

KNOWLEDGE IS AN EVER-EXPANDING HORIZON FOR STUDENTS

At the Knowledge Horizon it was a momentous occasion for those who had cleared the University of Cambridge International Examinations

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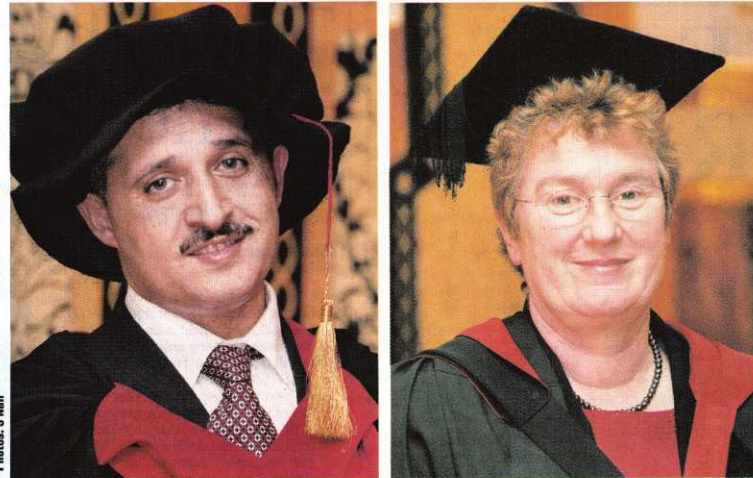
The Knowledge Village is full of surprises. But the Knowledge Horizon is not a surprise. It has a natural place in the environment of the Knowledge Village. The other day was a big one for those in Knowledge Horizon — it was graduation day and the day fell the same day GETEX opened. To top it all, there were some very distinguished guests gracing the occasion, people like Diane Palmer and Dr Maen Al Qatamin. **City Times** got to talking to the two, and that was one session of widening the horizons of knowledge!

Before getting to that, let's get an idea of what Knowledge Horizon is all about. Well, it is an international knowledge transfer organisation and the other day's evening was the culmination of imparting of knowledge to a score and more of students who passed out, to reach out for the horizon, where culmination of dreams awaited them, dreams that institutions like Knowledge Horizon help make come true.

These students, of nationalities varied, passed the University of Cambridge International Examinations, diplomas that are designed for working professionals who have the aspiration for further studies, and need to juggle busy professional and social schedules.

"The examination is part of the University of Cambridge examinations. We provide assessments at all the levels throughout the world, we have been doing that for a 150 years, and a million candidates have taken our assessments," Diane Palmer, director of operations, University of Cambridge International Examinations, told the **City Times**.

A teacher for 14 years, Palmer said that the University of Cambridge diploma was very prestigious and much sought after. "Recent pass rates in the Cambridge University — International Examinations diplomas at Knowledge Horizon were 96 per cent including



Encouraging the ambitions of the working professional, Dr Maen Al Qatamin (l) and Diane Palmer have expressed their satisfaction at the performance of the students

25 per cent with credits and six per cent with distinction. That is a very good record, at par with anywhere else in the world."

The diploma is a part-time course, and the teachers are also drawn from the industry who take time off from their professional engagements to impart practical as well as theoretical knowledge to the students. "The teachers are top professionals with top academic degrees though what they teach is not just the theoretical," said Dr Maen Al Qatamin, president of Knowledge Horizon.

Palmer said that students taking the University of Cambridge — International Examinations diplomas had a degree of flexibility to appear for the examinations. "They are allowed to take up to three years to sit for the examinations and get those diplomas, though in the UAE, most students get them on average 15 months. The

examinations and the courses are structured in a manner that gives them flexibility; they have the option to take one module at a time or the entire lot at one go. It was designed with professionals in mind and all those connected to the examinations are professionals."

Dr Qatamin said Knowledge Village was associate partner with Cambridge University. "The region needs quality education, and training and human resource development. Knowledge Horizon was established five years back hoping to fill that gap.

The graduation students who have got their diplomas were unable to travel to the United Kingdom for the graduation ceremony and were very enthusiastic to be handed over their diplomas in Dubai," Dr Qatamin told the **City Times**. "Knowledge Horizon believes in values, of integrity

honesty and professionalism, respect... Our professional qualifications department is uniquely designed to prepare students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to make and implement professional decisions in the changing world. Students are exposed to and educated to the realities of management."

Palmer said that the University helps associates like Knowledge Horizon with materials that are relevant to the teaching of the course. "We also develop curriculum and carry out the assessments that are recognised throughout the world."

Incidentally, Knowledge Horizon works not just with the Cambridge University but with a number of top international universities and training centres, offering professional qualifications and training that is specialised, customer focused, skill-based and up-to-date.

STUDENT VOICES

City Times talked to some of the students present at the graduation ceremony

Ibrahim Al Hammadi, 30, Arab

I've been studying Executive Business Management with Knowledge Horizon and it was a great experience. I'm so glad that such a thing exists and I got a chance to earn my diploma while I was working.



Zenaiba Corsar, 48, Filipino

I love this programme and enjoyed every moment of it. I'm the oldest in the batch and it feels so special to be graduating at such an age. This has helped open many doors of opportunities for me.



Fahad Al Baqer, 32, Arab

I think it's good, getting a chance to work out your career and study at the same time. I've received a diploma for business management. There was a period when I was working and didn't have time to pursue higher education but Knowledge Horizon made a dream to a reality.



Catherine DeMangeot, 41, French

Well I've earned my diploma for Teachers and Trainers for sharing many ideas and new concepts. It's been wonderful and the programme proved that no matter how old you are, you can still continue your education.



Saud Sulaiman, 28, Arab

It took me 15 to 16 months to finish my course and I'm very happy at the results. I have had an amazing time studying here and it broadened my horizons.



Compiled by Farhana Chowdhury