



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة



Regional Centre
for Information and Communication
Technology

المركز الإقليمي
لتكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصال



Kingdom of
Bahrain

ملكة
البحرين

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RCICT Newsletter

Regional Centre for Information
and Communication Technology

Profile of RCICT

The Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT) is a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. RCICT Establishment Agreement was signed on 28th November 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland, and the official inauguration of the Centre was on 24th May 2012 in Manama, Bahrain.

RCICT functions as a laboratory of Ideas for developing strategic plans, policies and practices through the networking of regional professionals. It is also a research Centre for developing and coordinating cooperative research on technology solutions for knowledge acquisition and sharing. Additionally, it is a capacity building Centre which provides education and training in the areas related to ICTs.

In the same context, RCICT is a technology hub which offers opportunities for the six Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and Yemen to exchange expertise, coordinate ICT efforts and come up with a common strategic plan to enhance ICT in the region.



Best practices in mobile learning



Call for proposals on school-wide mobile learning models

The UNESCO-Fazheng Project on Best Practices in Mobile Learning is designed to seek evidence-based school-level mobile learning practices to inform policy makers and practitioners about the lessons learned on planning and implementing school-wide mobile learning programmes. It is aimed at promoting effective school-wide mobile learning models to ensure that schools become an innovative learning environment in supporting the achievement of school-related targets of Sustainable Development Goal 4.

You are cordially invited to submit your proposal on school-wide mobile learning models that have been implemented and proved effective. If selected, your school's model will be recognized by UNESCO as a best practice in using mobile learning at the school level. Moreover, your model will be profiled as a case study in the UNESCO publication on Best Practices in Mobile Learning. The overall goal of the publication is to draw insights and evidences from successful initiatives to inform policy makers and school leaders about effective strategies in planning and implementing mobile learning programmes in varied contexts and to address different needs. The selected cases will also benefit from high visibility on the UNESCO website and at international conferences organized by UNESCO.

Scope

Please apply to be considered as a case study, if:

- You represent an individual school or a group of schools,
- Your school(s) provide primary and/or secondary education,
- You have a school-wide mobile learning model - a set of mobile learning practices for learning, teaching and school management - that have been implemented
 - Your mobile learning model is being implemented across grades and subject areas in your school,
 - You have supporting evidence (based on data and other validated evidences) to prove that the mobile learning models have been effective.

Submission

As a guidance, you can view and download the call for proposal, including the questionnaire in six languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian.

However, applications can be only submitted through the online application platform in English, French or Spanish. Applications sent to us in a Word or PDF file will NOT be accepted.

To submit your proposal, please complete the online submission form in

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4190994/Best-Practices-in-Mobile-Learning>

by Friday, 13 April 2018 (midnight, Paris time).

Any queries regarding the proposal submission can be made at fazhengproject@unesco.org

RCICT Training Programs & Events



ISTE Coaching Standards Certification Program

The Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS) organized in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT) and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) the third and final phase of the training program entitled "Training of Trainers on Education Technology Standards (ISTE)" during the period of 3rd to 5th of January 2017.

The first and third phases of the training program included on-site workshops in RCICT as well as a virtual four-week training which focused on the 2016 ISTE Standards for Students with an emphasis on digital citizenship.



During the ceremony of the final phase, RCICT was certified the training center for the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS) to conduct training programs for the six Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in the field of ISTE. This came in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by HE Dr. Majid Bin Ali Al Nuaimi the Minister of Education and the Director General of the Arab Education Bureau for the Gulf States Dr. Ali Abdul-Khaleq Al-Qarni during the graduation ceremony of the participants who have accomplished the ISTE Coaching Standards Certification Program.





Dr. Mahmud Shihab

Director of the Educational Resources Center, Head of Educational Technology, and Accreditation Coordinator at International College, Beirut, Lebanon.

The ISTE Coaching Certification Program Certified 20 Participants from the Gulf States

As I train teachers in my community and travel around the world to share my experience and learn from fellow educators, I can clearly see the challenges that we face to prepare learners of today to be global citizen leaders of tomorrow. Training teachers and empowering educational technology coaches can greatly impact technology integration in the classroom.

As a pioneer in the use of the 1998 and 2007 ISTE Standards and as a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Council in the development of the 2016 Standards for Students, it was my pleasure to be invited to serve as lead faculty for the delivery of the ABEGS/ISTE Coaching Standards Certificate Program. Certified coaches offer sustainable support and training to classroom teachers on the effective use of technology and digital resources for learning. In its 2nd cohort, the coaching certification program certified 20 participants from the Gulf States over an intensive training period of 7 weeks. The certification process is composed of rigorous face-to-face and online modules that require each participant to develop a technology-integrated lesson plan based on the 2016 ISTE Standards, participate in webinars and online discussions, prepare a training screencast, and deliver an oral presentation. Coaches who successfully completed the assessments are prepared to lead educational technology integration initiatives in their countries based on ISTE standards and indicators.

The Regional Center for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT) in the Kingdom of Bahrain has organized this program in collaboration with ABEGS and ISTE, and has played a vital role in providing the logistics, technology resources and support needed for the program.

RCICT Training Programs:

In light of the implementation of the National Program “Digital Empowerment in Education”, several training programs have been held in RCICT in collaboration with a number of public and private sectors. Some of these programs have included:

Utilization of Touchscreens Technology at Work and Life in Education

In recent years, touchscreen technology has become widely used in schools and universities as catalysts to learning and development. The aim of this program is to introduce touchscreen technology such as tablets, smart phones and other mobile devices, and how they can be utilized in our daily life. The training program focuses mainly on the effectiveness of using this technology in education. It also provides a range of applications that can be used to enhance the learning experience through several practical activities.



Adobe Captivate

This training program is designed to provide teachers and educational specialists with the knowledge and hands-on practice they require to develop and build interactive e-Learning and m-Learning (Mobile) content using Adobe Captivate. At the end of this program, participants are asked to utilize Adobe Captivate and the skills they have acquired to produce an interactive e-Lesson.



Developing & Publishing e-Content

This program aims at assisting teachers and educational specialists to develop and publish educational e-content. Participants are exposed to various delivery modes in which the practical side is emphasised. To ensure participants have benefited from the knowledge and skills introduced during the training program, they have been asked to create and display an educational storyboard.



Educational Content Management System



The objective of this training program is to introduce participants to the concept of CMS, LMS, and the differences between them along with examples. During the program, participants practise how to develop and administer a website using an open source management system. A Project presentation is expected as the culmination of this program.



Cloud Computing in Education

There are enormous benefits to using virtualization and cloud computing in education. Cloud computing brings changes, growth, and opportunity by providing multimedia learning, cloud-based textbooks, administrative tools and other services.

This training program aims at providing participants with knowledge about cloud computing and its deployment models. It is also designed to enable participants to use and exploit open source cloud-based applications in education.





RCICT Participation in GEFT 2017 Conference on Digital Empowerment in Education

Under the patronage of HE Dr. Majid Bin Ali Al Nuaimi, the Minister of Education, the second edition of the Gulf Education Future Technology (GEFT) Forum was held from 3rd to 4th May 2017 at Gulf Hotel, Manama. The 2-day forum consisted of an exceptional conference and specialized workshops. In the opening speech, HE the Minister spoke about the growing role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education and all aspects of life, while highlighting the initiatives undertaken by the ministry with the purpose of advancing technology. "The UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize for the use of ICTs in Education has outstandingly succeeded in encouraging innovations in the area of integrating technology in education," the minister said. He also pointed out the efforts exerted by the ministry to shift from the traditional educational practices to comprehensive E-learning.

HE the Minister, in his speech, has lauded the importance of RCICT in the region, noting that it provides quality ICT services to all development-related public private sectors.

RCICT has contributed to GEFT exhibition and taken part in the workshops held on the second day. One of the certified trainers in the center conducted a workshop on "Latest Trends in Designing Interactive e- Content".





UNESCO Officials' Visits to RCICT

Dr. Fengchun Miao, Head of ICT in Education team within the section for Teacher Development and Education Policies at UNESCO HQ, visited RCICT on May 25, 2017.

Mrs. Hala Amer, RCICT Acting Director, made a presentation on the achievements of the Centre and its future plans. Dr. Miao praised the Centre's activities to date, stressing UNESCO cooperation and support to RCICT.



Visit by Dr. David Atchoarena, the Director of Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, Education Sector (ED/PLS) Paris HQ, in March 2017.





Digital Empowerment in Education Program - Microsoft Educators Day

The Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology in collaboration with Microsoft organized "Microsoft Educators Day". The event was held at the Centre in the presence of the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Information and the Education Industry Lead at Microsoft Gulf.

Participants were given specialized training sessions as follows: Going Paperless with OneNote, Collaborate Learning with OneDrive & SharePoint, Microsoft Innovative Educator and Utilize Office Mix in Education. A number of 120 trainees from the Ministry of Education benefited from the different sessions as part of the ongoing "Digital Empowerment in Education" training programs.



Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology Policies and Regulations Manual

RCICT has published its first version of "Policies and Regulations Manual". The manual contains RCICT Policies and procedures that regulate the administrative and technical work at the center. It consists of three main sections as follows:

- 1 - Reservation and Use of Training Halls Policy.
 - 2 - Borrowing RCICT Devices Policy.
 - 3- Conducting Training Programs in the Field of Information and Communication at RCICT Policy.
- The manual has been circulated to all concerned entities for general knowledge.



RCICT Smart Library (Phase 1)

The Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology has launched the first version of "RCICT Smart Library". The smart library is a modern take on the traditional library that contains resources which cover several topics with the main one being information and communication technology.

Visitors to the centre can get access to the open source content by simply scanning the QR code created on each book or report. The various electronic facilities and amenities provided by the Centre aim at disseminating information and keeping abreast with the technological developments.



RCICT Smart Library (Phase 2)

The Regional Center for Information and Communication Technology is an educational partner of UNESCO to follow up the implementation of SDG4 targets on a national level. The Center provides the required support to all bodies working on the Education Agenda 2030 and participates in raising awareness of the sustainable development goals. RCICT also contributes actively in the development of the technological skills for youths and adults. In this context, the second phase of a smart library has been created, which includes a number of resources on SDG4 for knowledge acquisition and sharing.





Kuwait's Ministry of Education wins 'Technology Initiative Award' for accelerating digital transformation in education

In recognition of its efforts in establishing a strategic vision for driving innovation in the country and transforming the educational system through the use of the latest digital technologies, the Kuwait Ministry of Education received 'Technology Initiative Award' during the prestigious annual Bett Middle East awards ceremony held at the Dusit Thani, Abu Dhabi.

The award was received by Dr. Khaled Al Rushaid, Assistant Undersecretary, Ministry of Education Kuwait, on behalf of the Ministry for its IT infrastructure modernization project that hosts more than 300,000 users and delivers services to faculty, teachers and students across the country.

The project's primary aim is to empower teachers with the latest technologies that enable them to deliver enhanced learning experiences to meet the needs of 21st century learners, increase students' engagement, foster collaboration amongst them and equip them with the essential digital skills required for the modern workplace.

MOE's 1 to 1 project promotes integration of technology in education by providing teachers and students with Microsoft Windows Devices pre-installed with learning materials and properly configured applications for easy use.

As part of this project, 1000 teachers across 6 school districts in Kuwait have been trained to become Master trainers through a "Train the Trainer" program. These teachers are now equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to train other teachers on how to use technology effectively and engage with students in the classroom.

The project has helped serve MOE's objective to scale and smoothly disseminate knowledge to teachers across the country by fostering inter school collaboration. In addition, teachers in Ahmadi school district are collaborating to create the first e-Book in Arabic around the usage of Microsoft tools in education.





Development of Robot Modules in IT Curriculum

Based on the importance of artificial intelligence, and its contribution to the advancement of societies, it has become vital to the field of education in the Sultanate of Oman to benefit from the effective employment of modern techniques, which in turn enhance students' interest and motivation to learn, and their innovation and creativity. Robots have recently become an important educational tool and gained global recognition due to their practical applications in various subjects and concepts. In addition, these modern tools have helped to offer a fun learning environment for students through which knowledge is transferred effectively in an enjoyable way.

The introduction of Robotics to the Information Technology Curricula was accompanied by the provision of around 2,500 EV3 Robots of high quality specifications to schools in all governorates of the Sultanate of Oman in order to meet the needs of the curricula and ensure the achievement of the objectives. In addition, intensive trainings have taken place to hone and improve their skills.

The introduction of robotics to the Information Technology curriculum has had a positive impact on students and their desire to learn. It has also boosted their creativity and encouraged them to participate in local and international competitions, as well as the general interest of the staff in the Ministry of Education and those who are interested in the field.





UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education

Kiron Open Higher Education from Germany and Jaago Foundation from Bangladesh have won the 2016 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Education for their innovative and inspiring projects.

They each received USD 25,000 and a certificate of recognition at a ceremony that took place at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris on 21 February 2017 in the presence of the Director-General of UNESCO Ms. Irina Bokova, the Kingdom of Bahrain's Minister of

Foreign Affairs H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa and the Minister of Education H.E. Dr. Majid Bin Ali Al-Noaimi.

The laureates presented their prize-winning projects on the use of ICTs for disadvantaged groups in a seminar before the ceremony. The theme for the 2016 Prize recognizes the urgent need to tackle challenges that prevent the most vulnerable populations from accessing quality education.





Making The Digital Revolution an Inclusive One

The experience of meeting a refugee during university is what motivated Markus Kressler, founder of Kiron, to start his project in Germany. Kiron is an innovative blended-learning education platform that provides free, fast and easy access to higher education for refugees worldwide regardless of their asylum status. It is tailored to overcome the key challenges -- legal, linguistic, financial and skills -- that hold back displaced persons from education. "Kiron is a connecting organization," said Mr. Kressler. His project's mission is to help create a world where everyone has an equal chance to opportunities.

Korvi Rakshand, founder of Jaago (which means "wake up" in Bangladeshi) said that poverty was the biggest obstacle to accessing learning and opportunities in his country. The Dhaka-based foundation is a movement initiated by youth to break the cycle of poverty through quality education and reach those in the most remote locations. The Online School project connects underprivileged children in rural areas of Bangladesh with high-quality courses through interactive video-conferencing delivered by teachers based in the capital. Mr. Rakshand demonstrated his programme by connecting live with a classroom full of students in Bangladesh.

Speaking at the prize ceremony Ms. Bokova said "Education stands at the heart of the new sustainable development agenda, as a human right, as a transformational force for sustainability, for poverty eradication, for peace." In her speech, Ms. Bokova referred to the 2030 Declaration which outlines how we can harness new technologies to catalyze progress on the new agenda by building on two pillars- human rights and social justice. She also added that "the same spirit underpins the Prize, which for 12 years now, has rewarded innovation and creativity in using information and communication technologies to improve educational outcomes. This was initiated by His Majesty the King of Bahrain, to whom UNESCO is deeply grateful". In her address, Ms. Bokova thanked deeply the Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Bahrain "I am also delighted by the presence of Dr. Majed Bin Ali Al- Noaimi, Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Bahrain, a major champion of cooperation between UNESCO and Bahrain, whom I thank most humbly", said Ms. Bokova. "We encourage other institutions to follow the winners' example to invest in modern technologies in education to empower underprivileged people across the globe," said H.E. Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al Khalifa.

About the prize

Established in 2005, the UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize recognizes innovations in teaching and learning that leverage technology to improve educational outcomes. Two prizewinners are selected by the Director-General of UNESCO after recommendations made by an international jury of five independent and recognized experts in the area of ICT in education from each region.

What's New in Technology?

Diet Sensor



Diet Sensor application is a third-party developer on the SCiO Platform operated by Consumer Physics.

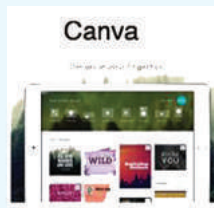
SCiO uses a technology called 'near infrared spectroscopy' to determine the chemical makeup of food and drink, meaning users can get in-depth information in terms of calories, nutrients and so on, enabling more informed nutritional decision-making. Each type of molecule in a food vibrates in its own unique way, and these vibrations interact with light to create a unique, optical signature. In brief, spectrometers analyze what is in a substance based on how its molecules interact with light. This application works as a complete nutritional, health and fitness hub that allows users to manage their nutrients and calorific intake as well as get advice on portion sizes and food suggestions in real time to balance each meal.



IPad Applications to present student's learning

9 تطبيقات أيباد لعرض تعلمات الطلاب

المصقات و الإنفوجرافيكس

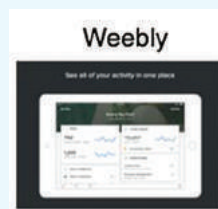
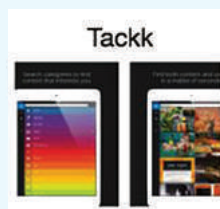
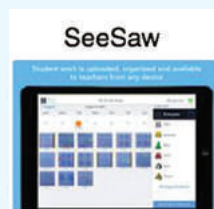


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Upcoming Training Programs:

- Utilization of Touch Screens Technology at Work and Life
- Adobe Captivate 9
- Adobe Photoshop- Level 1
- ورشة إعداد السيناريو التعليمي
- Adobe Illustrator CC – Level1
- الحوسبة السحابية في التعليم
- Adobe Premier
- Educational Content Management System CML



Online Training Programs:

- Creating an eBook using iBooks Author
- الانفوجرافيك المفهوم وأساسيات التصميم
- كائنات التعلم الرقمية المفهوم، التصميم والإنتاج



Soon in RCICT:

- Creativity Award in ICT Researches
- Launch of RCICT Portal
- RCICT Smart Library (Version 3)





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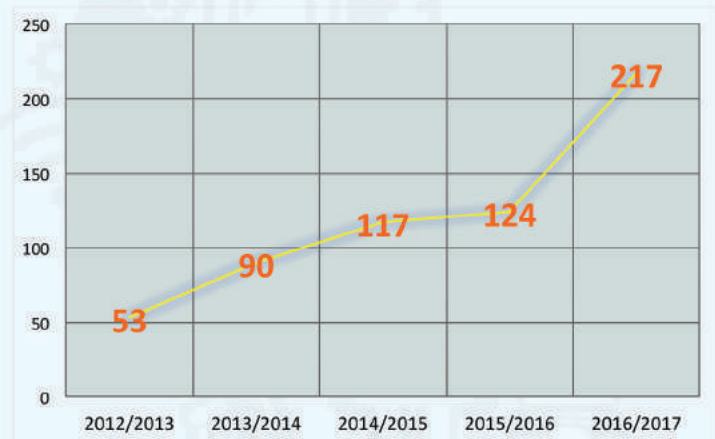
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We value your comments and
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