

Dr. Taimur Sharif Presents IEES Website in a Round-Table Meeting Organised by the Ministry of Education at the Prime Minister's Office, Dubai

The Ministry of Education (MOE) organized a round-table meeting at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation in the Prime Minister's Office, Emirates Towers, 50th floor, Dubai on Tuesday, June 14th, 2016. The purpose of this meeting was to provide a platform for collaboration among the higher education institutions (HEIs) and share the experiences gained by those institutions who have already adopted and is teaching the new Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E 301) course in collaboration with the Center for Professional Development of Stanford University, USA. This meeting facilitated a good opportunity to provide the attendees with further guidance and answers regarding the next phase of the MOE-Stanford project. The round-table meeting was opened with the welcome speech and keynote of **HE Dr. Ahmed Behoul**, Minister of State for Higher Education Affairs, followed by a presentation by HE Dr. Mohammed Al Baili, Provost-Academic Affairs of the UAE University, on the E&I course journey in collaboration with Stanford since November 2015. Dr. Ahmed Al Abbas, Director of Economic Affairs at the UAE Prime Minister's Office, made a presentation on the Higher Policy for Science, Technology & Innovation of the UAE.

The next session was dedicated for presentations on the success stories of a couple of faculty participants in the MOE-Stanford education project. **Dr. Mohammed Watfa** of University of Wollongong-Dubai (UWoD) presented a mobile app which he created to keep the I&E students informed, inspired and connected virtually. **Dr. Taimur Sharif** of ALHOSN University, Abu Dhabi made a presentation on the website he created for the I&E Educators' Society (IEES) – the faculty community that was conceptually incepted and proposed in the Stanford Education Program by Dr. Taimur Sharif and his team consisting of Dr. Abeer Alrashdi of HCT-RAK, Dr. Amal Amleh of PSU-AD and Dr. Joanna Seraphim of CUD. Upon successful completion of the I&E course at Stanford and return to his usual work routines in the UAE, Dr. Taimur provided personal efforts to develop and design a website for the IEES (www.iees-uae.com) that would act as a common virtual platform for the I&E educators in different universities (79) across the UAE by staying connected, providing support in teaching & learning (T&L), sharing resources, and so on towards facing the structural challenges in the UAE entrepreneurial ecosystems in a collective manner. Dr. Taimur's work was highly appreciated by the audience consisting of distinguished guests from HEIs, industry and government offices. Dr. Ahmed Behoul, the State Minister for HE Affairs, personally congratulated Dr. Taimur on creating this success story for the MOE-Stanford project and expressed his interest to officially host the website once it's full-blown.

The round-table meeting ended with a couple of group discussions regarding:

- [a] challenges and recommendation to adopt the E&I curriculum in all UAE universities, and
- [b] the Higher Policy for Science, Technology & Innovation and recommendations of initiatives that will support the UAE-STI Policy.

The meeting was wrapped with a brief highlights on the next Steps.

