



Panel Discussion

Discussion Title:

Encouraging Emaratis to Study Science

Auditorium

MODERATOR - **Tarek Ibrahim**

Exam Development Supervisor, IAT, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Bio

Mr. Tarek Ibrahim has been involved in the educational field for over 15 years. He previously worked as the Senior Coordinator of Research at IAT before getting appointed as the Exam Development Supervisor. He holds an undergraduate degree in math, and several master degrees in education and international business. He is working towards commencing his doctorate in educational leadership.



Panelist

Dr. Natasha Ridge

Executive Director
Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation
for Policy Research

Bio

Dr. Natasha Ridge is currently the Executive Director of the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research. Prior to this, she was the Acting Director of Research at the Dubai School of Government. Natasha has a number of publications including a forthcoming book entitled Education and the Reverse Gender Divide in the Gulf States: Embracing the Global, Ignoring the Local. Her additional publications include chapters in the 2012 World Education Yearbook and in publications of the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and UNESCO as well as working papers for the Dubai School of Government and the Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research. Natasha holds a Doctorate of Education in International Education Policy from Columbia University and a Masters in International and Community Development from Deakin University, Australia. She is also a founding board member and former president of the Gulf Comparative Education Society. Her latest research focuses on the educational aspirations and choices of young men in the Gulf Cooperation Council, Arab migrant teachers, and access and equity in private education in the GCC.



Panelist

Dr. Christina Gitsaki

Assoc. Dean of Foundations
Academic Central Services,
Higher Colleges of Technology.

Bio

Dr. Christina Gitsaki, is the Associate Academic Dean of Foundations at the Higher Colleges of Technology and an Honorary Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, The University of Queensland, Australia. Prior to her current position at HCT she was the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research in Education at the Sharjah Higher Colleges of Technology (SHCT). Before coming to the UAE, she worked at the School of Education, at The University of Queensland (UQ), Australia, where she educated pre-service ESL teachers and supervised Masters and Ph.D. students in language education research. Dr. Gitsaki has presented her research at International Conferences, she has been an invited speaker at various professional events and she has published over 50 papers in refereed journals and book chapters on language acquisition and pedagogy. She is the author, editor and co-editor of six books on language education research.



Panelist

Dr. Jamal Hajsaleh

Associate Professor
Petroleum Institute.

Bio

Dr. Hajsaleh is an associate professor in Physics. He Received his Ph. D. in Molecular Spectroscopy from the University of North Texas in 1993. He has worked in universities in Texas, Bahrain and UAE.

Dr. Hajsaleh established the UNT Regional Collaborative for Excellence in Science Teaching in 1995. The collaborative provides professional development for in-service science teachers and has been funded by state and federal grants.