

## **UAE Education System will be Revamped at All Levels**

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Minister of Education Dr Hanif Hassan yesterday said that the ministry planned to revamp the education system in the UAE at all levels to enhance not only the output but also students' personalities.

He was addressing the opening session of the Global Education Forum being held at the Madinat Jumeirah Hotel, held alongside the Gulf Educational Supplies Show (GESS) which also opened yesterday. The forum will conclude tomorrow.

Delegations from the education sector in the Middle East countries are attending the forum to address the challenges that lie ahead in the region.

Such activities, conferences and shows were of great importance to the education field and process, Dr Hanif said.

The rich experiences presented would benefit all. The development of education was based on certain factors, he said.

These included the efficient preparation of students so that they could effectively thrive using modern technology. The second was about modern techniques of instruction and methodology.

Adopting modern curricula with assorted and non-monotonous means of training and evaluation were important, Dr Hanif added.

School premises, Hanif said, were critical in this regard. The designs should be in line with the latest techniques of instruction. All schools should be fully equipped with modern facilities.

Mika Lloyd, Solutions Specialist with Microsoft Worldwide Education Group, said the challenges facing the education process were similar in most of the countries.

Bureaucratic delays, lack of infrastructure and absence of vocational direction were the major obstacles hindering the educational development in the Arab region.

The UAE was witnessing a big boom in all aspects of life, including education, and this was resulting in stiff competition, he said. It was necessary to decentralise the educational process.

“We should not only be concerned with the facilities we provide the students with. The problem does not lie with the desks, tables and labs. We should instead make the best use of the facilities,” he said.

To do so, there should be a regular mechanism of evaluation to understand the best and most distinguished, Lloyd added.

Partnership between the public and private sectors was essential.

They should coordinate with each other and exchange their bright visions, he said.

Meanwhile, some workshops on the ways to enhance and develop schools' role were held.

Ty Goddard, from the British Council for School Environments, discussed the trends and perspectives in education, new dimensions in classroom technology as well as educational reforms.

Dr Hanif then toured the Gulf Educational Supplies Show (GESS) which opened yesterday. More than 250 companies from European, Arab Eastern, North African, Indian subcontinent, Far Eastern, and North American countries are participating in the show.