



WAIL OMAR

Iraqi Native Opens Computing Skills Training and Certification Business to Help Rebuild War-torn Iraq

Certiport IC³ provides validation of digital skills to help Iraqis rebuild, compete in international job market

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Years after leaving his homeland in Iraq, Dr. Wail Omar felt he couldn't stay away. With his background in information and communications technology, Omar knew the benefits digital literacy will bring to his country as it rebuilds. "I am Iraqi," he explained. "I am looking for ways to help the Iraqis, especially with all the sad things happening there."

Unfortunate conditions in Iraq affected Omar personally when his business partner and close friend was killed in a suicide bombing in the Green Zone in central Baghdad. "It was such a loss," Omar said. "He was not only my friend, he was like my brother. Every day I remember him and can't believe he's gone. But now, what we are doing in Iraq, we are doing for him. This was his initiative—to establish BNR in Iraq and talk to the people there about digital literacy. His loss gives us a cause for success in Iraq, and we are working very hard to achieve what he was trying to do."



Earlier this year, Omar established BNR Education as a reseller of Certiport® certifications in Iraq. "It was so risky when we started this business, but we decided to go forward and provide Iraqi people with an international certification," he said, adding that Iraq's security has improved recently, and he hopes it will continue to get better. "We aim to help the Iraqi people rebuild Iraq."

BNR recently contracted with two of the largest universities in Iraq to deliver Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®), Microsoft® Office Specialist, Microsoft Certified Application Specialist and Adobe® Certified Associate certifications to more than 200,000 students. In addition, BNR signed contracts with private academic institutions and one of Iraq's largest communications companies. "The Iraqi people are so smart, and they are keen to get the latest technology and information in the world," he said. "We have successfully built a network to deliver international certifications in Iraq through our partners in south and north of parts of the country."



Digital literacy, Omar knows, is a common requirement of people worldwide. "It is required in Iraq, as well as in all the world to connect people together," he said. "It will be helpful to connect the Iraqi people with the latest digital technology. They will be able to use the digital world effectively to improve their working environment and the academic environment. And, because of my belief in IC³, I decided to offer certification in Iraq."

"I believe people should be digitally educated to deal with day-to-day life," Omar said. "Digital literacy is important for everyone as they communicate with others. Digital literacy certification is one way to tell people about their level in the digital world and what they need to address in order to be fully occupied with digital facilities."



In his other pursuit as acting dean of Sohar University in Oman, Omar chaired a council focused on developing fundamental computing curriculum standards for all of the country's universities and colleges. He was also in a position to identify an international certificate to meet the standards the council defined.

"We believed students should have knowledge according to global standards, rather than national or regional standards," Omar said. "Certiport IC³ is the most appropriate program to discover the required skills for academia and industry. It will help our graduates compete with graduates from other universities in the job market. The students who earn this certificate show a significant improvement in their understanding of digital skills in their studies."

As his business plans evolve, Omar wishes the best to his fellow Iraqis. "I hope the security situation will be better in Iraq, which will assist the government and people to focus on other issues," he said. "Digital literacy is for each person in the world, including Iraqis."



ABOUT CERTIPOINT

Certiport prepares individuals with current and relevant digital skills and credentials for the competitive global workforce. These solutions are delivered by more than 12,000 Certiport Centers worldwide and include Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®), the official Microsoft® Office certification programs and the Adobe® Certified Associate certification program. For more information, visit www.certiport.com.

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