

International Conference for Special Needs Dubai 2007

19 November 2007

under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Juma Bin Maktoum Bin Juma Al Maktoum

The First International Conference for Special Needs will take place on 18. & 19. November 2007 in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Emirates Auditorium.

His Highness Sheikh Juma Bin Maktoum Bin Juma Al Maktoum, acting Chairman of Rashid Paediatric Therapy Centre is delighted with this conference, as it is enhancing the program of Dubai Government for People with Special Needs.

On behalf of His Highness Sheikh Juma Bin Maktoum Bin Juma Al Maktoum, Ms Noura (Iris) Dapper, Chairwoman ESS Medical Performance and Founder of Conference said, that this First Conference for Special Needs is the beginning of further educational training, seminars and workshops.



Families, companies and medical specialists from GCC will have the possibility to get continuous the newest information from various conferences, seminars to enhance their knowledge.

On behalf of Rashid Paediatric Therapy Centre (RPTC) Ms. Jeanette S. Graham, Head Teacher of Centre mentioned:

Wherever there are children and adults with special needs, there is also a family involvement. In order to lead full, active and productive lives everybody must have knowledge on how to access information and how to disseminate information whether it is for medical, educational, business or leisure purposes.

The aim of this conference is to provide such information across such a variety of settings and interested parties as mentioned, from rehabilitative medical models, to adaptive technologies developed for use in dealing with sensory and physical impairments, to techniques that can be used in daily life with those children and adults with cognitive impairment and learning difficulties.

During a time of showing the world that "Dubai Cares" on a wide, humanitarian scale, we also wish to acknowledge that here in Dubai, caring is an on-going, practical process and that our local medical, educational and business communities are dedicated to continuing and developing provision and skills to enhance and improve the lives of our clients and their families.

From Kuwait: Dr. Mesad F. Shlash, Counselor & Head of Office of the General Consulate of Kuwait, Cultural Office said:

Kuwait efforts in the field of social welfare made an accomplishment and leadership in providing several services for citizen and other residents in Kuwait. Kuwait has focused on the social welfare system for people with special needs.

Kuwait's Government started to develop integrative systems of services and social programs for people with special needs. In 1958 the State of Kuwait issued laws for social services to facilitate for local sectors to deal with people with special needs and to provide the necessary care, in addition to the Governmental share in providing the financial support.

The Kuwaiti Constitution emphasized the rights of people with special needs for education and implemented the law No. 11 from 1960, related to compulsory education. This law also includes the responsibility for all caretakers of students with special needs to send them regularly to these schools.

The State of Kuwait seeks for the time-being latest information in the field of special needs care and encourage the cooperation and coordination between various institutions working in this field on the local, regional (Gulf Countries) and the International level.

This event offers the opportunity to meet with specialists and colleagues from other countries who share the same interest.

From Sudan: Dr. Saeed Abdalla Saeed, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women & Child Affairs, Republic of Sudan

We feel highly honored and pleased to be invited as a guest of honor for such a special and unique conference. He is looking forward meeting experts and specialist from other parts of the world.

Mr. Ahmed Abdulla Bin Lahej, Director Client Partnership Department Dubai Customs, Government Platinum Sponsor of the Conference said This conference outlines a great opportunity to give citizens with special needs the support they require.

Those persons are very dear to our hearts and constitute a special segment of the society that no one can ignore.

Dubai Customs feels that it is necessary to embrace the children with special needs and their families because they are an important part in our society.

Dubai Customs is also aware on the importance of this conference to the children with special needs, as it highlights innovative technologies and modern techniques to help them join again the local society and the economic cycle.

For that reason, and as a part of Dubai Customs' corporate social responsibility, Dubai Customs have always been committed to help the families who have children with special needs by offering them the best services and facilities. We look forward to help them by recruiting a number of the people with special needs to Dubai Customs.

We aim at helping this segment by easing their life through a continuous support and by encouraging them to efficiently associate with the community.

This can be achieved through the adaptation and the arrangement of an appropriate working environment.

We also have the will to prepare the required plans to meet the challenges that face those children and we seek to make their dreams and ambitions come true while participating in Dubai's development.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel, IHG Group (Inter Continental Hotels Group) and its entire team is extending their full support to the ICSN Dubai 2007 because the hotels "Show we care" culture is assisting and sourcing out those great opportunities to make a difference in the life of guests with special needs said Mr. Ricky Tursunov, Conventions Director.

Mrs Kaltham Al Koheji, Head of Regional Communications of HSBC Bank Middle East Limited said, HSBC has a global policy of embracing diversity and equal opportunities within it's workforce.

The bank is offering employment opportunities in its workforce in the UAE and the Middle Eastern Region for people with special needs.

To make the work environment conducive for people with special needs, HSBC has made changes to technology, workstations and access to the work place in its office in Dubai Internet City to enable staff with special needs to adequately perform their duties and responsibilities. HSBC has plans in place to ensure all its premises are accessible in the near future to enable and empower all persons with special needs making them fully integrated members of society .

Emirates Nationals Development Program (ENDP) under The Executive Office, Director Ms. Azzah Al Sharhan explained the strategy of ENDP which is to raise awareness in the private sector about indigenous talent and improve the recruitment and long-term retention rate of UAE nationals.

Since June 2006, ENDP has helped the private sector recruit over 2,500 UAE qualified nationals.

ENDP has recently announced its partnership with Takamul, the apex body for people with special needs, to support UAE nationals find suitable jobs in the private sector. The partnership reflects ENDP's strategy to persuade the private sector on the benefits of employing UAE nationals, including those with special needs.

Dr. Haider Al Yousuf, Executive Director TAKAMUL mentioned : TAKAMUL would like to demonstrate technical support through our workshop presentation regarding our vision of how the life of individuals with special needs can and will be in the near future.

From Germany: The HKZ - Department of Cardiology, Department of Cardiac Surgery, Clinic for Neurology Rehabilitation and Clinic for Orthopedic and Trauma Rehabilitation said, that they are participating with the ICSN Dubai 2007 to cooperate, to exchange experts knowledge and to create a new platform for People with Special Needs in the UAE.

Mr. Khalid Lootah, Public Sector Lead in Gulf for Microsoft mentioned, that the vision of Microsoft , Bill Gates is to create innovative technology that is accessible to everyone and will adapt to each person's needs. Accessible technology eliminates barriers for people with disabilities and enables individuals to optimize their abilities and unlock their potential.

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