

Learning & Technology Conference 2011 Speech

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

والصلاة والسلام على أشرف المرسلين سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

Dear guests,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

I would like to welcome you all to the 9th edition of the Learning and Technology conference under the theme “Learning by Design: Purpose, Art, and Motion”

Learning is a divine gift that allowed humans to evolve from ignorance to light. The ever expanding human knowledge is what is allowing humans to know more about themselves and their environment.

Teaching is the other divine gift that makes teachers almost like prophets in the Arab culture. Teaching is simply “Learning and Sharing”. If learning is a natural ability that all humans should have, then teaching is a more challenging ability that is not given to everyone. The challenge comes from the fact that teaching is not only about sharing knowledge, but it is more importantly about sharing knowledge in the most effective way, especially with all the tools that are now available. Furthermore, learners are acquainted with all these tools that technology is inventing and offering every season. Teaching becomes even more challenging since teachers have to be more attentive to the learners and their learning styles because technology is allowing learners to be more active and teachers to explore more interactive teaching-learning process.

The 9th Learning and Technology Conference is bringing all the speakers and the audience together to explore what technology is offering to learners and to teachers in terms of active, interactive, creative, and dynamic learning. We hope that this year's conference will be a great contribution in opening the eyes of all the educators who are present in order to better understand the learners and their expectations, and also to explore the use of the tools that are available for an optimal teaching.

We thank all our speakers for participating in this conference and sharing their experience and best practices with colleagues and all the audience. We also thank our guests and we hope that this conference will be an exciting and enjoyable learning experience to all of you.

We also thank our sponsors for their continuous support.

I would not miss the opportunity to thank the conference organizing teams, under the leadership of Dr. Malak AlNory, the conference manager, and Dr. Akila Sarirete the program chair, for their great efforts in making these two days a success.

I wish all of you a great evening and I hope you also enjoy tomorrow's sessions and workshops which, I promise, will be a wonderful learning experience to all of you.

Thank you and have a nice evening.

Houria Oudghiri, Provost of Effat University