

Thursday July 28, 2011

Under the auspices and the presence of the Director General of Education, Mr Fady Yarak, a graduation ceremony was held at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, where certificates were distributed to 150 teachers who attended a 40-hours program on the use of ICT in education, and the use of the twenty-first century skills in a creative manner. This program is within the framework of the "Partnership in Education" Program which is being implemented in collaboration with Microsoft. A big number of teachers attended the ceremony along with the Director of Primary Education, George Daoud, the Director of the Orientation Office at the Ministry of Education, John Hayek, a number of ministry officials who are responsible for various units, representatives of educators from the public and private sectors, and representatives of companies that deal with the use of technology in education.



The "Innovative Teacher" Program is an annual competition organized by Microsoft with all the ministries of education around the world to select the international "Innovative Teacher", who prepares a lesson where the teacher interacts with students, parents and community, using the latest ICT technology in education. The Program Manager of this project in Lebanon, Mr Abdou Yammine, made progress of quality through training teachers and selecting the best five to participate in this Arabic World competition. Last year, twelve teachers attended a 77-hours training program, who in turn trained 150 teachers from all Lebanese Districts, on the use of computers in education, particularly on the Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Movie Maker, Live.EDU, and Wiki, programs in order to become trainers. They were also trained on how to build an educational project. This year, the 150 trainers attended a 40-hours training program, and they prepared at the end of the program a lesson which is in harmony with the twenty-first century skills. A committee of experts evaluated these projects and selected five teachers to participate in the "Arab Forum for the Innovative Teacher" which will be held in Jordan next September. They will go on to participate in the "Global Forum for Innovative teacher" which will be held in

Washington in October of this year. It is noteworthy to mention that, last year, a Lebanese teacher was at the head of the Arab Group, which came first in the category of "Practice," and this was the first time when Arab competitors were able to reach the second stage of this competition.

The ceremony started with the Lebanese national anthem, then one of the trainees presented her project titled: "Let us work on recycling our wastes." Then the Director General of Education made remarks in which he commended the teachers for their enthusiasm in keeping pace with modern developments, and encouraged them to continue to develop themselves to build together a culture worthy of the aspirations of the Lebanese.

Also the Project Manager, Mr Abdou Yammine, spoke about the twenty-first century skills and how to deal with this century's students, reminding the audience of three revolutions that had a significant impact in changing the mentality of students: which are the technological revolution and on-the-spot knowledge of ongoing events, the Internet and television and social media replacing books and newspapers, and the link between education and economics and the transformation of the students to people with global thinking which leads to inevitable change in educational basis and make it imperative to look for the innovative teacher and innovative school to keep pace with this change.

Also, Microsoft Representative Ali Harake delivered remarks on the partnership between the Ministry of Education and Microsoft which will definitely develop and become an example of cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Finally, Mrs. Fawziyah Makkawi delivered remarks on behalf of the judges committee and praised this pioneer experiment.

At the end of the ceremony, the Director General of Education, assisted by the Directors of Secondary Education and Primary Education, as well as Project Manager Abdou Yammine and Microsoft Representative Ali Harake, distributed certificates to the trainers and trainees signed by the "Educational Association for IT Development – EAID."

It is noted that at a later date, a selection process will take place of the teachers who will be participating in the Arab World Forum, which will be followed by the Global Forum.