Students’ app wins healthy respect

Exercise monitor is winning entry at first hackathon in region

Eugene Harnan

ABU DHABI // For three days, IT students lived on coffee and determination and breathed technology.

The New York University Abu Dhabi campus invited more than 50 students to the capital for a weekend of hammering out solutions for the greater good of society at the first ‘hackathon’ to be held in the region.

On Friday, the students worked in teams to come up with applications that would catch the attention of a panel of judges that included entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and representatives of software companies.

Ahmed Al Saleem and Hamza Al Kofahi, students at Jordan University of Science and Technology, took first prize with KineTherapy, a programme for doctors to set up exercises for patients. With the help of a motion sensor from Microsoft, the patient would copy the exercise at home and the data would be sent to a clinic. The app would indicate if a patient was doing the exercises properly.

Roy Zakka, chief executive of Ubiquity Systems and one of the judges, said the students had obstacles to overcome but their talent shone through.

“A lot had language barriers and hadn’t done a lot of public speaking and presentations,” he said. “We didn’t hold that against them. They actually had demos and that was amazing.”

On Sunday night, after three days of programming and mentoring by IT experts, 14 teams had just five minutes to pitch their applications to the judges complete with working demonstrations.

The resources available to some of the participants in their home countries were limited.

“They don’t have a lot of what we take for granted like technology, internet and other resources,” Mr Zakka said. “You have to give them credit for something like that.”

The winning pair said their idea came from a doctor. When they landed in Abu Dhabi, they had to work from scratch on methods that would take exercise out of the clinic and into the home.

“First of all Kinect [the sensor] is designed specifically for the Xbox. When you change the hardware or software for another console, you have to convert it first to work on this device. Then we had to change from the game engine to make it work,” Mr Al Saleem, 22, said.

The next step is to complete development.

“Some of the judges were thinking of the market but for us it is not about money. The aim is to help humankind,” he said.

Tenghao Zhou and Max Stoller, both from NYU New York, teamed up with Monir abu Hilal from Jordan’s Princess Sumaya University for Technology.

“We spoke the language of technology,” Mr Al Hilal said about the language barriers between the team members, all 21. They secured second place with a programme that broke down statistics from the website government. ae into simple data.

Katy Blumer, Alice Tessen, Ali Tagli, Nishant Mohanchandra and Halim Largid placed third for their Mankind Children’s Centre database project.

They created an application designed to help non-governmental organisations increase efficiency in submitting records and reports to donors.

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Hackathon comes up with useful tools, apps

50 students work in teams to create mobile and web applications to tackle social issues in the region

Staff Reporter

ABU DHABI — Over 50 students worked in teams to create mobile and web applications designed to tackle real-world social issues in the region at the first-ever International Hackathon for the Social Good in the Arab World, which was held in Abu Dhabi during the weekend.

The three-day event, which was hosted by New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), was participated by computer science students, academics and technology experts from around the globe.

An interactive computer application for physiotherapy developed by students from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) won the top prize.

The KineTherapy application or the “physical therapy game” uses Microsoft’s Kinect technology to monitor a patient’s actual movements against an animated guide directing the therapy programme.

The application was developed during the three-day computer programming hackathon to provide a fun, effective and cost-saving tool to address physical therapy needs in the Arab world.

Students from NYU New York who teamed up with a student from the Princess Suraya University for Technology (PSUT) in Jordan to develop OpenMedia, a web-based resource designed to provide government data in an accessible format for computer programmers, clinched the second position.

The third place went to The Makindia Children’s Centre Database Project, which created an application designed for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to increase efficiency in submitting records and reports to donors.

The NYUAD Hackathon was designed to foster a culture of innovation, collaboration and entrepreneurship in computer science, while presenting students with the opportunity to interact with international technology experts, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

Students were mentored by faculty members of participating universities and professionals from organisations such as Yahoo, Grameen Foundation, LinkedIn, Microsoft Corporation and the World Bank.

“In our increasingly connected world, application development is a tremendously impactful way to empower people with the tools and resources they need to overcome social challenges,” said Sana Odhe, NYU clinical associate professor of computer science, a member of the NYU Abu Dhabi Affiliated Faculty, the event’s organiser.

“Hosting a Hackathon creates a powerful forum to stimulate creativity, innovation, problem-solving, and greater collaboration. I have been very impressed with the range of inventive and marketable ideas that have resulted from this event,” she added.
Capital students create virtual applications to tackle social issues

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ABU DHABI: New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) hosted computer science students, academics, and technology experts from around the globe to participate in the first ever International Hackathon for the Social Good in the Arab World, in Abu Dhabi.

During the three-day event, more than 50 students worked in teams to create mobile and web applications designed to tackle real-world social issues in the region.

The first prize went to Hamza Al Kofahi and Ahmad Malkawi, students from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), for their KineTherapy application. The duo previewed a demo of a "physical therapy game" using Microsoft’s Kinect technology to monitor a patient’s actual movements against an animated guide directing the therapy programme.

In second place, Max Stoller and Tengchao Zhou, students from NYU New York, teamed up with Monir Abu Hilal from Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) in Jordan, to develop OpenMena, a web-based resource designed to provide government data in an accessible format for computer programmers.

The team noted that while extensive data from UAE government sources is available online, the current excel sheet format for downloading this information is not the easiest format to use for programmers.

OpenMena, which can be accessed online at OpenMena.org, provides a platform for a dynamic data feed that can be used by developers to create relevant applications that leverage this open data.

Third place went to The Makindu Children’s Centre Database Project, which created an application designed for NGOs to increase efficiency in submitting reports to donors. The team comprised: Katy Blumer, Alice Tessen, Ali Taqi, Nishant Mohanchandra, and Halim Lagrid.
نظمته جامعة نيوبروك أوبوطي بمشاركة 50 طالباً

تطبيق في البحوث الطبيعة يغزو بالمركز الأول في لقاء المبرمجين العالمي

طية من جامعات عالمية يشاركوا في المسابقة (من المصدر)
تطبيق متخصص في العلاج الطبيعي يحوز المركز الأول في جامعة نيويورك - أبوظبي

قام الفريق الذي يترأسه الدكتور محمد فريوان البروفيسور بعرض لعبة علاج طبيعي، تستخدم تقنية مايكروسوف المطبقة في ألعاب اكس بوكس كينيكيت، لمواجهة الحركات الفعلية للمريض بالمقارنة مع الرسوم الحالية لتوجيه برنامج العلاج الطبيعي.

وجاء في المركز الثاني ماكس ستول وتنجشأ زهو، من جامعة نيويورك في نيويورك. ووجه في المركز الثالث مشروع ميكيندي، وهو تطبيق موجه للمنظمات غير الحكومية لزيادة كفاءة عمل إصدار التقارير والمجلات إلى المترفعين.

وقد تم تصميم اجتماع المبرمجين لجامعة نيويورك - أبوظبي من أجل تعزيز ثقافة الإبداع، والتعاون، والريادة في علوم الكمبيوتر.

اختتمت جامعة نيويورك - أبوظبي أعمال وفعاليات اجتماع المبرمجين العالمي الأول في أبوظبي، الذي عقد بمشاركة واسعة من طلبة علوم الكمبيوتر، وأكاديميين، وخبراء تكنولوجيين من مختلف أنحاء العالم.

وشهدت الفعاليات التي امتدت لثلاثة أيام متوافقة، عمل أكثر من 50 طالباً على تصميم تطبيقات للهواتف النقالة وصفحات الويب، تهدف إلى التصدي لقضايا اجتماعية واقعية في المنطقة.

والفاز بالمركز الأول كل من حمزة القباجي وأحمد السالم من جامعة العلوم والتقنية الأردنية، عن تطبيق متخصص في مجال العلاج الطبيعي. فقد

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