

## **PRESS RELEASE OF DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM VISIT TO** **SKYLINE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

“Knowledge without action is useless and irrelevant”. These words of wisdom come from none other than the former President of India and the great Saint Scientist Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. These words have universal meaning and in the true tradition of a Guru directed towards the youth of our generation. A.P.J. as he is fondly called by many is no more a political person; he never was neither does he belongs only to India, but to the Globe due to his universal appeal to knowledge, peace and environment in his capacity as the chosen Ambassador of India for Environment.

Dr. Kalam visited the Skyline University College on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2011 and delivered a lecture on “Importance of Higher Education in the Development of Entrepreneurial Spirit for Our Future Entrepreneurs”. This was one rare occasion when the former President of India addressed a multicultural and multinational audience of Undergraduate and Postgraduate students pursuing Business Management courses. The topic of his talk acquires more importance in the UAE as it is a country of opportunities for enterprise. Large number of Emirati young men and women may use this lecture as the first milestone of an aspiration to be a successful entrepreneur. Dr. Kalam loves to interact with the youth and the forum provided a lively platform for such an interaction.

To begin with, Dr. Kalam praised the founder of the UAE. H.H. Sheik Zayad, and encouraged the students to consider him a role model. The sheik transformed the UAE from a desert in to a thriving business centre through the oil industry. Dr. Kalam went on to say that graduates should now transform the UAE into a centre of green energy. He instilled the idea of leadership involving service to others and emphasized that a leader always asks “what can I do for you?”

He encouraged teachers to impart value based education, including purity of life and purity of knowledge. He highlighted a holistic approach to teaching centered in quality research. He encouraged the students to each become a “Unique You”. He also emphasized that one should ‘work with integrity to succeed with integrity’. He asked the students to take an oath to work with integrity which the students repeated after him.

He emphasized on righteousness of self and gave a few beautiful lines to the students and connected it with overall peace in the world. The lines go as follows:

*“Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character*

*When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home*

*When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation*

*When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world”*

He concluded that economic development and creative development should be based on righteousness, and that righteousness in the heart leads to peace in the world.

Apart from the students who formed the bulk of the audience the Skyline University College faculty, staff, industry captains and prominent citizens of Sharjah attended. The session was presided over by Mr. Kamal Puri, President of Skyline University College while Mr. Ahmad Mohammad Al Midfa, Chairman of Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, was the Chief Guest. Some important dignitaries who were also present during the event include Mr. Mohammed Diab Al Mousa, Educational Advisor of Ruler of Sharjah, Dr. Osama Alyousif, Cultural Attaché of Kuwait, Mr. Sudesh Aggarwal, Chairman IBPC Sharjah, and Dr. Sunny Kurian, President of IBPC Sharjah. Skyline University College was added to the dignitary's itinerary of engagements in the UAE due to its reputation of being essentially a UAE institution of higher learning with a diverse body of students.

The event was conducted by the students of SUC. Student community at SUC was buzzing with anticipation of a great chapter in their lives since they heard of this high profile visit of the former President of India. The event acquired greater significance as it was held on the 62<sup>nd</sup> Republic Day of India. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the lecture. Dr. Osama Ali Thawabeh Assistant Professor of Physics at the University College kept talking about Dr. Kalam's achievements in space science and kept reminding the students that Dr. Kalam is over 80 years of age, single, vegetarian and above all a Professor of Physics. It was an enchanting lecture on the role of entrepreneurship from a scientific view point and integration of a scientific temper in business management.

The organizing committee of Skyline University College which comprising of the Dean Academics, Director of Academic Support Services, Staff and Faculty members felt satisfied with the arrangements for this high profile visit, which was also the second such event in the 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrations of the Skyline University College.

Skyline University College has pursued its vision of providing knowledge, skill and values to its multicultural community in the last 20 years. It started its modest journey with 20 students as a professional training institute in 1990 and is now recognized as one of the leading institution pursuing academic excellence. The continued support and patronage of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammad al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of U.A.E. and Ruler of Sharjah, to Skyline University College has inspired it to achieve greater heights. In its pursuits the university has embarked upon introducing courses like tourism management, innovation, entrepreneurship, logistics and supply chain management that are relevant to meet the industry requirements. Hence, the university made its mark as one of the first institutions to offer a fine blend of academic and professional education in these specializations, at the time when education was at its infancy in the U.A.E. These successful accomplishments have been achieved by constantly updating their program structure in relation to the changing trends of the economy of UAE. The courses are conducted by experienced faculty who leave no stone unturned in integrating theoretical learning with industrial experience through field visits, inviting guest speakers from industry and engaging in industry consultancy. The university realizes its role in building a strong society therefore it is involved in many social and community activities that help us serve the needy people.