

Speech

By

H.E. GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE
MR. SULTAN BIN NASSER AL-SUWAIDI

On the occasion of the Signing Ceremony of

THE NATIONAL BANKING EXAMINER PROGRAMME (NBEP)
EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENT

Between

THE IFS SCHOOL OF FINANCE (LONDON)
AND
THE CENTRAL BANK OF THE UAE

Tuesday, 17th February 2009

Central Bank of the UAE – Abu Dhabi

Your Excellencies

Ladies & gentlemen, dear students

We are delighted and honored to have the RT honorable Lord Mayor of the City of London with us today, to celebrate this special occasion.

Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen

The idea of the National Banking Examiner Programme was first presented to the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of the UAE some ten years ago, but the Board was not convinced, their resolution then asked us to resort to the academia to obtain our examiners, but educational institutions in the country continued to pursue their own educational programmes of specific and traditional disciplines in education.

No university or college understood our specific needs. Also, the young UAE nationals once completed their higher school studies, would rarely be interested in studying Accounting.

Therefore, we were not able to obtain sufficient response when we advertised job vacancies for Accountants.

So we decided to approach our Board again with a new proposal in 2007, but this time we showed the Board statistics and figures obtained from numbers of university graduates and responses to our advertisements.

As a result, we managed to get the necessary approval of our Board and we moved for implementation.

I remember in May 2007 we went to London and before we went there, I remember I described our idea to Mr. Anthony Nelson the then Vice Chairman of Citigroup and he kindly arranged for a meeting between Central Bank team and the ifs. It took some time to prepare for things, but finally **the big moment** has arrived. I am sure our association with the ifs and Zayed University will serve our objective.

I consider the signing of this agreement today to be an extremely important achievement at Central Bank of the UAE.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Ms. Joanne Susan Emslie and the teachers of the programme in Abu Dhabi and Dubai for their dedication and hard work, and I should not forget to thank the Central Bank Committees in Abu Dhabi chaired by Mr. Saleh Allaw and in Dubai chaired by Dr. Omar Al Qaizi.

Congratulations to all of you and to the students, especially those who finished their foundation stage and ready now for the ifs banking courses.

Thank you for your attention...

