

# OER in the Middle East: The UAE Experiences

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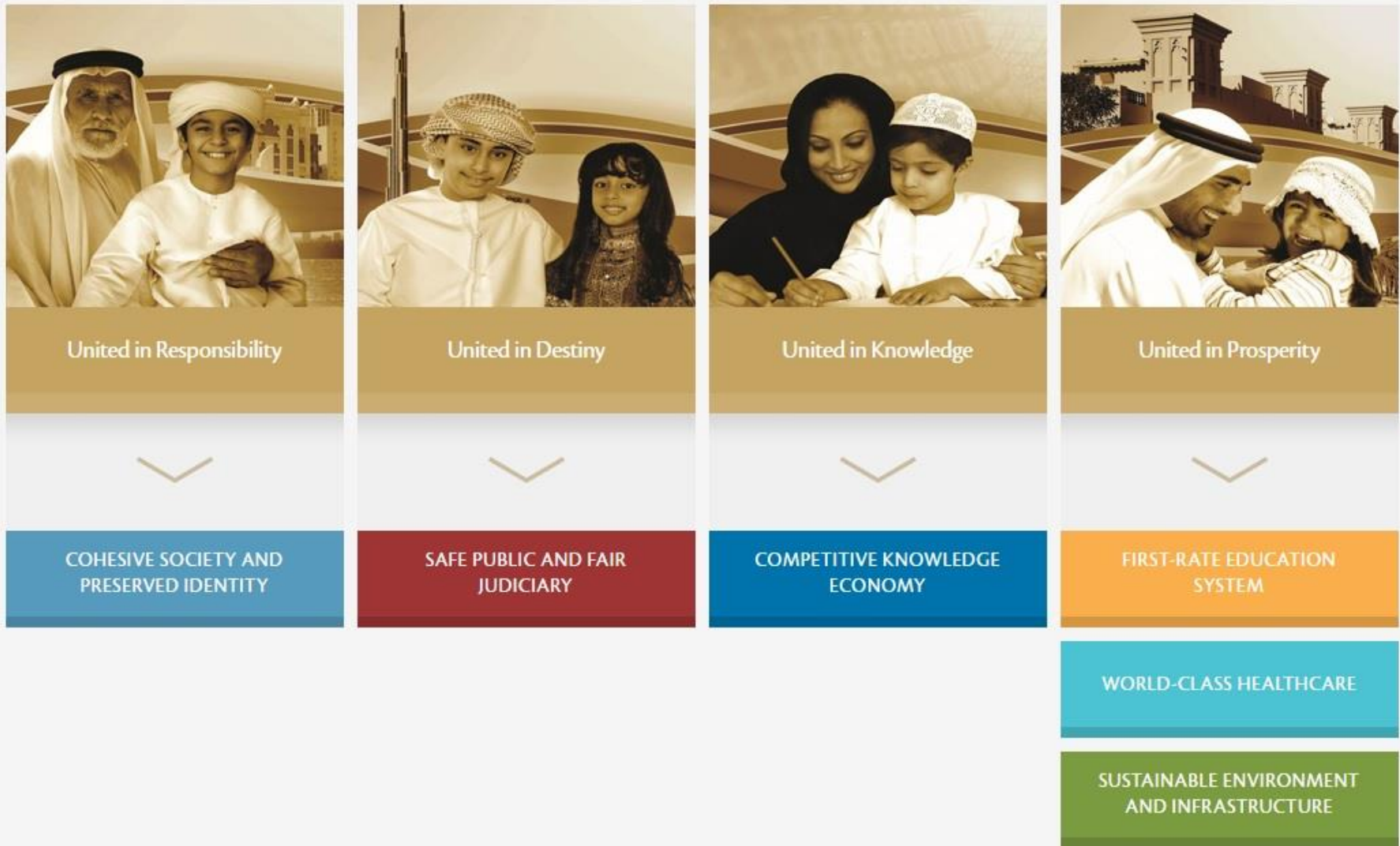
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# „The race for excellence has no finish line“

HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

(Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai)

# STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK - VISION 2021



# TOWARDS KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

- ▶ COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY PROGRESS INDICATORS
- ▶ Global Innovation Index
- ▶ Global Competitiveness Index
- ▶ Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index (GEDI)
- ▶ Share of "Knowledge Workers" in the Labor Force
- ▶ Research and Development Expenditure as % of GDP

# FIRST-RATE EDUCATION SYSTEM

- ▶ UAE Vision 2021 National Agenda emphasizes the development of a first-rate education system, which will require a complete transformation of the current education system and teaching methods
- ▶ Emphasis on soft skills development
- ▶ Numerous reform steps at all educational levels
- ▶ Global campaigns to promote open educational resources and e-learning
- ▶ HBMSU - the first e-learning platform in the UAE
- ▶ Open education and e-learning concepts officially recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHESR)
- ▶ UAE Journal of Educational Technology and eLearning

# UNIVERSITY APPROACH: THE PARADIGM

- ▶ The Paradigm shifts from teaching to developing knowledge and research
- ▶ Analysis of the student skills to guide in selecting University mayors
- ▶ Both University teachers and management follow the paradigm shift
- ▶ Focus on experiential learning
- ▶ Widespread application of open education platforms and ePortfolios
- ▶ CAA (Committee for Academic Accreditation) requirements encourage Universities to utilize OER
- ▶ Students involved in the academic research (example of the academic research on mobile learning and social media use, performed predominantly by students and presented at 2017 Innovation Arabia conference - link: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315374600\\_Social\\_Media\\_in\\_Higher\\_Education\\_Students\\_Perspectives\\_on\\_Social\\_Media\\_Use\\_in\\_Classroom](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/315374600_Social_Media_in_Higher_Education_Students_Perspectives_on_Social_Media_Use_in_Classroom))

# HAMDAN BIN MOHAMMED SMART UNIVERSITY

- ▶ Open education platform in the centre of the process
- ▶ In line with its vision and commitment to support the Dubai Smart City project, the University launched an online learning platform, Cloud Campus, an innovative solution for the 21st century learner
- ▶ Strong networking and partnerships on national and international levels
- ▶ University as an innovation hub
- ▶ Cloud Campus & Smart Campus concepts
- ▶ E-Store for the students

# AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN THE EMIRATES

- ▶ In-house built online platform - aKademia
- ▶ Permanent teacher-student interaction online
- ▶ Strong emphasis onto involvement of students into the research work
- ▶ Adjusted curricula to match needs for the development of soft skills
- ▶ ePortfolios and online resources available
- ▶ Access to the myriad of free software for both faculty members and students



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Further development of blended learning concepts
- ▶ Development of the faculty members` skills to utilize smart learning concepts, augmented reality and virtual reality
- ▶ Further encouragement of the academic research
- ▶ More connections with the Universities in Europe
- ▶ Content production for e-learning platforms remains an issue
- ▶ Use OER to create more engaging and interactive learning environment
- ▶ Training for both faculty members and students to use free software

# AT THE END

- ▶ What are the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner?
- ▶ What are the habits of the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner?
  
- ▶ **UNIVERSITY DIDACTICS SHOULD MATCH THESE NEEDS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PERMANENT SUCCESS AND ASSURE THE EFFICIENCY OF LIFELONG LEARNING!**
  
- ▶ **E-concepts, smart solutions and online integrative platforms should be the key tools to achieve student-centered lifelong learning!**

# THANK YOU!

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