

## ITIDA Cooperates with HBMSU to Enhance Smart Education and Tech Innovation in the Arab region



**Cairo, May 7, 2018**

The Minister of Communication and Information Technology Yasser Elkady witnessed, today, the ceremony of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) and the UAE-Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University (HBMSU) on developing a system for enhancing smart education and technology innovation, aiming to serve the needs of the Arab region.

The three-year agreement aims to ensure quality of smart education and learning, including developing a "quality framework" for providers of education, academic programs and scientific research using information technology. It also aims to establish an Arab accreditation center for smart education and learning. Agreement on establishing the center is expected to be during the first three months from the date of signing the MoU.

The MoU entails cooperation in establishing assessment and testing centers for academic programs and facilitating the implementation of academic programs between HBMSU and its counterparts in Egypt, starting with software engineering and institutional excellence. It also aims to provide training opportunities for smart education providers using ICTs; establish a center for research and innovation on electronic media and integrating other members; and cooperating in organizing and holding scientific meetings, technical workshops and training courses in quality assurance areas to serve the development of the smart education and learning concept.

In addition, the MoU aims to develop the smart e-content by creating a smart e-content development center to support academic and professional needs and community and continuing education. The framework includes the activities of design, development and application and provides learning models and learning resources.

The MOU seeks to promote continuous education and lifelong learning through its terms that entail the transfer of Egyptian expertise in empowering and qualifying People with Disabilities (PwDs) through the use of assistive technologies and smart education. It also entails building and developing the programming and creativity capacities of the younger generation through the compatibility of "Local Programmer" at HBMSU in the United Arab Emirates and the "creativity league" in Egypt and the partnership in implementing HBMSU program for smart community education.

Within the context of innovation and entrepreneurship, the agreement aims at building the capacity of students and faculty members in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship through the development and dissemination of educational curricula and courses consistent with the practices of both sides.

The agreement was signed by ITIDA Acting CEO Maha Rashad and HBMSU President Mansoor Al Awar.

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