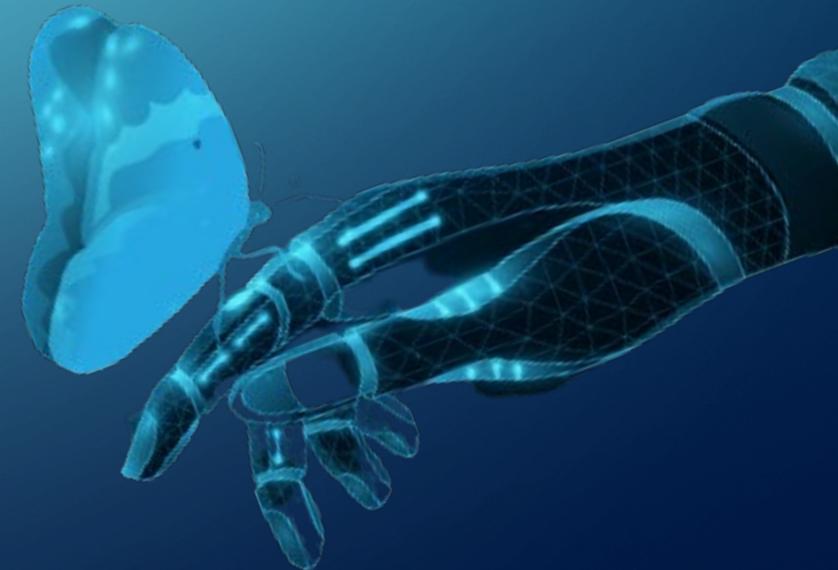The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization
ALECSO

THE ARAB CODE WEEK

21 – 28 FEBRUARY 2022

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INTRODUCTION

- Educational technology constitutes an important aspect in modern education providing unique learning experiences to students and improving their learning.

- Technological resources (especially computers) have been integrated in education for decades. However, integration of educational technology in early childhood education is a more recent trend compared to the other levels of education.

- This fact creates the need to develop, apply and study application of resources and methodologies specifically addressed to young children.

INTRODUCTION

As part of ALECSO's endeavor to :

• meet the challenges facing the Arab world in the intellectual and cultural fields,

• promote scientific and technological awareness among Arab young people,

• enhance their abilities to understand science and technology concepts and methods,

=> ALECSO co-organize with the Tunisian Association for Educational Initiatives the Arab Code Week (ACW).

WHAT IS "ARAB CODE WEEK"

The "Arab Code Week", like The European Code Week, is an initiative aimed to :

- spread the culture of programming in the Arab world,

- promote kids coding,

- help teachers and students enhance their capacities in modern technologies and electronic programming,

- provide an exciting learning environment that helps acquire the basics of programming for all ages, especially youth.

The aim is offer them wide prospects to explore new disciplines and acquire scientific skills that enhance creativity and excellence in the fields of technology, science, mathematics, engineering and arts, in line with the global STEAM approach.

WHY SHOULD KIDS LEARN CODING ?

- Coding is a basic literacy in the digital age,

- Kids need to understand the technology around them and work with,

- Coding at a young age helps develop crucial skills like problem-solving, analytical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and confidence,

- Children who learn to code when they're young can set themselves up for a lifetime of opportunities for success and become a productive child of technology than a simple consumer.

- Future jobs also require more problem-solving and critical thinking skills than ever before. According to the World Economic Forum : "In 2022, 75 million current job roles may be displaced by the shift in the division of labor between humans, machines, and algorithms, while 133 million new job roles may emerge at the same time".

CAN KIDS LEARN CODING ?

- While it is difficult to imagine a child learning something so complex, Coding for kids is not typically the same as "programming in computer science".

- Thanks to many kids programming platform, children can learn the basics with easy block-based coding like Scratch (Scratch: A visual, drag-and-drop coding experience) and many other tools like "Co-Spaces", "Minecraft" before seamlessly transitioning to real-world text-based languages.

THE FIRST EDITION OF ACW

- The first edition of ACW was launched on February 8th, 2021 to February 15, 2021 under the theme "Programming and decoration".

- A host of events and activities were organized as part of the Arab Code Week, including, in particular :

  - training workshops on "Scratch", "Co-Spaces", "Minecraft" and "Pixel Art",

  - seminars and competitions,

  - virtual visits to Arab museums,

  - discovery of young talents in modern technologies,

  - Open Days in primary schools.

THE FIRST EDITION OF ACW

- The ACW activities witnessed massive participation from Arab students (over 200.000), teachers (over 10.000), and schools (over 1.500).

- No less than 13.352 activities were registered on the ACW platform (https://arabcodeweek.alecso.org). Each activity was performed by a teacher with a group of his students, and was related to the main theme of the ACW edition (Programming and decoration).

THE SECOND EDITION OF ACW

- The 2nd edition of Arab Code Week will take place in Egypt at the beginning of 2022, and the goal is to reach one million of students and one hundred thousand of teachers.

- Theme of the 2022 edition : "Artificial Intelligence and Environment Protection"

- Date of Second "Arab Code Week": February 21-28, 2022

- The closing and prize-awarding ceremony will take place in Egypt

THE GOAL OF THE 2ND EDITION OF ACW

- Educate children about environmental issues,

- Encourage children to start making a positive contribution towards the environment,

- Learn some basics in Artificial Intelligence (also known as AI) and help children understand how it works and what to do with it,

- Motivate children to find solutions to environmental problems using "AI",

- "AI" is considered to be the biggest game-changer in the global economy. With its gradual increase in scope and application, it is estimated that by 2030, "AI" will contribute up to 15.7 trillion of the global economy which is more than the current output of China and India combined.

THE GOAL OF THE 2ND EDITION OF ACW

- The UN Artificial Intelligence Summit held in Geneva (2017) identified that AI has the potential to accelerate progress towards a dignified life, in peace and prosperity, for all people and have suggested to refocus the use of this technology, that is responsible for self-driving cars and voice/face recognition smart phones, on sustainable development and assisting global efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger, and to protect the environment and conserve natural resources.

THE LOGO AND POSTERS OF THE 2ND EDITION OF ACW

THANK YOU

- DR. MOHAMED JEMNI