

Institute to organise 100 free short courses in May

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DUBAI — Learning to tango, do yoga, hypnotherapy and aura-imaging are all part of a day's work at an event that brings together more than 100 free short courses under one roof for the public, in May.

The Eton Institute of Languages and Dubai Knowledge Village (DKV) will be hosting the second chapter of Better U-2010 Mind, Body and Soul on May 29 that will engage the community in activities to help them kick start a new hobby or hone skills.

The courses in language, computer, dance, art and craft, etiquette, career counseling and fitness among many others will be offered by various specialised organisations in Dubai.

"These are taster courses," explains Moaz Khan, Marketing Manager of Eton. "People try out various activities.... around 20-30 in the day and see if they would like to take it further," he said.

"For courses like those in computers,

a 45 minute sessions is sufficient to pass on basic skills,"

Last year, more than 600 participants attended the free sessions held by 30 organisations offering a gamut of programmes. Families are also engaged in ecological competitions along with music and cultural performances.

Courses run simultaneously and participants can conveniently hop from 'clicking a mouse' to 'shaking a leg' without feeling the pinch on the pocket.

Eton will be offering its language and computer courses and will be supported by organisations including DUCTAC, Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra, Essentials Holistic Institute and Sylvan in extending creative and artistic expertise.

It's an interesting concept for Mary T of Dubai, who said she always wanted to find out if she could dance. "I might try a belly dancing or salsa class and see if its worth my money to learn further," she said.

"And if they say they can teach hypnotherapy as well, it'll be a good skill to

use on my husband," she says in jest.

Khan said there are many takers for Do It Yourself (DIY) courses like massages and make-up. "Courses on hypnotherapy, martial arts and professional development all draw large crowds," he said.

The event enable organisations to attract potential customers while associating themselves with a Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.

Eli Abi Rached, Director of Eton said its about exploring new possibilities. "It is an unconventional event where services are offered absolutely for free and attendees can literally leave their wallets at home!"

Visitors can get acquainted with not-for-profit organisations - Dubai Cares, UAE Red Crescent, The Green Foundation and Al Ihsan Charity Center- that will be present at the venue to raise awareness for their causes and collect donation.

More information on the event can be found at www.betteru.info.

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