Foreword

In an era of globalization and a knowledge world economy, this important and authentic research is invaluable to readers in this part of the world and internationally who wish to better understand ICT in the Arab World.

The book includes the valuable contributions of academics, educators and practitioners from different countries, including the United Arab Emirates, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, The Kingdom of Bahrain, The Republic of Egypt, the Sultanate of Oman, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The scope of the book includes investigations and case studies related to a rich assortment of topics including; information technology and internet applications, e-learning, social networks for education, ERP for education, ICT education, and strategic information system planning in Arab educational organizations.

Moreover, it tackles the cultural practices, values, and ethics related to this important topic and emphasizes the proven positive correlation between ICT usage and academic achievement.

Schools, colleges and Higher Education have recognized that using technology can enhance the achievement of students by providing creative methods of teaching and flexible ways of assessing their performance. Moreover, examination bodies realized that technology can bring many advantages to increasing efficiency and students’ engagement.

Not only does this valuable book list the challenges that technology faces in the Arab world, but it also alludes to the opportunities they present, and to their solutions while also addressing different related issues.

In summary, this research is an excellent literary addition to a unique and important domain, and will certainly be a precious resource for educational decision makers, as well as practitioners, in moving education and other sectors from good to great standing.

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Samia Al Farra is a prominent educator and a co-founding member of the Middle East International Baccalaureate Association (MEIBA), Samia’s role is to lead the Academic and Operational Development of Taaleem, its schools, and initiatives. She is something of a household name on the International Baccalaureate circuit, especially on her home turf in the Arab world. Samia was a member of the IB Council of Foundation, IB Heads Committee and currently she is a member of the IB Regional Council. Samia brings a real depth and breadth of regional experience and understanding to the table. Having notched up over 37 years in the field of international education, she has amassed a huge bank of experience as an educator, as a Principal and through her senior positions on the Jordanian National Education Council, the CIS (Council of International Schools) and NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation teams, and the UWC (United World Colleges) national team. Gently spoken yet hard-hitting, Samia’s drive and ability to embrace change has made her a pioneer within the Middle East’s education arena. She is a firm believer in ICT and in its role in enhancing students’ achievement.