainable socio-economic development of Qatar.

Mission: Qatar University is the national institution of higher education in Qatar. It provides high quality undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare competent graduates, destined to shape the future of Qatar. The university community has diverse and committed faculty who teach and conduct research, which addresses relevant local and regional challenges, advances knowledge, and contributes actively to the needs and aspirations of society.

Simad University, Somalia



#### Somali National University



#### University of Monastir, Tunisia



#### **University of Jordan**



Vision: To become a leading centre of academic and professional excellence and virtues.

Mission: To provide high quality education, research and community services with the commitment of excellence, integrity, and professionalism. The university produces competent scholars and leaders of high quality and moral uprightness.

Vision: The Somali National University's vision is to establishment an affordable and equitable world class public University that generates well-trained professionals that meet the socio-economic and technological needs of the country.

Mission: The Somali National University's mission is to acquire and improve the quality of the national education that promotes knowledge, research and technology transfer so as to produce the necessary trained work force for the country.

The University of Monastir is a Tunisian multidisciplinary university with its own financial and administrative autonomy located in Monastir, Tunisia. It was founded in 2004 following the reform of the university higher education system and is organized in 5 Faculties, 2 graduate schools and 9 institutes. Its main activities are related to higher education, learning and research in a broad sense, with the aim of decentralizing services, supervising and improving the profitability of the higher education system. With approximately 27,500 students, 2,044 lecturers and 758 administrative and support staff, the University of Monastir offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, with an average graduate court of approximately 4,700 per year.

The University of Jordan (UJ), which was founded in 1962, has grown to become Jordan's largest and leading university excelling in pedagogy, research, and innovation and advancing in global standing, it has offered a wide choice of academic programs for students who can choose from more than 250 Programs from 24 schools in various disciplines. The University of Jordan has achieved advanced positions in various international rankings: UJ is one of the best 600 Universities worldwide, one of the best 10 Arab universities. The university's vision is to be a university excelling in pedagogy, research, and innovation and advancing in global standing. The mission is to provide students with fulfilling learning experiences, conduct knowledge-producing research, and to build firm societal ties, within an environment conducive to creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship; to make efficient use of resources and to forge fruitful partnerships.

#### **University of Bahrain**



Vision: To become a world-class university that is recognized as a learning, research and entrepreneurial institution.

Mission: To contribute directly to the economic growth and development of Bahrain, supported by leading edge teaching, technology and research with regional impact.

#### Yarmouk University, Jordan



**Organisations** 

#### Arab League Educational Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO)

**Arab Bureau of Education** 

for the Gulf States

**Deutsche Gesellschaft** 

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

**Euro-Mediterranean-Arab** 

Euro-Mediterranean Association for Cooperation and Developme

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The Arab League Educational, Culture and Science Organisation (ALECSO) is a specialized institution headquartered in Tunis, established in 1970. ALECSO functions in the framework of the Arab League of States, and is concerned with enhancing the fields of education, culture and science at regional and national levels, and coordinating between Arab states. The aim of the organisation is to allow for intellectual unity between the different parts of the Arab region via education, culture and sciences; and raising its cultural standards so that it keeps up-to-date with universal civilization and positively contributing.

Yarmouk University (YU) was established in June 1976 by a Royal Decree. YU has developed steadily into one of the largest and most prestigious state-sponsored educational institutions in Jordan. The university currently has almost 28000 students, 1000 faculty members, and 1740 administrative and technical staff spread over 13 faculties that offer 56 bachelor degree programs, 63 master degree programs, and 19 PhD programs in a variety of specializations. YU also has 11 centers for research and career development. Several companies have established incubators at the university to offer students training and work experience that prepares them for the wider job market and creates a climate conductive to entrepreneurship and innovation. Research is also a top priority at YU.

Vision: Excellence and Preeminence in Joint Educational Work. Mission: The Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States is an educational organization that seeks to support cooperation, coordination and integration between its Member States, providing help and consultation, and conveying its distinct educational practices and experiences to meet the needs of the knowledge society and to develop citizenship values in its Member States.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH or GIZ in short (English: German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH is a German development agency headquartered in Bonn and Eschborn that provides services in the field of international development cooperation. GIZ mainly implements technical cooperation projects of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), its main commissioning party, although it also works with the private sector and other national and supranational government organizations on a public benefit basis. In its activities GIZ seeks to follow the paradigm of sustainable development, which aims at economic development through social inclusion and environmental protection

The EMA is a national association of the German economy and is committed to the expansion of cooperation and international understanding between Germany, Europe and the Mediterranean and Middle East region. As a cross-country and cross-industry organization, the EMA links decision-makers and multipliers from business, politics and science. This makes it an excellent platform for mutual exchange, which has proven to be an independent and reliable contact for the region. Members benefit in a special way from the EMA: The exploration of the Mediterranean and Arabian markets for the German foreign trade is one of their broad range of services. It shows SMEs in the region business opportunities, promotes the development of lasting partnerships and advises member companies in the initiation and implementation of their plans. The services of the EMA include regional and country-specific forums, the implementation of own projects as well as the preparation of specialized publications and market studies.

#### **Islamic Development Bank**



#### Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences







The Islamic Development Bank is a multilateral development bank (MDB), working to improve the lives of those we serve by promoting social and economic development in Member countries and Muslim communities worldwide, delivering impact at scale. We put the support in place to enable our member countries to grow their economies and societies, so they are ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of our modern world.

The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) is a private non-profit organization established in 1976. It aims to develop strong awareness in favour of science and scientific education and culture.

The authority's vision is to become a successful enterprise in making scientific innovation a Libyan phenomenon, and for Libya to become a pioneer in the field of scientific research locally, regionally and internationally. LA'RSAT's mission is to provide the appropriate atmosphere for scientific research, whether by individuals or institutions to maximize the scientific creativity, to build a generation of researchers who are confident in themselves and eager for their creative and able to turn their research into knowledge and products through economic cooperation between different areas, to encourage the mobility of researchers and professors from and to Libya between the Libyan research centers and the universities on one side and the best international centers and universities on the other side.

National Institute for Vocational Education (NIVE) – UAE



#### **Qatar Foundation**



The Royal Scientific Society



#### Saudi Quality Council



#### Tatweer Company for Educational Services



#### Tatweer Educational Technologies



Vocational Training Corporation, Jordan مؤسسة التدريب

NG CORPORATION

VOCATIONAL TRAIN

The National Institute for Vocational Education (NIVE) was established in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2006, in conformity with the directions of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, in order to provide students with the opportunity to gain specific job competencies geared to enhancing their employability. NIVE is an autonomously managed organisation affiliated with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA). Programmes of study at NIVE adhere to the latest national and international standards and are accredited by National Qualification Authority (NQA) in the UAE and international accrediting body Pearson-BTEC in the UK. The National Qualifications Authority in the UAE has approved NIVE as a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Provider.

For over two decades, Qatar Foundation has been driving regional innovation and entrepreneurship, fostering social development and a culture of lifelong learning, and preparing our brightest minds to tackle tomorrow's biggest challenges. At the heart of everything we do is the knowledge that our future lies in unlocking the most precious resource of all – human potential.

The Royal Scientific Society touches the lives of many Jordanians through its work and impacts the future of Jordan through its research and collaboration. Born out of the great hearts and spirit of His Majesty the Late King Hussein and HRH Prince Hassan in 1970, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) aims to be the knowledge leader for science and technology locally and regionally. The RSS uses excellent scientific and engineering research to power economic development and social progress. HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan serves as the President of the Royal Scientific Society and is greatly recognised for her work in promoting various scientific endeavours on a local and international level. The Royal Scientific Society is the largest applied research institution, consultancy, and technical support service provider in Jordan and is a regional leader in the fields of science and technology.

The Saudi Council for Quality and as a professional voluntary and non-profit organization and under the generous patronage of the Saudi Organization for Standards, Metrology and Quality plays an important role in supporting the march in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and spreading the culture of quality and its modern applications in all sectors of society.

The Saudi Council for Quality, its members and its staff have contributed more than 25 years in spreading the message of quality and its modern concepts in society and raising awareness of the importance of developing quality control standards and programs and the need to establish national quality awards to motivate organizations and Both at the end of the nineties in support of the launch of the King Abdulaziz National Quality Award and the start of its effectiveness. This event is one of the most important achievements which was the result of the great efforts exerted by the Council and those interested in the issue of quality in the Kingdom.

Tatweer Education Technologies is a limited liability company, a subsidiary of Tatweer Education Holding Company owned by the Public Investment Fund. The company was officially registered in the Ministry of Commerce and Investment in 2016 to support the Ministry of Education in carrying out the functions of the Ministry of Information Technology, and provide high-quality solutions and services for both the public and private sectors, while developing technology and communications services in the field of education in the Kingdom; In order to keep pace with future growth at the local and international levels, the company enjoys a legal personality, independent financial liability, and full eligibility, to achieve its purposes and carry out the tasks assigned to it.

Vision: Adapt technical capabilities to enable digital transformation in the education sector. The message: Providing distinguished technical solutions to the education sector through building internal capacities and sustainable partnerships to achieve the transformation of the educational process.

Vision: The first partner in innovative and integrated educational solutions. Mission: Enabling partners and beneficiaries to develop an exceptional educational system through the optimal utilization of resources, expertise and partnerships.

Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) provides its services to all citizens regardless of their education level working of the platform of lifelong continuous learning, both in vocational preparation programs of all professional levels, or upgrading competency programs to raise competency of workers on job in marketplace. The Corporation also provides training and consultations services in the area of safety and professional health to minimize accidents in workplace, training of trainers and supervisors in behavioural and administrative aspects, developing the work of small and middle size establishments, and organizing Jordanian labour market.

## MENA Innovation 2019 welcomes the following Young Innovators

The Young Innovators Special Session is aimed at demonstrating the need for entrepreneurs and innovators in the region as key contributors to future growth and job creation.

#### Petroleum Development Oman

**Young Innovators Partner** 



شركة تشمية تقط عثمان Petroleum Development Oman Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) is the leading exploration and production company in the Sultanate of Oman. We deliver the majority of the country's crude oil production and natural gas supply, but above all we focus on delivering excellence, growth and sustainable value creation within and well beyond our industry.

The Company is owned by the Government of Oman (with a 60% interest), Royal Dutch Shell (34%), Total (4%) and Partex (2%). The first economic oil find was made in 1962, and the first oil consignment was exported in 1967.

PDO operates in a concession area of about 90,000 km2 (one third of Oman's geographical area), has around 209 producing oil fields, 55 producing gas fields, more than 8,000 active wells, a diverse workforce of more than 8,500 employees, comprised of 70 different nationalities, and more than 70,000 contractors. The primary objective of PDO is to engage efficiently, responsibly and safely in the exploration, production, development, storage and transportation of hydrocarbons in the Sultanate.

#### www.pdo.co.om

Abijad



#### **Innovator: Eman Hylooz**

Arabic speaking users on the internet are the 4th largest in the world! 180 Million. Where 3 out of 4 read books frequently, but only 3% of the internet content is Arabic. No book discovery & Zero reading insights!

We are bridging this gap through Abjjad, the biggest social e-Reading platform with a community of 1,000,000 Arabic readers; where they rate, review, and get unlimited access to Arabic eBooks.

We digitize books from top Arabic publishers & authors and then offer them through a monthly subscription to the readers. We are investing aggressively in users and eBooks acquisition where both are supported with ongoing investment in the product and technology.



#### Innovators: Haitham Al-Haidari & Yasmin Kassem

Ajeer is an online platform through which individuals can find short-term, project-based employment. Ajeer focuses on young freelancers – independent, skilled individuals who are interested in providing short-term services to companies and employers.

Freelancers on Ajeer are provided with an online space where they can display their skills, education background and portfolio. Seniors and recent graduates face initial difficulty in finding employment and skilled individuals lack an opportunity through which they can obtain exposure and potentially gain employment. At the same time, companies are showing more interest in hiring people for short-term projects in terms of outsourcing.

Ajeer's biggest strength is the ability to help freelancers legally obtain payment for their work. We are the only company in Qatar that provides this service. Some companies and employers are unable to make official payments to freelancers. Our value proposition is our ability to provide a solution to freelancers in allowing them to obtain payments from employers legally.

Our strength lies in working with the unique needs and set procedures in the Qatari market to the benefit of all stakeholders involved. That being stated, this factor does not affect our ability to scale to countries in the region. Ajeer focuses on in-office freelancing opportunities (rather than remote opportunities) because the market in the Middle East prefers it. Ajeer is a statement that employers do not need to outsource their skills abroad, that talent can be found at home.



#### Innovators: Qais Al Tobi & Haitham Al Tobi

Edlal is an online knowledge sharing platform for lifelong learners to learn the skills they need. The platform provides high-quality educational video courses that presented in Arabic language and focused on the skills needed by the market in the Sultanate of Oman and the region, as presented by experts targeting employees, jobseekers, entrepreneurs and students. Edlal provides an innovative learning method and experience to more than 90,000 users from 40+ countries (August 2019) in various specializations such as entrepreneurship, leadership and technology. The platform is available to access via various devices, such as personal computers, tablets and smart phones allowing users to access the online courses anytime at any location within and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

Edlal aims to contribute to the vision and direction the future of education of the Sultanate of Oman, and to establish a strategic partnership with local and international organizations in the educational fields such as universities, companies and governmental institutions. Also, Edlal aims to be the leading platform of the e-learning industry in the Sultanate of Oman, and to provide training and educational online courses based on the current and future skills needs.

#### eMushrif



#### Innovator: Adnan Al Shu'aili

eMushrif turns ordinary school buses into smart buses to ensure children safety. The solution brings IoT to buses and consists of sophisticated hardware and intelligent software that help schools and parents to keep track of buses and students with four levels of safety checks inside the bus to provide high level of safety and efficiency. eMushrif is on a mission to save lives on school buses and regain parents' trust in school transportation. The system enables automatic attendance marking of the students, visual child check and detection system to ensure no child ends up staying inside the bus. eMushrif's solution also comes with two apps for the school administrators and parents to track the location of buses/students in real-time and receive important notifications.

The company started in March 2016. Today, its solution is deployed in hundreds of buses in Oman, tens of schools and used by thousands of parents every day. eMushrif completed 1 million protected trips last semester and prevented 3 child-left behind incidents. Moreover, the technology is used in other verticals for commuting management and people/ assets tracking applications.

eMushrif is also providing automatic attendance system for schools, contactless payments for students and advance monitoring system for drivers using artificial intelligence.

**Faylasof** 



#### **Innovator: Mohammad Zatara**

Faylasof digitizing the relationship between publishers and authors and readers, is one of the largest online bookstores in the Middle East. That allows ordinary users to conveniently find books, offering more than 8 million titles of Arabic and English books with home delivery and customized payment methods that suit the Arab region.

#### InnoTech



#### Innovator: Eng. Othman Al Mandhari

InnoTech is an EdTech Omani company stated in 2013 by four Omani founders as a startup company. Our main product "InnoBox" is an educational toy for children to help them learn the basics of electronics in a safe, practical and fun way. The box consists of many electronic parts we designed and manufactured from scratch. The user can connect the parts easily using magnets to construct many electronic circuits. The box also comes with an app for iOS and Android where the user can get all the instructions in a fun and interactive way.

InnoTech also is operating the Child Exploration Center, two FabLabs and a mobile FabLab. These labs help spread the knowledge about the 4th industrial revolution and other technologies among Omanis. Our team is 9 full-time Omanis and we are located in Muscat and Sohar.

Eng. Othman Al Mandhari the founder and CEO of InnoTech won the Best Entrepreneur Award in Oman 2018. This is considered the highest Entrepreneurship award in Oman and it is managed by the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development in Oman "Riyada".

#### **IOT KIDS**



#### **Innovator: Reem Emad**

IOT kids was launched in 2016, we were the first in Iraq to adopt the subject of software algorithm methods of teaching children. We teach the programming of robots in an era where the need for the development of machines and industrial machinery is evident.

Our goal is to teach the basics of programming and develop the educational reality for children in Iraq. We target children between the ages of 7 to 15 years. Our customers are of various ages, the vast majority are centred around families and young people as our programme aims to develop capabilities in terms of enabling and refining the fundamentals of software and engineering projects, to work on them in the future, putting them into the labour market.

We have trained more than 4000 students over 3 years, in addition to providing free workshops to introduce society to the importance of this development, and the use of programming and automated devices. We have organized several festivals over the past three years in Middle Eastern regions.

Our plan is to expand within Iraq and develop the quality of performance for all levels of the project to get better results for employees and customers. We have created online courses in collaboration with Zain to train students online and invest time and curiosity of children in the digital world in the right way to develop their skills.

Sadeed



#### **Innovator: Abdalla Odat**

At Sadeed, we are solving one of the biggest problems in customer service over social media for medium and enterprise companies. Accounts mangers encounter problems in response to all follower's comments and messages due to many reasons. High volume comments, different social platforms, different followers input new cases, following ups or emergencies cases and receiving abusive comments over their social media accounts.

Sadeed is a web based platform that allows you to respond to your social conversations across Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter from one collaborative team inbox. Sadeed increases productivity using artificial intelligence by automated responses to follower's comments within seconds, also automated common tasks like tagging, moving, assigning, or setting the status of incoming conversations.

TBD



#### Innovator: Murooj Khalid Al-Saadi

TBD, short for ToBeDone is a platform that links youth, being students and graduates, with job opportunities and a chance to enhance their skills, gain experience and an extra source of money. On the other hand, through youth, we provide companies with curated and filtered candidates that will fulfil the positions available in their organisation, making it a cost-effective solution to acquire employees promptly and as and when they need them.

The company was established in April 2018, starting with the support of Oman Technology Fund to study the market and implement customer discovery on the current market. The company was formed by 3 female fresh graduates who were trying to fix the problem of the mismatch happening in the market and the big gap between graduates and companies. TBD aims to provide the optimal solution and the first step towards starting their job journey. We believe that youth have enthusiasm and are capable of accomplishing more, if the right help and guidance was provided. TBD plays the role of a medium to enhance youth opportunities and exposure to the job market linking them with suitable positions at companies.

#### Wathiq



#### Innovator: Said Al-Azri Presenter: Fatema Alqasabi

Wathiq Educational Portal (eWathiq.com) products and services were built on the idea of providing students with all their needs to make great success in their education without having to spend a fortune. As well as being able to study anytime and anywhere. As a result, it offers new ways of teaching and self-learning.

eWathiq.com online services stand as the only services of their kind in Oman that comes as one comprehensive package of services that cover all needs of the students in Grades 11 and 12. The student gets 8 different services: Online eTests, Progress Reports, Exam Papers, Video Lessons, Abstracts and Studying Manuals, Educational Resources in Flash, Online Q & A and Motivation Content (Videos, Presentations and How-to papers).

The package allows students to enjoy and benefit from using all the services for all her or his subjects. In addition, since eWathiq.com services are available online, students can access anytime and from anywhere. Furthermore, 3 apps were developed for the major platforms: iOS, Android and windows, while the portal was developed with web responsive technology in mind, therefore, student will be able to access it using their preferred smart and Internet enabled devices: Desktop, Laptop, Tablet and/or Mobile.

Wathiq Online Educational Portal is a practical example of how ICT technologies can be utilized in advancing education systems while minimizing expenses and being less affected by economical instability.

## MENA Innovation 2018 welcomes the following Media Partners

#### **Amsterdam Group**

#### **Press & Media Agency**



Founded in 2006, Amsterdam Group Public Relations Inc. was established to strike a delicate balance between contemporary world-wide-web branding and cutting-edge, next generation social media engagement with the established and highly accredited practice of media relations and traditional thought leadership promotion.

We secure bold positioning around the world, crafting an indelible imprint with prominent audiences for our clientele, which include and have included Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili's "Georgian Dream" campaign, Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangarai and that nation's Sport and Education Minister David Coltart, former Nigerian Governor and oil shipping magnate Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu, the Arcadia Foundation, MYUTIQ, First International Bank, Families USA, MyBucks Financial Technology, Contec Global Group, Capital Nine Zero (CNZ), leading global micro-finance charity Opportunity International, and a range of other corporations, government officials and agencies.

#### www.amsterdamgroup.net

#### **Academy Today**



Academy Today (AT) is a market-leading digital platform reporting on the latest news and opinion from the academy sector, including free schools, Multi-Academy Trusts and University Technical Colleges.

AT delivers the latest news and insights from the sector to an opt-in subscriber database of almost 2,000 key decision makers, which includes headteachers, school business managers, finance directors and IT managers. Academy Today reports on key sector topics, including government policy, teaching, and school life.

#### academytoday.co.uk



The Arcadia Foundation is a non-profit organization established to promote democracy and combat corruption in governments worldwide.

The Foundation strives to raise awareness on the importance of good governance and transparency as they are critical foundations needed to stimulate dialogue, freedom and encourage economic investment confidence on a global scale.

We provide the training, the tools and the forum for discussion on values critical to our mission's continued success – civil liberties, the promotion of judicial independence and fair elections, the separation of powers, rule of law, and ultimately the redefining of fundamental human rights, reaching out to a global citizenry yearning to better understand their respective governments.

#### arcadiafoundation.org

**Edarabia** 

Edarabia

Edarabia is the leading education guide, enabling students, parents, and teachers to interact and select the right institutions. The site was launched in 2005 (formerly as IQEA.org) and has become a trusted source in the field of education. Visitors can find the latest industry news, upcoming events, job listings, research updates, compare ratings, add reviews, and engage with others in the community forum. Edarabia.com covers all areas of education including but not limited to universities, colleges, schools, nurseries, language institutes, training academies, music schools, online degrees, and much more.

#### www.edarabia.com

#### **Education Technology**

TECHNOLOGY

Education Technology (ET) is distributed 6 times a year in both print and digital format to an opt-in subscriber database of 10,000 + key ed tech decision makers across the education sector.

ET covers the latest news and innovations in technology for the whole education sector (primary, secondary, FE and HE), delivering in-depth features on key tech trends, including cloud computing, coding, 3D printing and MOOCs. ET communicates to its audience via the bi-monthly magazine, website and fortnightly e-newsletter, which has over 6,000 digital subscribers.

edtechnology.co.uk

#### Independent Education Today

## **EDUCATION**

#### **IT News Africa**



#### Teach Middle East Magazine





Independent Education Today (IET) is a market-leading magazine reporting on all aspects of private education. From catering to health and wellbeing, sports to finance, teaching and school life, IET is an unrivalled, highly trusted source for the latest news, appointments and expert opinion across the independent school sector. IET is available in both print and digital formats to an opt-in subscriber database of 8,000 + key decision makers working in the independent school sector, including headteachers, bursars and deputy heads.

#### ie-today.co.uk

IT News Africa is a dynamic & well established media company that specialises in publishing, events as well as marketing and advertising solutions for the information age. We have a global publishing network and international client base, which we service from offices in Johannesburg (South Africa).

#### www.ITNewsAfrica.com

Teach Middle East Magazine is the premier magazine for educators and the entire education sector in the Middle East and beyond.

Our vision is to equip educators with the materials and tools to function optimally inside and out of the classroom. We provide a space for educators to connect, find inspiration, resources and forums that are aimed at enhancing their teaching techniques, methodologies and personal development.

#### teachmiddleeastmag.com

The PIE is an independent media, recruitment and events company offering a market-leading portfolio of services for Professionals in International Education.

Keep up with industry news via www.thepienews.com, read our analysis of hot topics and trends in the quarterly The PIE Review magazine, find new staff or your next move through our jobs board www.thepiejobs.com and specialist executive search consultancy The PIE Talent, and make business connections through The PIE Plus. Sign up to The PIE Weekly newsletter to receive a weekly update on news and jobs in the sector directly to your inbox.

The PIEoneer Awards celebrate innovation and achievement in international education each year. The PIE is the only targeted media platform that can boast a truly global audience of senior stakeholders involved in international education from around the world. We reach over 50,000 unique readers per month and 25,000 subscribers receive our PIE Weekly newsletter.

#### www.thepienews.com

#### **SciDev.Net**



SciDev.Net is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing reliable and authoritative information about science and technology for the developing world. Through our website we give policymakers, researchers, the media and civil society information and a platform to explore how science and technology can reduce poverty, improve health and raise standards of living around the world.

We also build developing countries' capacity for communicating science and technology through our regional networks of committed individuals and organisations, practical guidance and specialist workshops.

SciDev.Net's vision is to achieve better-informed decisions by individuals and organisations in the developing world on science and technology related issues, and thus the better integration of scientific knowledge and technological innovation into policies, programmes and projects intended to achieve sustainable development at all levels of society.

#### www.scidev.net

#### **University Business**



University Business (UB) is a market-leading magazine for the UK HE sector, reporting on all aspects of the university commercial and management arena. From facilities to finance, to technology and innovation, UB is an unrivalled, highly trusted source for the latest news, appointments and expert opinion across the higher education industry.

UB is available in both print and digital formats to an opt-in subscriber database of 7,000 + key decision makers working in UK higher education, including vice chancellors, operation managers, and commercial services directors.

universitybusiness.co.uk



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