

New 530 Million Dhs School Reports Strong Admissions in First Month

- *Dubai's first multilingual school*
- *30% of target enrolments achieved in four weeks*
- *Over 100 high quality applications received per academic role*
- *Abdul Hamied Siddiqi announced as Co-founder and Chairman*
- *67,845 sqm campus is the Middle East's first low-energy consumption school*

March 3rd 2015, Dubai UAE -- Since opening admissions in early February 2015, The Swiss International Scientific School in Dubai (SISD) – *Dubai's first ever private school to offer multilingual education in French, German, English and Arabic* – has reported strong admissions for new students for the approaching 2015-2016 academic year, receiving over 100 applications in just four weeks, which is 30% of their target number. Upon opening in August, SISD will be diversifying the education landscape, contributing to Dubai as an education hub, and reducing the significant demand-supply gap.

Staff recruitment has been remarkably successful, with over 100 high quality applications being received per role, so the school has a diverse and international talent pipeline, enabling them to pick the highest quality teachers. SISD is also proud to officially announce Abdul Hamied Siddiqi as Chairman and Co-Founder of the school. Siddiqi Investments, which boasts a diversified portfolio of interests, recognises the impeccable quality and innovation of Swiss products, and therefore identified SISD as a valuable proposition for the group. The family owned and managed company now counts as one of the school's valued investors.

The 67,845 sqm campus will be based on sustainability standards as per the Swiss Minergie label, which is awarded low-energy consumption buildings. SISD will be the Middle East's first low-energy building in the education space, consuming one third of the energy of standard buildings. The cost reduction will be translated into savings that will fund academic scholarships on offer to students in Semester two of the first year of operation. For SISD, sustainability is not just about minimising the environmental footprint, but about fostering a healthy, comfortable learning environment for the children; it's not just a label, it is embedded in the walls of the school.

The Dhs 530 million state-of-the-art campus adjacent to Dubai Creek with capacity for 2,442 students, will boast 90-100 sqm (970-1080 sq ft) classrooms, which is 30% larger than a standard size. The bilingual teaching streams will also demand a high teacher to student ratio, with one teacher supplied for every seven students, and strict maximum class size of 22 students.

SISD will be home to a range of top class facilities including premium boarding house for 350 students, library and an auditorium for an audience of 650. The on-campus sporting opportunities will be amongst the best in the country, including a Olympic sized 50 m swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, football and rugby pitch, an indoor and outdoor running track, a climbing wall, a gymnasium and a multipurpose sports hall and a range of water sports, such as sailing, rowing and paddling to take full advantage of the unique access to Dubai Creek.

Head of School, Beat Sommer commented that the school had been overwhelmed by the number of enrolments to date: *"We are simply delighted by the overwhelming level of interest in multilingual tuition. It's clear to us that an increasing number of parents in the UAE see the true benefit in multilingual education. The SISD IB programme will mirror Switzerland's highly sophisticated and inclusive education system. From Grade one onwards, students in the bilingual sets will be immersed in a progressive environment where they will eventually study 50 percent of their time in English and 50 percent of their time in either French or German, with Arabic tuition too. Our goal is to foster a flourishing community of global citizens that are inquisitive, active and compassionate life-long learners, and who contribute to a more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect."*

- Ends -

Notes to editors:

The First Phase will be ready to welcome students from Pre-KG to Grade 6 for the 2015-16 academic year, with additional sports facilities opening in Spring 2016. The full campus including the Boarding Houses, Auditorium and Secondary School will be ready for September 2016. For more information on Swiss International Scientific School Dubai, visit www.sisd.ae

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About SISD

The Swiss International Scientific School in Dubai (SISD), based in Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC), will be a leading international boarding school where future generations are inspired to become confident and enthusiastic life-long learners, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges in a global world. SISD provides an inspiring and challenging learning environment whilst celebrating academic excellence. Students are encouraged to become successful, global minded, enthusiastic life-long learners who will confidently take advantage of future opportunities and help to make a difference. Together with the teaching

staff and parents, students are supported to fully develop their potential in a motivating multi-lingual, international learning environment.

Students of SISD will enjoy a multi-lingual education through the Swiss-founded International Baccalaureate (IB) continuum program. Students will learn in three bilingual sections with English-French, and English-German or English with Arabic and other foreign languages on offer. In Grade 9, students will have the option to move into the Swiss Matura set and graduate with a bilingual Matura.

About Seddiqi Investments

Seddiqi Investments is a member of Seddiqi Holding; a family owned and managed company with a diversified portfolio of activities across numerous sectors. Seddiqi Investment remains committed to excellence and innovation by upholding our late Founders' core values in transparency, quality and by maintaining strong ties with our key stakeholders. Our dynamic growth has been a natural transmission with primary focus on key developments across various sectors including education, healthcare, telecom and services in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. With demonstrated expertise in private equity, shareholding, and direct investment across a diverse range of investment portfolios, Seddiqi Investments oversees a range of investments and partnerships in some of the Middle East and Asia's key business sectors.