



### Steps on the Path

Due to the growing importance of Information and Communication Technology and its key role in development, production and communication with the world around us, the Ministry of Education has sought within the framework of the UNESCO to found the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology in the Kingdom which will become a source of new ideas and contribute to practical solutions as well as the designing and implementation of training and technical programs. Hence, the center is going to cater for the Arab Region's needs in general, and for the countries working under the umbrella of the Arab Bureau of Education for Gulf States in particular; in both public and private sectors, because of the importance of those technologies in the fields of industry, commerce, finance, business and knowledge. The ministry, in conjunction with this international organization that has agreed to take in charge the supervision of the center, has made great strides towards elaborating the goals of this center and introducing concepts that could be enriched or developed later, which has brought Bahrain a good regional reputation.

#### The main goals the center endeavors to reach are as follows:

- Developing capacities to make the best use of Information and Communication Technology in all fields, and exploring, acquiring and exchanging knowledge on both regional and international levels.
- Strategic and effective use of means of communication and information technologies as principal tools to expand the scope of people who benefit from technical and scientific knowledge, publish scientific innovations and simplify them for the public.
- Providing beneficiaries with knowledge and skills required to use Information and Communication Technology, such as being able to analyze data and process them in innovative ways and participating with the information community.
- Planning and organizing activities for regional and international cooperation in order to boost ICT leaders, staff and specialists' potentials efficiently regarding all educational practices.
- Supporting institutions to encourage them to take part in the production of digital interactive materials.
- Providing training opportunities in the field of Information to facilitate communicating information effectively, in line with the requirements of the shift towards e-learning.

Luckily, the center has made a huge progress in achieving these goals and extending its services as much as possible.

**Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi**  
The Minister of Education

### Our Mission

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*To enhance applied research, education and training in the fields of Information and Communication Technology in collaboration with governments, the private sector, UNESCO, as well as with other research, education and training institutions within and outside Bahrain, with the objective of making a contribution towards building a solid base of knowledge for meeting some of the technological challenges that Bahrain and the rest of the Arab countries face today and tomorrow.*

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# An Overview

## of the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT)

The Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT) is hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain's Ministry of Education under the auspices of UNESCO, to cater for the Six Arab Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Yemen, in the various and ever-expanding fields of Information and Communication Technology. The centre officially commenced operation on the 24th of May, 2012.

RCICT functions as a laboratory for ideas aiming to develop strategic plans, policies and practices through a network of regional professionals. It also constitutes a platform for sharing theories, experiences and best practices regarding the application of ICTs in sharing and acquiring knowledge worldwide. Added to that, the centre acts not only as a capacity-builder by providing education and training for trainers in areas related to ICTs and their implementation in sharing and acquiring knowledge, but also as being a research centre developing and coordinating cooperative research on technology solutions for sharing and acquiring knowledge. Furthermore, RCICT represents a technology hub that provides state-of-the-art computing infrastructure in order to advance large-scale data-processing applications, scientific research and high-performance computing.

UNESCO as an international organization has various means of cooperation with RCICT. Some of them are: providing advice to formulate short-term, medium-term and long-term visions and strategies of the centre, encouraging UNESCO member states, intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector entities to provide financial and technical assistance, providing the centre with relevant UNESCO publications and other pertinent materials and disseminating information about the activities of the centre. The UNESCO is currently very significant in terms of educational, scientific and training activities and meetings held by the centre.

In addition to catering for the GCC and Yemen, RCICT will be focusing on building a national capacity in the region by using Bahrain as a model. This will be implemented through the following procedures: conducting research studies in the area of e-learning and its applications together with providing educational and technical relevant support and expertise to participating countries undertaking or willing to undertake e-learning projects, spreading information about ways of using ICTs in education among participating countries and suggesting ideas to help exchange such information with specialized centres and supporting existing projects which involve using ICTs in education in the participating countries and liaising with the respective national organizations within these countries.

The centre will also endeavor to prepare databases in the fields of e-learning management, e-content production and e-learning resources in order to facilitate sharing knowledge at national and regional levels and provide direct technical support to the region's e-learning projects such as King Hamad Schools of the Future Project in Bahrain and similar regional initiatives.

The centre is thus expected to contribute to enhancing technical, educational and scientific cooperation and knowledge transfer in related topics at both regional and international levels. Technical cooperation with other established or proposed institutes and centres being part of UNESCO or working under its patronage is envisaged. Other relevant international and regional agencies and scientific non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can be connected to the centre through UNESCO.





In cooperation with The University of Bahrain, The Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology organized a number of workshops some of which are:

## Introduction to iOS Application Development

This workshop is designed to teach iOS app development from the ground up. Participants will learn how to use the iPhone SDK's Xcode, Interface Builder, and UIKit framework to build and design full-featured iPhone and iPad apps. They will also learn everything they need to know about Objective-C and the various iOS SDK libraries and frameworks to develop iOS apps, Xcode, Interface Builder, Instruments and the iPhone Simulator. In addition, the workshop helps participants to deploy their app to real device.



## Android Mobile Applications Development

'Android Mobile Applications Development' course aims to providing participants with the necessary principles, basic skills and techniques in order to help them deploy custom solutions in an enterprise environment. This course is also designed to support participants create applications using Android open-source platform, and give them a conceptual and practical introduction to developing software applications on the Android platform.



In cooperation with King Hamad Schools of the Future Project, the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology organized the following workshops:

## Touch Screen in Education

This workshop was aimed to identify the most prevalent Touch Screen Technologies at the moment and how to employ them in education to help liven up the educational process for both teachers and students and boost interaction between them. The course offers some examples of devices like the iPad, which can be utilized in the teaching-learning process through practical activities that allow participants to use it as a display, the synthesis tool of educational materials, educational content creation tools and learning tools.



## Cloud Computing in Education

This workshop is designed to establish the concepts of cloud computing applications in education, and to familiarize participants with the applications and methods of employing this technology in teaching and learning. It also explains the characteristics and advantages of cloud computing and how to use them optimally through groups and work teams.





## Regional Workshops

In cooperation with The UNESCO, the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology organized the following workshops:

### UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers:

The UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers (ICT CFT) intended to inform educational policy makers, educators, providers of professional education and working teachers of the pivotal role of ICT in educational reform and to assist member states in developing national ICT competency standards for teachers with an ICT in Education Master Plan approach.



### Touch & Mobile Technology:

This workshop aimed to address issues related to these technologies and go beyond to delve into the intricacies of the subject targeting high-level policy makers at the Ministries of Education in the GCC states and Yemen. Beyond policy level discussions, participants were sensitized to the issues of preparedness for this emerging transformation.



## Collaborative Training Courses

In cooperation with ThinkSmart Training Institute, The Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology organized a number of workshops:



### ITIL v3 Foundation Course:

This foundation course is designed to enable delegates to understand the disciplines and processes that help service management staff to deliver and support quality products and services.



### IT Security:

This course is designed for professionals who want to learn the fundamentals of information security. The course covers information security aspects such as Authentication, Attacks and malicious cods, Remote access, Email security, Web Security, Wireless & instant messaging, Network security devices and topology, Security baselines, Cryptography, Computer forensics and advanced topics.



## Minister of Education inaugurates a workshop on "Open Educational Resources"

Under the patronage of HE Dr. Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi, Education Minister, a National workshop on "Open Educational Resources Policies in the Kingdom of Bahrain" has been held from 22 to 24th September 2014. This workshop which has been organized by the Regional Centre for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT) in conjunction with experts from the UNESCO in which thirty-four specialists representing the concerned entities in the Ministry of Education directorates and other government sectors were present.

HE the minister gave a speech, in which he commended holding such workshops in the centre for the aim of endorsing the culture of information and communication technology, and encouraging the use of technologies in both public and private sectors. He also added that one of the main goals as educators is to develop capacities in order to deal efficiently with information and communication technologies in all fields, exploring and exchanging knowledge at both regional and international levels. In his speech, HE also stressed on the importance of raising the level of awareness of the importance of using technology and ways to take advantage of the educational resources available on global networks, and its implementation in the field of education.

Dr. Anna Paolini, Director of the UNESCO Office in Doha, gave a speech, in which she acclaimed the efforts in the Kingdom of Bahrain in e- learning, making Bahrain an exemplary for the countries of the region. She also noted that the project of His Majesty King Hamad Schools of the Future, aimed at giving the opportunity to generations to utilize electronic means in education, and communicate with the world in order to pursue a better future.

Ms. Nawal Al Khater, Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Information, the leader of OER Team, then gave a presentation on e- learning in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the accomplishments that have been achieved so far.

The event was closed by HE Sheikh Hisham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa the Undersecretary for Resources and Services where he gave certificates to the participants.





UNESCO Institute  
for Information Technologies  
in Education

# UNESCO Technology News



## International Conference of UNESCO IITE and UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs "UNESCO Chairs Partnership on ICT Use in Education"

The Conference took place on 1-5 June, 2014 in St. Petersburg (Pushkin), Russian Federation within the XV International Forum "Modern Information Society Formation - Problems, Perspectives, Innovation Approaches". The Institute expresses high appreciation to its partners from private sector - Cisco Ltd., AIP, GIVC-Technology, Dpi-Projects, and General Lockers for the support of the Conference.

This event was targeted to continuation of a dialogue forum on the innovation and higher education policy and reform, at assess and analyze the trends and issues as well as to identify the good practices, successful innovative initiatives and projects contributing to developing and strengthening sustainable, inclusive, and diversified systems and institutions for and with innovations.

The Conference hosted 53 participants from 15 countries: UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs' Chairholders and their representatives, high-level international experts, representatives of the universities' authorities, teacher training institutions, researchers and practitioners involved in the use of ICTs in education and innovative pedagogy, IT-companies chiefs and their representatives (Cisco, Samsung, Hewlett-Packard, etc.), as well as representatives of the UNESCO HQ and the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO. The events of the Forum joined 156 participants from 18 UNESCO Member States.

The news item on this section has been extracted from <http://iite.unesco.org>



## International Conference of ICT for Persons with Disabilities and participation of the Kingdom of Bahrain

An International conference entitled "From Exclusion to Empowerment: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities" was held in New Delhi, India from 24 to 26 November 2014. UNESCO was the major organizer of the international event in close cooperation with "Brotherhood", "We Care Filmfest" and "Global Rainbow Foundation".

Delegates consisting in specialists from the Special Education Directorate in the Ministry of Education -Kingdom of Bahrain- were nominated to attend this important event, and participated in the session which was entitled "Inclusive Policies at the National Level: Experiences from Around the World" and was chaired by Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen, Founder-President of Global Rainbow Foundation.

The session examined and discussed examples of policies for the promotion of persons with disabilities from around the world. Ms. Alyaa Aljeeb, a Special Education Specialist in the Ministry of Education shared Bahrain's policies and experiences in integrating students with disabilities, which received impressive feedback from participating audience.



## Training of winners in the competition "The Best Teacher on ICT Application in Teaching Practice"



Within the "Teachers of the Arctic" project, IITE arranged the training for winners of the competition "The best teacher on ICT Application in Teaching Practice", held in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) upon the IITE initiative and in partnership with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Republican teacher training institute, under the name of Donskoy-II. During two training days, the participants got acquainted with IITE activities and attended the lectures organized by the IITE staff members – Ms. Svetlana Knyazeva, Ms Natalia Tokareva and Mr Alexander Khoroshilov. Moreover, the study visit in Moscow "i-school" (the centre of distance learning of children with disabilities) was organized for participants. At the end of the training the participants got the certificates.

The news item on this section has been extracted from <http://iite.unesco.org>



# GCC & Yemen Technology Updates



## Inaugurating smart classes in Kuwait University

The methods of employing modern technologies in education have been conceived in terms of developing the traditional classrooms into the so-called "Smart Classes" as basis for improving higher education in Kuwait University. The smart classes constitute an educational environment that relies on technological multimedia and aims to reinforce and enrich the educational and teaching-learning process.

The importance of smart classes lies in the possibility to benefit from introducing different technological media that help both the teacher and the student introduce and present the curriculum in a dynamic interactive way instead of the traditional stagnant way. Furthermore, those modern classes enable students to have access to scientific subjects, educational sources and material when necessary and at the time and place he/she selects easily through the use of technological means that meet their needs and requirements.



## Yemeni MOE's Shift to a Digital Era

The Ministry of Education in the Republic of Yemen has integrated Information and Communication Technology into the educational process, mainly by empowering its employees digitally and furnishing them with high quality computer skills so as to increase their functional and professional performances. This trend towards Digital Empowerment is clearly visible through many activities and programs, such as Computer Literacy in the Administrative and Educational Centre as well as the different websites like The Ministry of Education's official Website, the Educational Channel's Website and the e-Learning Website. In addition to what have been mentioned above, most of the financial and administrative works have been automated. Information and Communication Technology is also being employed in the educational process carried out by the Ministry over the past five years through: The Education Management Information System (EMIS), Student ID and International Computer Driving License (ICDL).



## The Establishment of Information Technology Development Company



His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, Minister of Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has announced the issuance of a Royal Order to establish a company aiming to develop Information Technology in order to take over the task of providing technical and electronic services in public education.

His Highness has chaired the regular meeting of the Executive Committee of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Executive Program for the Development of Public Education, where he was briefed on the functioning of the program and its schedule. He also discussed with chief executives of the companies involved in developing services, which will be beneficial to

public education, and reviewing performance indicators to take the necessary decisions so as to carry on the ongoing development of Information Technology in Education.

His Highness also asserted the importance of King Abdullah Project as a useful medium for the localization of developing learning technologies industry and utilizing them in public education, and called on the honorable companies to prepare designs for modern schools based on successful international experiences in this field.

We would like to thank the GCC States and Yemen who have collaborated with RCICT and briefed us on their latest uses of technology in education; and we promise to cover other States' news in our future editions.



# Technology in Education

## LFD Screen

The Large Format Display (LFD) screen is a large screen with multiple uses. It includes a built in CPU giving the option of installing a PC, which can be utilized in presentations. One of the main features of LFD screen, which is also called Digital Information Display, is the ability to connect to different compatible devices, such as laptops and iPads. Moreover, it has an access to digital content, which helps improve the presentations by providing a richer visual experience.

As a display device, it is used to build a collaborative working environment and deliver an impressive corporate image.



## Quick Picture Tools

If you are searching for tools to edit images easily without registering or installing software on your own computer this free site: <http://www.quickpicturetools.com/> will be of great benefit. Actually, it helps teachers design educational resources and posters to be used in the classroom.

The Quick Picture Tools site offers 12 simple and easy online image-editing tools, which enable you to do the following operations:

- Identifying, framing and resizing images.
- Creating educational posters and photos.
- Adding frames to images.
- Combining several images and integrating them into a single image.
- Adding text to images.
- Customizing images and modifying their surroundings.
- Creating a diary with beautiful images.
- Printing images.

Source: <http://www.quickpicturetools.com/>





## What's New in Technology?



Called **Nixie**, the quadcopter was created by inventor Christoph Kohstall as a way for people to photograph themselves without fiddling with complex camera setups.

Worn on the wrist like a bracelet, **Nixie** is released into the air by a gesture, where it flies up, takes a picture of the user, and returns again to their hand. According to Kohstall, it is aware of where the user is located, making it an ideal photography tool for people who want a unique way to capture action.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/index.html>

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## Upcoming Events & Workshops

### Calendar

#### King Hamad's Schools of The Future

##### Projects

- Adobe in Design (Level 1)

5-6 Jan 2015

- Body Language

To be announced

- Adobe Premier

To be announced

##### Regional Workshops

- Regional seminar on "Open Educational Resources Policy - Kingdom of Bahrain"

To be announced

##### In Conjunction with University of Bahrain

- Forecasting for Business Intelligence (Level 1) (SPSS)

1-5 Feb 2015

- Business Process Re-Engineering (BPR)

8-11 Feb 2015

- Android Mobile App Development (Level 1)

12-16 Feb 2015

- Date Mining for Business Applications

9-11 Feb 2015

- Bridging the digital Gap in

a Accelerated High-tech Society

24-26 Feb 2015

- Information Technology for HR

2-4 March 2015

- Instructional Design

10-12 March 2015

- Forecasting for Business Intelligence

(Level 2) (SPSS)

15-19 March 2015

- Web 2.0 Application

12-14 April 2015

- Designing Educational Curricula for E-Learning Environment

15 April 2015

- E-Learning: Future Challenges

and Opportunities

28-30 April 2015

- Train the Trainer

1-4 June 2015

- IOS Application Development (Level 1)

To be announced

- Innovation Leadership

To be announced