

Digitisation is future



The participants at the conference.



Education Minister, Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi addressing the gathering.

PICS BY MUHAMMED THASLEEM

DT News Network
news@dt.bh

Gone are the days of teachers writing on black boards with a piece of chalk. Gone are also the days of children entering the school with hefty schoolbags. Now, it's time to enter into digital era, where everything is handled with the help of a tab.

According to Amit Rastogi, Senior Sales Engineer of Enterprise Electronic Division of A.A. Bin Hindi, digitisation is the only future for education sector. In a digitised school set up, lessons are displayed on a screen and all these lessons are fed to a tab, to be used by the students later.

Mr Rastogi said that government schools in Dubai are already using digitised system to teach children. "Most of the British schools are also using e-boards. In Bahrain, New Millennium School (NMS-DPS) has also installed as many as 15 e-boards," he said.

In a digital set up, it is easy to save the lessons and capture pictures. Teachers will also find it easier to explain topics. Also, it is easier to mail the content, he said. "Even the homework is done using the tab. Question papers will also be available on tab," he said.

Publishers are also adapting themselves to the digital era as they are also coming up with e-books, Mr Rastogi said.

Change: A major challenge

Dr. Soon Seng Than, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Language at Open University Malaysia, said that change was the major challenge, which should be tackled while digitising the education sector. "Digitising involves technology and younger generation does not have any problem in embracing technology. But the older teachers, who do not belong to the digital era, will have difficulties in accepting changes," he said.

Collaboration of school administrators, teachers, students and parents can successfully take the education sector into the digital era, Dr. Than said.

Ali A. AlKarni, Director General of Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States said that training teachers was the need of the hour to launch digitisation effectively. "Just installation of hardware will not serve the purpose," he said, adding that Gulf states have taken a major step in digitising education sector.

ClassDojo

Bahrain has already introduced a system called ClassDojo, which brings teachers, students and parents together. Under this system, all the activities and progress of students will be recorded digitally. Parents can easily get information about the progress of their students digitally, said Ali Sabeel of Education Ministry.

Minister opens conference

Education Minister Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi yesterday inaugurated the 28th Education Conference themed, 'Digital Empowerment in Education' at Isa Cultural Centre.

The event was attended by Ali A. AlKarni, Director General of Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, the Ministry's Undersecretary for Education and Curriculum Affairs, Dr. Abdullah Yousef Al Muttawa', several officials and 400 experts, school principals, teaching staff and specialists.

In his inaugural speech, the minister said that the conference comes in compliance with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to achieve maximum benefit from digital technologies in teaching and learning processes.

Consultancy services tender awarded

Manama

The Assistant Undersecretary for Construction Projects & Maintenance at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs & Urban Planning Mona Al Motawa revealed that the Ministry has recently awarded the consultancy services tender for the design and supervision of the Muharraq Long-Stay Care Centre Project, which belongs to the Ministry of Health and is funded by the Gulf Development Programme with a total cost of BD544,000. The project has been approved by both the Saudi Development Fund and the Tender Board.

Ms. Al Motawa explained that the project is included within the Stage One projects of the Gulf Development Programme, which is based on the agreement signed between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in March 24, 2014 at the cost of \$37 million; covering the costs of constructing the centre, constructing a central services building and all other facilities,



Ms. Al Motawa

external works, consultancy services, furniture, medical equipment, electrical and mechanical tools, non-medical and information system related requirements.

The medical complex will be constructed over three phases, the first of which comprises constructing a long-stay care centre with the

capacity to accommodate 100 beds; providing care for patients in need of admission at the care centre for long periods. The centre will also include a reception area for emergency patients, wings and rooms for brain paralysis patients, wings and rooms for patients with other diseases, in addition to an isolation unit for patients with infectious diseases, a lab, a pharmacy, x-ray rooms, sterilization units, a physiotherapy unit, administrative support services and a central building for non-medical services serving the medical complex.

Phase 2 of the project comprises constructing a maternity hospital with 110 beds, while phase 3 will include the construction of a proposed centre for patients with multiple sclerosis.

Mr. Al Motawa added that according to the time programme planned for phase 1 of the project, designs and tender documents will be completed in July 2016, while the tender will be awarded before the end of next year. The project is expected to take 20 months to complete.

Humid, relatively hot weather today



Picture for representative purpose only.

Manama

The Meteorological Directorate at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications has forecast a relatively humid weather with light dust at the beginning, but relatively hot during the day.

The weatherman also predicted variable winds ranging from 5 to

10 knots, reaching 12 to 17 KT during the day.

The Kingdom might witness maximum temperature up to 38 degrees Celsius and minimum temperature would be 31 degrees Celsius. Sea waves rise from one foot to two feet in shore and two to four feet offshore, the weatherman said.