Abu Dhabi University Hosts School Leaders Summit 2026 to Address the Future of Education

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 23 November 2026: Abu Dhabi University (ADU), through its Dubai Campus, hosted the School Leaders Summit 2026, bringing together senior education leaders, school principals and educators from across Dubai and the Northern Emirates to address the evolving opportunities and challenges shaping the future of education.

Held under the theme "Leading Schools Through AI, Change and Teacher Retention" at Dubai Knowledge Park, the summit served as a platform for knowledge exchange and dialogue on artificial intelligence (AI) adoption, institutional readiness, educational leadership and strategies to attract and retain teaching talent.

The summit commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Anas Najdawi, Director of ADU's Dubai Campus, followed by a session on educational leadership by Professor Ghassan Aouad, Chancellor of ADU. Dr. Hamad Odhabi, Vice Chancellor for AI and Operational Excellence at ADU, delivered a session highlighting the practical applications of AI in education.

Professor Ghassan Aouad, Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, said: "As the education landscape continues to evolve, collaboration between schools and higher education institutions is increasingly important in preparing future generations for a rapidly changing world. Through initiatives such as the School Leaders Summit, we aim to empower education leaders to embrace innovation, navigate institutional change and foster environments where both educators and students can thrive."

A key highlight of the summit was a panel discussion titled "From Challenge to Change: How Dubai's School Leaders Are Shaping the Future," which brought together education leaders to exchange insights on navigating change and preparing schools for the future. The program also featured a session by Advance HE on teaching excellence, professional recognition and teacher retention in the age of AI.

The summit concluded with discussions on future partnership opportunities, reinforcing ADU's commitment to strengthening collaboration with the wider education community, advancing teaching excellence and contributing to the continued development of the UAE's education sector.

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