

Vocational Summer Challenge Program (SC)

Project-No:	2101
Period:	Summer Vacations 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009
Region:	United Arab Emirates
Partners:	Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC) German Technical Education (GTZ) Future Technical Services (FTS)

1 Background

In 2009, for the sixth time, the Vocational Summer Challenge Program was accomplished very successfully in a fruitful cooperation by Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC), the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Froebel Academy International (FAI).

After 5 successful years of implementation it was decided to widen the program within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi to give more students the opportunity to make up their mind for an occupational career oriented future. Therefore in 2009 we offered 2 new venues.

The SC was offered in the local summer vacation and addressed selected students from the Emirate Abu Dhabi. At well prepared school sites, the program provided workshops conceived for vocational education, covering several fields of competency, for instance Electronics, Solar Energy, Arts Handicraft, Woodworking, Metal Processing or First Aid and Life Guard.

2 Project objectives/Approach/Contents

The Vocational Summer Challenge Program 2009 objective is to establish and conduct an innovative and very modern system for the promotion of vocational education and orientation for National students. The SC should be a great experience for all the students involved and provides the following opportunities for the students:

- to experience technologies, methods and equipment used in a variety of professional fields
- to stimulate areas of interest and talent
- to acquire technical and scientific knowledge
- to develop self-study skills
- to improve their social competencies and team abilities
- to work in teams alongside experts
- to develop and promote previous knowledge.

>>>

different to others!

Our specific goals were:

- to offer courses of practical and technical nature as well as in the fields of arts and rescue
- to give vocational orientation
- to offer complementary education which students cannot gain at school or at home
- to design courses which support competencies like logical thinking, coping with frustration and conflicts in a constructive way, the ability to work independently as well as in a team
- to facilitate self confidence by achieving a measurable result, which completes each course (e.g. a work piece, a theatre performance)

3 Results

Our Vocational Summer Challenge Program is very well known by adolescents and parents alike as an educative and enjoyable summer program. Thousands of children and adolescents participated in the programs; some of them worked their way up to assistant trainers.

The Vocational Summer Challenge Programs made a meaningful contribution to the development of student's personal competencies and skills. Results are:

- excellent quality was achieved
- very high numbers of students were attracted
- participants acquired personal competencies and technical skills
- students had a rewarding and enjoyable time

The overarching goal is that the students experienced their talents in several professional fields, became familiar with "hands on" work and trained their soft skills while working in groups, solving problems and creating own work pieces.