United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

THE SKILLS REVOLUTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION:

How are strategies between higher education and TVET being built at a national level

British Council's Going Global Conference 2014

Dr Thani Al Mehairi
General Manager
National Qualifications Authority

INTRODUCING THE NQA

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Established by Presidential Decree: 23 August 2010

Management: Board of Trustees, Chairman is Minister of Labour

Reporting to: Council of Ministers (Cabinet)

KEY FUNCTIONS	
Qualifications Framework	Develop and implement the Qualifications Framework for the Emirates, QF*Emirates*, to meet the requirements of social and economic development in the UAE.
Education & training pathways	Facilitate the transfer, shift and continuity of learning of individuals between different education and training pathways.
Vocational education & training	Contribute to the enhancement of vocational education and training quality in the country.

KEY FACTS ABOUT UAE's HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

UAE doesn't have the legacy of countries with a long educational history that has created an entrenched and inflexible education and training system:

- UAE's HE system has developed over last 25 years with the majority of growth in the last decade.
- Growth in HE sector is coupled with huge expansion in business and commerce, leading to:
  - Many HE programs being developed recently
  - A large number of programs in the vocationally-oriented disciplines of business, engineering, health sciences and IT.

KEY FACTS ABOUT UAE's HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

No. of HE institutions

16
(2000)

102
(2012)

No. of students

46,865
(2000)

115,798
(2012)

No. of HE programs in business, engineering, health sciences and IT, 2012

Business: **173**

Engineering: **136**

Health sciences: **59**

IT: **52**

KEY FACTORS DRIVING UAE STRATEGIES TO BUILD HE AND VET PATHWAYS

United Arab Emirates

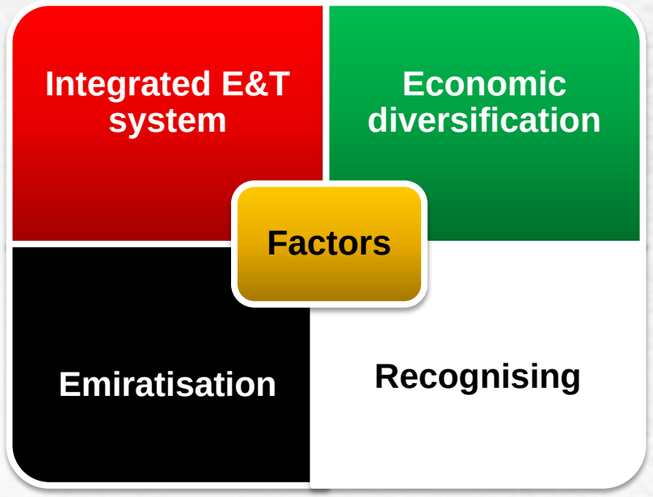
الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Creating an integrated system. Currently:

- HE system draws its operational system mainly from the USA and UK
- GE school system draws on the UK and other national systems
- VET system is somewhat fragmented and disparate.

Diversifying the economy away from oil to a wider economic basis – requires new forms of institutions that cross the boundaries of HE and VET.

رؤية VISION 2021



Providing Emiratis with the knowledge and skills to:

- Enter the workforce, particularly the private sector
- Meet employer needs.

Recognising prior learning, especially in the case of military personnel with many years of work experience, and in some cases, qualifications acquired abroad that are not recognised.

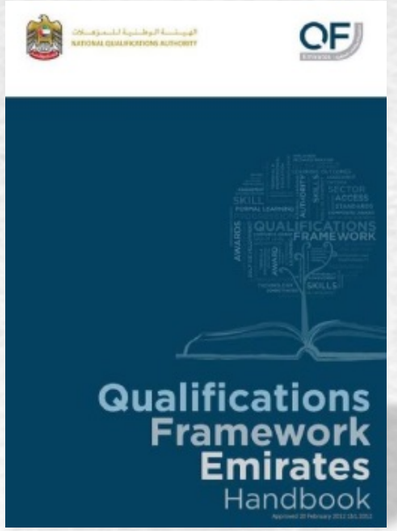
STRATEGIES TO BUILD HE AND VET PATHWAYS: QF*EMIRATES*

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

The QF*Emirates*:

1. A **10-level Qualifications Framework for the UAE** approved by NQA Board on 20 February 2012
2. A **unified and singular system** and reference point for all qualifications in the UAE:
   - School (General) education
   - Vocational education and training
   - Higher education
   - Work-based training
   - Professional education and training
3. Covers **all forms of learning**: formal, informal and non-formal learning.
4. Policies, structures, standards, systems and procedures set out in the **QF*Emirates* Handbook**.



STRATEGIES TO BUILD HE AND VET PATHWAYS: QF*EMIRATES*

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

LEVEL	Generic Nomenclature	Principal Qualification titles used in the QF*Emirates*		
		Vocational Education and Training (VET)	Higher Education (HE)	General Education (G 12 – GE)
10	Doctoral Degree	—	Doctoral	—
9	Master Degree	Applied Master	Master	—
8	Graduate Diploma	Applied Graduate Diploma	Postgraduate Diploma	—
7	Bachelor Degree	Applied Bachelor	Bachelor	—
6	Diploma*	Advanced Diploma	Higher Diploma	—
5	Diploma*/ Associate Degree	Diploma	Associate Degree	—
4	Certificate*	Certificate 4	—	Secondary School Certificate (G 12)
3	Certificate*	Certificate 3	—	TBA
2	Certificate*	Certificate 2	—	—
1	Certificate*	Certificate 1	—	—

STRATEGIES TO BUILD HE AND VET PATHWAYS: *NEW APPLIED DEGREES*

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Applied degrees at Bachelor, Graduate Diploma and Masters levels:

1. Developed by and for industry.
2. Address the mismatch between education provision and UAE labour market needs.
3. Increase learners' understanding of their field of work.
4. Equip learners with the competencies necessary for effective performance in the workplace.
5. Enable learners to complete knowledge and skills based units as well as application units (i.e. on-the-job training).
6. Provide learners with an award title that indicates the employment sector or specific job e.g. Applied Bachelor in Ecotourism, Applied Master in Hospitality Management.

LEVEL	Generic Nomenclature	Principal Qualification titles used in the QF*Emirates*		
		Vocational Education and Training (VET)	Higher Education (HE)	General Education (G 12 – GE)
10	Doctoral Degree	—	Doctoral	—
9	Master Degree	Applied Master	Master	—
8	Graduate Diploma	Applied Graduate Diploma	Postgraduate Diploma	—
7	Bachelor Degree	Applied Bachelor	Bachelor	—
6	Diploma*	Advanced Diploma	Higher Diploma	—
5	Diploma*/ Associate Degree	Diploma	Associate Degree	—
4	Certificate*	Certificate 4	—	Secondary School Certificate (G 12)
3	Certificate*	Certificate 3	—	TBA
2	Certificate*	Certificate 2	—	—
1	Certificate*	Certificate 1	—	—

EXAMPLE: *APPLIED DEGREES FOR TEACHERS*

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

- Many employed as teachers may not have a teaching degree and/or may have limitations in terms of professional work competence in the classroom.
- UAE Cabinet recently approved a project to license teachers in the UAE. The component of the licensure is to develop national occupational skills standards and qualifications for the teaching professional, to lift standards.
- NQA and MOE established a project team to undertake this activity.

Conceptual model of development

Candidates receive **ongoing support** e.g. mentoring, moderation, pastoral care and other forms of support.

Contract of training

Teachers currently or to be employed with or without a Bachelor degree in teaching, may volunteer to enter into a contract of training to develop-up and demonstrate their workplace competence for an Applied Degree in teaching.

Evidence of performance against NOSS

- Over a period of time, notionally 2 years, individuals undertake workplace development in a specifically designed program against the National Occupational Skills Standards (NOSS) making up the qualification.
- During this development, evidence is gathered to determine progress.

Degree awarded

- When there is sufficient evidence to affirm individuals have met the standards, they are awarded the degree, an 'Applied Bachelor Degree' in teaching.
- Teacher would possibly hold a Bachelor degree and Applied Bachelor degree.

STRATEGIES TO BUILD HE AND VET PATHWAYS: *TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS*

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Abu Dhabi Vocational Education & Training Institution established in 2007 with seven entities across the UAE. For example:

1. *Sharjah Institute of Technology* - students complete BTEC Diplomas internationally accredited through UK's Edexcel, allowing students to continue to university, continue with a BTEC Higher National Qualifications, or go straight to work.

معهد الشارقة للتكنولوجيا
SHARJAH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

2. *Secondary Technical Schools* offer young Emirates vocational studies in the fields of Business Studies, Engineering Maintenance, Aviation Maintenance, Health Sciences, and Creative Media Production. Students graduate with:

   - A Grade 12 Secondary Technical School Certificate and
   - An 'internationally' recognized vocational qualification such as the Australian TAFE Certificate in Business.

STS
المدرسة الثانوية الفنية
Secondary Technical School

STRATEGIES TO BUILD HE AND VET PATHWAYS: *TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS*

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Institutes of Applied Technology established in 2005 provide careers-based education at secondary and tertiary levels across the UAE. For example:

1. *Abu Dhabi Polytechnic* offers a dual educational-professional training system in high-tech disciplines at Certificate, Diploma, Higher Diploma and Bachelor levels.

بوليتكنك
POLYTECHNIC
"Building the Future of UAE Technologies"

2. *Fatima College* offers Diploma, Higher Diploma, Bachelor and Master level qualifications in health sciences.

كلية فاطمة للعلوم الصحية
FATIMA COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

STRATEGIES TO BUILD HE AND VET PATHWAYS: *PROMOTING PATHWAYS*

United Arab Emirates

الهيئة الوطنية للمؤهلات
NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

Occupations and Careers Handbook for UAE Nationals, launched 7 April 2014:

- First of its kind in the UAE and region
- Based on in-depth research of UAE's labour market needs
- 155 critical, sustainable and attractive occupations for UAE Nationals
- 5 priority industry sectors of employment for UAE Nationals
- Encourages UAE Nationals to help build a strong national economy

In terms of HE and VET pathways, the Handbook:

- Provides information about multiple career options
- Lists occupations that straddle the higher education and VET sectors
- Informs learners about entry points (e.g. Diploma) and exit points (e.g. Bachelor) for programs.