ICDL GCC

ICDL GCC Foundation announces Gulf Computer Society initiative

Move to promote and advance competence in computing in the workplace and among the public

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ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body and the certification authority of the International Computer Driving License program in the Gulf States, has recently introduced the Gulf Computer Society (GCS), a new initiative for a membership organization with the commitment to extend and enhance digital awareness to a wider community in the region.

GCS will represent the vision and voice of its members on the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education, the workplace and the society as a whole. In addition to developing the capability of individuals and organizations through the provision of consultations, conferences, journals, publications and digital libraries, GCS will also focus its activities on a number of critical ICT related issues. Among them is the endorsement of ICT certification programs that are based on internationally recognized standards; lobbying with the relevant policymakers for increased use of ICT in education, healthcare and public service; and fostering the promulgation of ethical use of technology to help governments reduce software piracy and security breaches.

GCS will have an advisory board with senior representation from each Gulf country. Membership to GCS will first be open to ICDL enrolled candidates and ICDL Approved Training and Testing Centres comprising of government organizations, academic institutions and training providers. Membership will then open up for industry players and IT professionals from the general public.

"ICDL GCC Foundation is proud to introduce the Gulf Computer Society as a significant step towards realising our goal to create a digitally literate society across the Gulf region. GCS allows us to enhance and expand our IT literacy program and address various distinct requirements and needs of certain sectors," said Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL GCC Foundation.

"Our GCS initiative has been developed to support the social development of the region, particularly in terms of helping people to appreciate and utilise the various technologies available in the society. Through the GCS network, we will be able to reach out to as many people as possible and help them take advantage of modern technology to make their lives more comfortable," added Ezzo.

The ICDL program, the international standard in end-user computer skills certification, will be the first IT certification program that will be hosted by GCS. ICDL is endorsed by education ministries, universities and government organisations worldwide, and has been recognised as an inclusive digital literacy program based on a recognised global standard that empowers individuals with the essential concepts of computer and practical use of common desktop applications. The ICDL syllabus alos offers a broader perspective on computer netiquettes by concentrating on the responsible use of computers and the internet, covering important social areas such as intellectual property rights, virus protection and recycling.

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