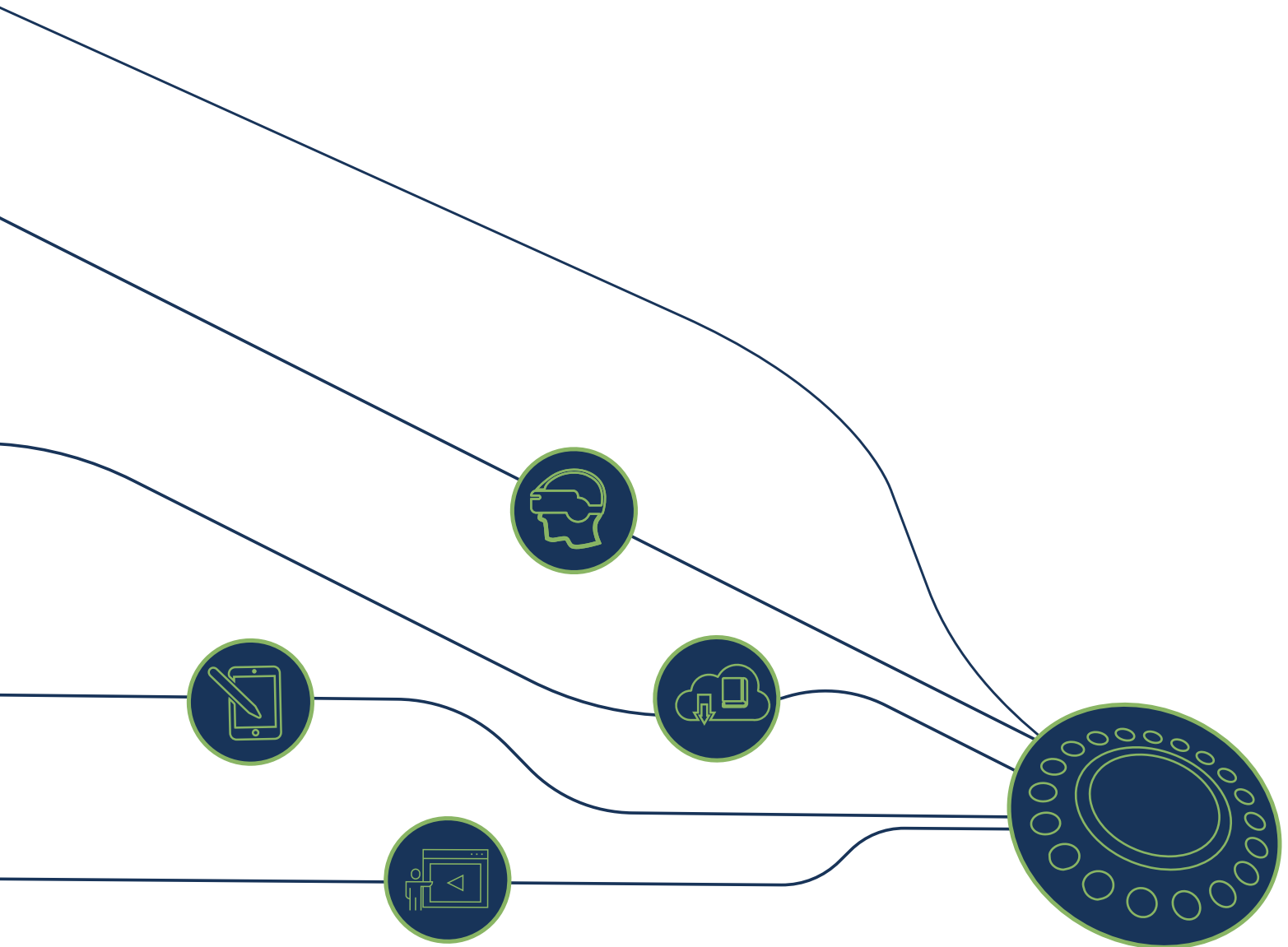


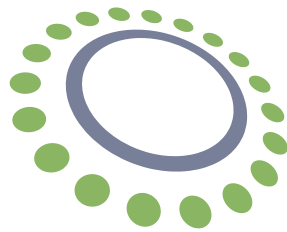


THE FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF EDUCATION POLICY

Forum Book

12th - 13th March 2017





منتدى الإمارات للسياسات العامة
UAE Public Policy Forum

About Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)

Launched in 2005 under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai as the first research and teaching institution focusing on governance and public policy in the Arab world. The School aims to support good governance in the UAE and the Arab world, and build future leaders through an integrated system offering education and training programs, as well as research and studies.

The School's operations are founded on global best practices developed in collaboration with the Kennedy School at Harvard University, and it is considered a unique model for academic institutions in that it focuses on the practical side of governance. The School also collaborates with several government and private institutions both regionally and internationally.

The overall design and implementation of training programs is built on the foundation of scientific thought and is inspired by the reality of Arab public administration and with a view to addressing the issues and helping future leaders meet the challenges facing public administration in various parts of the Arab world. The School also organizes international and regional conferences and specialized workshops, and holds forums to facilitate the exchange of ideas and knowledge between Arab region and the world.

Executive President Note

With increased access to vast amounts of knowledge, and with the cultural openness and technological advancements of the twenty-first century, the world has become a small village where the politics and economies of states affect one another. Dubai is no exception with the city's name becoming synonymous with globalization. It is with this in mind that Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government strives to embed the guidelines set forth by the UAE and to support the vision of its leaders for national growth. By preparing, qualifying and empowering tomorrow's leaders, and by strengthening government capacity in the UAE and the Arab world, our School aims to promote effective public policy through focusing on applied research and engaging the public and private sectors in the development process.

Over the 12 years since its establishment in 2005, the School has proved its importance as a unique role model for academic institutions. The School works in close partnership with UAE government departments, combining applied research, training and education programs, and provides a platform for knowledge exchange.

In order to achieve its mission, the School adheres to global best practices developed in collaboration with US-based Harvard Kennedy School that prepares leaders for democratic societies and contributes to finding holistic solutions to public problems. Such collaborations have enabled MBRSG to become the first research and teaching institution focused on governance and public policy in the Arab world. In this context, the School has taken on the task of disseminating the UAE's exceptional experience in governance and implementing the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

Dr. Ali Sebaa Al Marri

Executive President

Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government

Panel Discussions

The Public Policy Debate at the forum will have a panel of 4 to 5 speakers who will be sharing their views on various topics. The panelists will include from ministerial officials, researchers and academics in the field of education policy and investors in education. The sessions will be facilitated by a moderator who will elicit responses from the panelist on a series of issues related to the specific topic. The following are the topics and the issues that will be debated

Session 1 Day 1 Topic: Effectiveness of Education Reform (In English)

Location: Main Conference Area

The global education reform movement (GERM) which aims for standardization, focuses on common core subjects and promotes a corporate model of schools has been met with mixed reaction from stakeholders around the world. A leading critic of this movement Pasi Sahlberg has encouraged countries to carefully exam the impact of GERM before reforming their education system to meet the benchmarks. He posits that the mechanisms used to propagate germ and infect education systems globally include testing, technology, the weakening of teacher's collective voice and corporate capitalism (Sahlberg, 2016). Is there a positive side the GERM. In this session panelists will exchange ideas on the following key questions

1. What are some of the reforms that have taken place on a global and regional level because of GERM?
2. What are the impacts of these reforms on public/ private partnerships, education investment and quality of education?
3. What other reforms would be necessary to drive the education agenda in the future?

Panelists



HE Jameela Bint Salem Al Muhairi

Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Public Education

Her Excellency Jameela Al Muhairi was appointed as Minister of State for Public Education in February 2016. Jameela has more than 20 years' experience in education and has worked in key roles ranging from administrative to leadership positions.

Before becoming minister of state, Jameela helped develop a world-class school performance management system for schools in Dubai in her role as Chief of Dubai School Inspection Bureau at Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA).

From 1995 to 2004, Jameela held key positions at the UAE Ministry of Education and later she served as the Executive Director of Dubai Knowledge Village from 2004 to 2007. She has also been involved in improving private education as the Executive Director of Dubai Education Council. Jameela is a board member of Dubai Cares Foundation.



Dino Varkey
Managing Director
GEMS Education

As the Managing Director, Dino Varkey spearheads the strategic global business development of GEMS Education. He is the third generation of an education family that has been driven by providing access to quality education for over 55 years.

Dino Varkey is active in the on-going development of strategic relationships across a broad spectrum-government and regulatory, sector specialists and strategic business partners, to ensure that the organization's goals, continued leadership in the sector and aggressive growth targets are achieved globally.

Dino Varkey is an Honors graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Studies from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, a Young Presidents' Organization (YPO) member, and Education Co – chair of the YPO's Dubai Chapter.



Prof. M. Ramesh **UNESCO Chair on Social Policy Design in Asia**

Professor M. Ramesh is Professor of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and the UNESCO Chair on Social Policy Design in Asia. He was the founding head of the Department of Asian and Policy Studies. Previously, he served as the Chair Professor of Governance and Public Policy at the Hong Kong Institute of Education; Professor of Social Policy at the University of Hong Kong; and Chair of the Department of Government at the University of Sydney. He is specialist in public policy and governance in Asia with a particular focus on social policy. Prof. Ramesh has held teaching positions at the University of New England and Victoria University of Wellington, specializing in public policy and governance in Asia, with a particular focus on social policy.



Dr David Johnsonw
Education Policy specialist
Oxford University

David Johnson is Professorial Fellow of St Antony's College and University Reader in Comparative Education in the University of Oxford. He is a Chartered Educational Psychologist who studies a number of facets of learning and cognition and the political and policy modalities for improving learning outcomes. He writes on comparative policy options and advises governments on the uptake and evaluation of large scale or national interventions in education. He has worked closely with education ministers and other senior staff in a number of countries and world regions including in Europe, Africa, South and Central Asia, and the Middle East. Professor Johnson has authored and co authored numerous scholarly articles in the field of comparative education and his most recent work was a book chapter entitled "Politics, Culture and the Modernisation of Education in Bhutan", In: D Debotri, H Letchamanan (eds.) Education in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Islands.



Dr Senthil Nathan
Director
Edu Alliance

Dr. Nathan has three decades of progressively growing career in highly visible leadership roles in higher education and consulting in the United Arab Emirates and the United States. As a result-orientated academic leader, he was part of a core team of leaders who contributed significantly to the development of the Higher Colleges of Technology in the past two decades. His areas of expertise include: academic curriculum development and management, planning and institutional effectiveness, accreditation and quality assurance, institutional development, international collaborations, business partnerships, corporate training and customized academic programs, policy formulation, educational and engineering consultancy and collaborative shared governance

Moderator



Dr. Guy Burton
MBRSG

Guy Burton is Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government. Dr Burton is the author of two books: *Presidential Leadership in the Americas since Independence* (co-authored with Ted Goertzel, Lexington Books, 2016) and *Policy-Making and Education Reform in the Development of Latin American Social Democracy: The Role of the Left in Brazil and Chile* (Edwin Mellen, 2011). He has published peer-reviewed book chapters and articles in journals such as *Third World Quarterly*, *Middle East Critique*, *International Review of Education*, *Journal of Public Policy and Conflict*, *Security & Development*.

Dr Burton's research interests are varied, covering comparative and international politics and public policy and the politics of development. He has regional specialism in the Middle East and Latin America (especially Palestine and Brazil). He received this PhD from the London School of Economics in 2009 where he researched the politics of education policy and reform in Latin America.

Session 2 Day 1 Topic: Paradigm shift in UAE Education (In Arabic)

The Education Sector in the UAE has undergone numerous reforms over the past 45 years and change is still a ubiquitous feature of the education landscape. In recent years, there has been a shift in focus to early childhood education being integral to the overall level of attainment among students in the UAE. In addition, there have been shifts away from a product based curricula to more process oriented approaches that foster a holistic approach to education. These are only a few of the major shifts that are set to reform education provisions in the UAE as the country strives to meet its National Agenda Goals. Panelist will debate

1. What are the main changes that have taken place in the UAE Education sector?
2. How have these changes impacted the public/private partnerships, accelerators and quality of education?
3. What the changes that are still required to guide the UAE education agenda in the future?

Panelists



HE Hussain Bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi Cabinet Member and Minister of Education

His Excellency Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi joined the Federal Government in 2014 as the Minister of Education. In 2016, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education were merged to form the Ministry of Education. The responsibilities of the Minister include strategic supervision of education sector across the board and prepare students in the public education system to increase their productivity and achieve sustainable development for the UAE society.

His Excellency Al Hammadi is also the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Applied Technology, Member of the Board of Directors of Khalifa University, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Abu Dhabi Vocational Education and Training Institute, Member of the Board of Directors of the National Qualifications Authority, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Khalifa Award for Education, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance and Chairman of the Higher Committee of Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Program. H.E. Hussain Al Hammadi graduated from the University of Embry-Riddle in the United States.



HE Dr. Ali Rashid Al Noaimi

Director General

Abu Dhabi Education Council

Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi is a member of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi and the Director General of Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) as well as the Chancellor of the UAE University.

He served as the Advisor to the UAE Minister of Education. He believes that ADEC should serve Abu Dhabi national development and individual happiness. The goal of ADEC is to produce talent that generates creative ideas and knowledge. He stresses that the ADEC will strive to guide the aspiration of Abu Dhabi education to nurture dreams and talents of all students - from the very classroom where students' learning actually takes place.

He holds a Ph.D. from Imam Mohammed Bin Saoud University, Saudi Arabia; a M.Sc. from Portland State University, USA; and a B.Sc. from Portland State University, USA.

He has published widely in numerous scientific journals (most recently in International Journal of STEM Education) and participated in many regional and international conferences. His research interests are diverse and include in-depth analysis of world best practices in education, policy and strategy, Science class and expected career choices, drugs abuse among the students in UAE, trends of cultural identity in Arabic and social studies textbooks at the elementary cycle in the UAE.



HE Dr. Abdulla Al Karam **Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General Knowledge and Human Development Authority**

Dr. Abdulla Al Karam, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), is responsible for a wide spectrum of education in Dubai's private sector, spanning early learning, school, and higher education and training Institutes.

Dr. Abdulla has the distinction of holding key positions across the United Arab Emirates, as well as being a Board member of the National Qualifications Authority, of the UAE Federal Government. He was also appointed to the Board of the Social Sector, Government of Dubai. He has recently been nominated a member of the Higher Committee for Protection of the Rights of People with Disabilities in the Emirate of Dubai.

Prior to the formation of KHDA, Dr. Abdulla held the post of CEO of Dubai Knowledge Village, which ushered in the International Branch Campus, with a remit to diversify the educational landscape in Dubai. Before that, Dr. Abdulla headed the Research Unit at Dubai Internet City and began his career working as a software engineer in the United States and France. Dr. Abdulla holds a PhD in computer engineering from the University of South Carolina.

Moderator



HE Dr. Ali Sebaa Al Marri Executive President Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government

Dr. Ali Al Marri serves as the Executive President of Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government since March 2013, where he contributed significantly to the development of educational, training and research activities at the School in order to achieve its mission to empower future leaders and policy makers in the UAE and Arab World and to enhance the region's capacity to adopt effective public policies. Dr. Al Marri holds a Bachelor's and Master's in Law from Dubai Police Academy, and a Doctorate Degree in Leadership and Strategy from Bradford University, UK. In addition to that, Dr. Al Marri was granted many badges of appreciation and certificates of praise from Dubai Police and number of government bodies. He won SHAIKH RASHID AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE for the year 2012 and THE BEST PAPER AWARD from 4th Annual Scottish Doctoral Management Conference, University of St Andrews.

Session 1 day 2 Topic: Capacity Building through Education (In English)

The concept of capacity building in education is a multidimensional construct that has undergone many changes through the decades. Initially capacity building was linked to the notion basic human resources development. Education institutions simply had to make sure that students graduated with adequate skills to meet required needs within the workforce. In the 21st century, capacity building has expanded to adopt a broader portfolio of responsibilities in education, which include notions of a clear mission, resource allocation strategic goals, proper governance and management. All these functions coalesce to achieve the optimal performance of the institution. There are internal and external determinants that influence capacity building in education globally. The key concepts that are to be discussed in this session

1. Who is responsible for ensuring that the education sector build capacity among the school aged population?
2. To whom should they be accountable?
3. What resources do educational institutions require to optimize capacity building?

Panelists



H.E. Marwan Ahmad Al Sawaleh **Undersecretary of** **the Ministry of Education**

H.E. Marwan Ahmad Al-Sawaleh is currently Undersecretary at the Ministry of Education, UAE. Over the past 16 years he has held various positions, primarily in human resources, operations, contracts and procurement, and management of work teams in different administrative and operational sectors in the public and private sectors alike.

H.E. Al-Sawaleh has also made numerous contributions to the establishment and running of various strategic projects that have had a positive impact on the service and industry sectors in the country. He is entrusted with many leading positions including membership of the Supreme Committee of the Dubai Human Development Award; Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dubai Quality Group; and an active member of the Supreme Committee for the Emirates Energy Award. His extensive experience in the areas of human resources and Emiratization has made him a member and head of several advisory committees in the UAE



Prof Ahmar Mahboob
Associate Professor
University of Sydney

Ahmar Mahboob teaches at the Department of Linguistics, University of Sydney. He has a keen interest in the applications of language sciences to developmental issues, with a particular focus on education. His primary research interest is on an examination of policies, practices, and implications of language variation in local and global contexts. Ahmar has a keen interest in critical language variation. His research also focuses on different facets of how language variation relates to a range of educational, social, professional, and political issues in pursuing this goal, Ahmar draws from and contributes to a range of linguistics and applied linguistics traditions, theories, and methodologies. Ahmar has published widely in international peer reviewed journals and has also authored and co-authored several books.