



مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم  
Abu Dhabi Education Council  
التعليم أولاً Education First

# ADEC Newsletter

Private School & Quality Assurance Sector

## In this issue

Pg. 1 – Opening 10 new private schools

Pg. 2 – Awareness workshop for new private schools

Pg.3 – awareness workshop on investment opportunities

Pg. 4 – Training Emirati inspectors & conduct training about the SEF

Pg. 5 – “My Identity” Forum

Pg. 6 – Innovation week

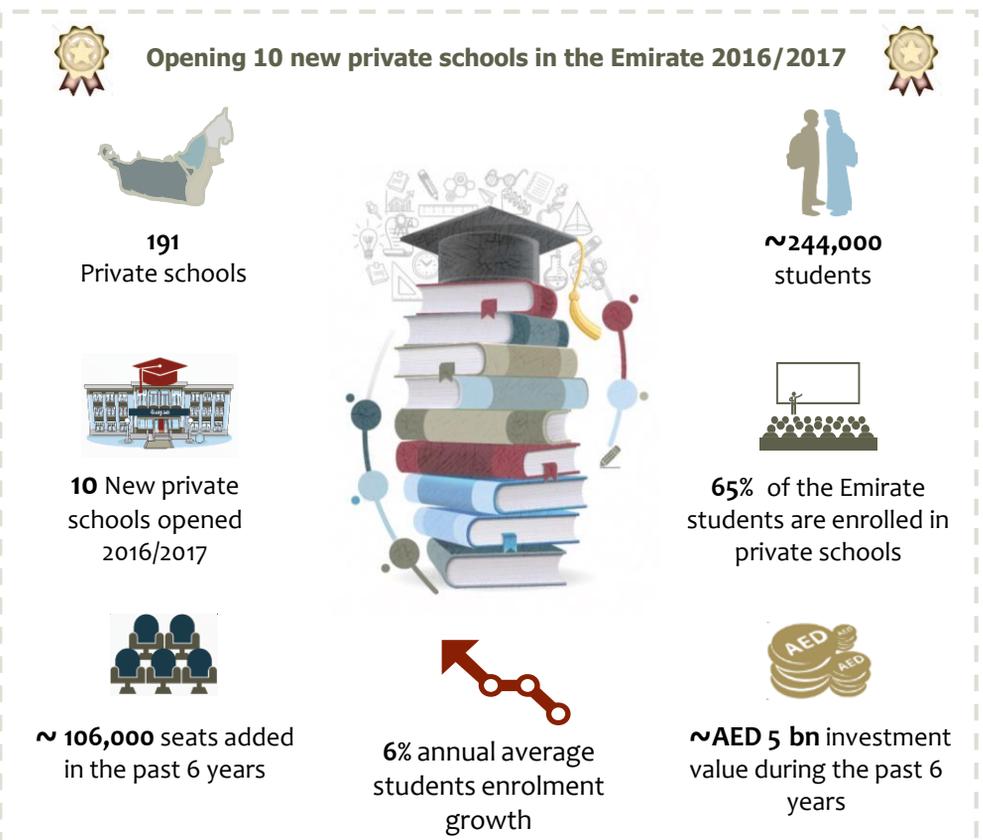
Pg. 7 - The launch of “Ithra’a” program

Pg. 8 – Recent PSQA publications

## Opening 10 new private schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi 2016/2017

With the continuous efforts of Abu Dhabi Education Council to meet the growing demand for private education sector in the emirate, ADEC announces the opening of 10 new private schools in the academic year 2016/2017 that offer different curricula and within different tuition fee categories to suit the requirements of different segments in society. The 10 new schools are distributed as follow: 4 American schools, 3 British schools, 1 SABIS school, one Indian school and 1 MOE school.

Thus, these new schools have added ~22,000 seats in the market in addition to around ~3,300 new seats in existing schools through expansion projects.



## A Workshop was conducted to discuss ADEC requirements to operate a new private school

The Private Schools and Quality Assurance (PSQA) sector at the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) organized an awareness workshop for new private schools expected to open during the next two academic years, in efforts to familiarize them with ADEC requirements in operating a new private school.

The workshop covered the different infrastructure requirements, the schools licensing process, the hiring process for school staff, milestones that lead to a successful school environment, scheduled dates and deadline submissions and most importantly, lessons learnt from previous schools, and how to avoid certain challenges that may arise.

The process and procedures to obtain the Temporary License was one of the main topics discussed. Below are the main procedures:

1. Land allocation
2. Sign Musataha Agreement
3. Approve Concept Design
4. Obtain Building Permit
5. Start construction work and provide continuous progress reports
6. ADEC to conduct the first inspection
7. Obtain Building Completion Certificate
8. Obtain **Temporary License**



It is important to investors and operators before enrolling students in their new schools, to be aware of the process and approvals needed in terms of the buildings and facilities completion, both internally and externally; in which it should be ready at least four months prior to the school opening in order for ADEC to conduct a facility and infrastructure inspection that measures the schools health and safety, classroom readiness, educational resources, sports facilities readiness and many more.

By the end of the workshop, Attendees took part in filling out a satisfaction survey to give them the chance to offer their suggestions and comments which added a great value to the awareness workshop and contributed to its success.



## “Investment Opportunities in Private Schools” Workshop

During the investment workshop organized by PSQA’s Business Development Division, more than 60 attendees, including existing and potential investors, were offered for new investment opportunities to establish private Kindergarten schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

During the workshop, investors were given full information on the investment opportunities available in the market, with an overview on the current situation for private schools in the Emirate, the private schools licensing process, followed by details on banking requirements to review school financing, which was particularly helpful to learn about in order to familiarize potential investors on the banking process in detail. The last panel discussion included success stories of two new private schools.

By the end of the workshop, investors participants took part in filling out a satisfaction survey, which left room for them to offer their suggestions. The survey analysis showed that 90% of the participants are satisfied with the workshop content and 90% of them are interested to attend such workshops in the future.

### Panel 1

#### Banks requirements for school financing



The panel discussed the subject of how investors can obtain the Financial Capability Letter. Mr. Raed Abu Bakr, General Manager of Commercial Bank of Dubai and Mr. Alaga Raja, Head of Abu Dhabi Branch – Doha Bank, highlighted the requirements for obtaining the Financial Capability Letter and what is the criteria considered by banks to assess the investors financial position and their capabilities.

### Panel 2

#### Success stories of new private schools



Ms. Mariam Saqer, Executive Director at the Al Ain Educational Investment, highlighted the success story of The Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Boys. “It took around 16 months to build a completely new school that now caters to 1400 boys”. Now in its second year and the school is growing even more. On the other hand, Mr. Amol Vaidya, Director Operation at the Global Indian International School, mentioned that the school operated in AY 2015/2016 in which the project took 8 months with a dedicated workforce of 24 hours to complete, while confirming to stringent estidama standards.

## Co-Lead Training for Emirati Inspectors

Out of the continuous efforts of Abu Dhabi Education Council to support, empower, and build the Emirati educator's skills and knowledge in the inspection and school improvement, the Inspection and Monitoring Division launched a new program to enable high performing Emirati Inspectors to co-lead the inspection team.

The first cohort of 9 co-lead inspectors completed the first phase of their training. They have attended 4 days workshop that will be followed by on site deployment in private and government schools within the inspection teams. The onsite hand on training is scheduled to start in the second term of the Academic year 2016-2017.



## Conducting trainings related to the new Self-Evaluation Form (SEF)

The Inspection and Monitoring Division has conducted several briefings and trainings related to the new Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) for private schools in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western Region.

These meetings aimed to create a common understanding of the use of Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) that is aligned with United Arab Emirates School Inspection Framework. The self-evaluation then in turn informs the school improvement planning.

The new version of the Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) provides guidance on the effective management of Self-Evaluation process and how to complete the document it-self.

The SEF helps the school staff and all related stakeholders to gather and analyze the data and the evidences to review the impact and the effectiveness of school performance. It also helps highlight the areas for improvement that will have tangible impact on the quality of education.



The Self-Evaluation Form can be viewed at:

<https://www.adec.ac.ae/en/MediaCenter/Publications/ADEC%20Self-evaluation%20EN.pdf>

## Organize “My Identity” Forum to enhance National Identity

ADEC’s Private Schools and Quality Assurance Sector (PSQA) organized an educational forum about its new program “Haweyati” (My Identity in English), which is being introduced to private schools in Abu Dhabi. The new program aims to enhance National Identity of Emirati students, while encouraging international/expatriate students to appreciate and respect National Identity as well as the UAE culture through a gradual differentiated approach that meets the needs of the diverse private school systems.



The “Haweyati” program will be implemented in 50 private schools across Abu Dhabi as a pilot phase during the current school trimester, whereas all other Abu Dhabi private schools are expected to join in phases during this academic year. The first pilot phase will address an overview of the program and ways of implementing and evaluating it. Participants will go through an eight days intensive training workshop, as well as online training modules.

The “Haweyati” forum, which was attended by senior leadership representatives, Heads of Departments, and selected teachers from the pilot schools, covered the overviews and general frameworks of the “Haweyati” program, discussing the features of this pilot phase, best practices related to communicating the program and implementation modules and phases.

School Development Division in PSQA Sector, emphasized that “Haweyati” program aims to provide school leaders and teachers with a curriculum framework that promotes the principles of National Identity among students. The program will address topics such as culture, society, values, Arabic, citizenship and belonging, and history, and will be flexible enough to embrace the diversity of private school systems and cultures through differentiated approaches.

### Main Topics Discussed

"My identity" program outcomes which are based on Curriculum Framework, Leadership Guidelines, Teacher's Guidelines & operating Plan. It is also based on global best practices in other countries that have developed such programs.

The importance of “My Identity” program, ADEC role in strengthening the national identity spirit and the principles of the program



The training program for “My identity”, which consist of 8 days training, including the electronic training material for the school Leadership, heads of departments and teachers nominated by the schools

## All public and private schools take part in activities related to the Week of Innovation

As part of the UAE Innovation Week, the Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) has partnered with schools, universities and industry leaders to promote a culture of innovation across both public and private schools.

The UAE Innovation Week was announced by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai on August 5th 2015. Ever since, ADEC has been highlighting the importance of developing and nurturing young innovator skills, while ensuring that students, teachers and parents are actively involved in interactive activities in alignment with eight Innovation initiatives, namely: innovation centers, programming for life, young scientist competition, Abu Dhabi innovates, innovation clubs, innovation ambassadors, innovation standards and innovation leaders.

### Private Schools & Quality Assurance Sector

School Development Division hosted Innovation Forums in all three regions of Abu Dhabi during Innovation Week. The events brought together teachers and school leaders from across Public and Private Schools, providing them with opportunities to share their innovation activities with other schools. Presentations from schools were wide ranging and showcased the exciting activities taking place in schools across the Emirate including:

- 📱 Innovative approaches to school administration,
- 📱 Innovative pedagogical approaches to curriculum design and lesson delivery,
- 📱 Exciting new mobile apps to support teaching, learning and assessment,
- 📱 STEM based project activities undertaken by schools

Teachers and school leaders found the forums an excellent opportunity to showcase their school and to learn from the experience of other schools. Professional connections were built to facilitate an ongoing dialogue between schools thereby providing support and stimulation of new creative ideas in the education sector.



## ADEC Launches “Ithra’a Program”

ADEC launched “Ithra’a” to Develop the competencies schools leaders and teachers in Arabic Language and Islamic Education to be in line with ADEC’s keenness to promote the Arabic language as it is the language of our ancestors, the mirror of human civilization, and the symbol of Arab identity. The importance of “Ithra’a” program arises from UAE private schools need for qualified educators and teachers who possess the essential mastery of Arabic language and Islamic Education.



This need has come in line with the Irtiqa’a program outcomes, which showed a need to develop competencies related to the Arabic language and Islamic education among students .

Therefore, “Ithra’a” program, focuses on enabling the teachers and leaders of Arabic language for native and non native speakers and Islamic Education in addition to private schools leaders in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi with the basic skills to teach Arabic language and Islamic Education as well as providing the needed guidance and support.

What distinguishes this program, that it is the first program of its kind that is based on the blended learning approach combining face-to-face, and online training. This program came in line with the vision of Abu Dhabi Education Council, which calls for the need to utilize Information and Communication Technology Tools in professional development for teachers and leaders.

During the first phase, the first component of the “Ithra’a” program was successfully implemented. The E-mentor program that consists of 3 face-to-face training workshops were introduced to approximately 70 schools in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. The program will be rolled out in the Emirates of Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and the Western region during the next two years 2017-2018. Additionally, 8 E-Modules were developed based on the latest technologies available for distance learning. The E-modules pertain to the teaching of Arabic language for native and non-native speakers as well as other modules specialized in the teaching of Islamic Education. The development work will continue on other E-modules in the year 2017.

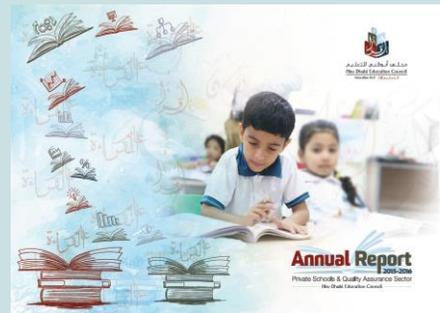
School Development Division, PSQA Sector, highlighted ADEC continuous efforts devoted to developing the competencies of teachers on one side and promoting the teaching of Arabic language and Islamic Education on the other side. It also emphasized on the role of school leaders in driving the change to encourage teachers to employ the best modern teaching strategies, which would in turn reflect positively on students’ performance.

## Recent PSQA Publications

### Annual Report 2015/2016 - PSQA

Promotion & Business Development Division/ PSQA, has published its fourth edition of the Private Schools and Quality Assurance Sector Annual Report for the academic years 2015/2016.

The Report presents a wide spectrum of indicators that shows the progress of the private schools market in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi over the past few years and projects its future expected growth and development. The report includes updated information, data, tables and graphs about schools and students in the private schools.



The full report can be viewed at: [https://www.adec.ac.ae/en/MediaCenter/Publications/Annual%20report\\_English/index.html](https://www.adec.ac.ae/en/MediaCenter/Publications/Annual%20report_English/index.html)

### Thematic Study Report

The Inspection and Monitoring Division/PSQA, on 13 November 2016, has published an important study report on **“The Impact of Dual Language of Instruction on Students Learning in Abu Dhabi Schools.”**

This study focused on the outcomes and challenges of dual language education introduced into government schools within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The report ended up with clear conclusions, recommendations, and implications for curriculum, assessment, recruitment and staffing, policy, and professional development.



The full report can be viewed at: [https://www.adec.ac.ae/en/MediaCenter/Publications/Dual%20Language%20of%20Instruction\\_EN/index.html](https://www.adec.ac.ae/en/MediaCenter/Publications/Dual%20Language%20of%20Instruction_EN/index.html)