



Press Release

For immediate publishing

FIRST-EVER GLOBAL YOUTH CONSULTATION INAUGURATED TODAY UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Reach Out To Asia Hosts Over 300 Young People From Around The World

Doha, Qatar, 1 September, 2015: Under the patronage of HE Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed Al-Attiya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) officially inaugurated the first-ever Global Youth Consultation (GYC) of the UN's World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) today. The GYC kicked off this morning at the Hamad bin Khalifa University Student Centre at Education City and will last until 2nd September.

The opening ceremony for the GYC was attended by a number of high-profile local and international delegates, including HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Cooperation, and HE Doctor Sheikha Aisha Bint Faleh Bin Nasser, ROTA Board Member.

Also in attendance were Dr Jemilah Mahmood, Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA); Mr Ahmad Al Hendawi, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Youth; and Dr Hany El-Banna, Executive Director for The Humanitarian Forum. A number of local charity organisations were also present at the opening.

As a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), ROTA believes in the importance of unlocking human potential, as well as the development of human capacity in-line with the Human and Social Development Pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030. Sharing the view that young people are critical actors in rethinking the global humanitarian architecture, ROTA, as the event host, is using its expertise, knowledge, and resources to ensure that the youth are given a voice on the global stage.

The preparations for the first-ever WHS, which was initiated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, started in 2014. As part of the preparations for the WHS, GYC aims to improve global disaster preparedness and response as well as shape the global youth position by gathering input from youth on humanitarian challenges and solutions. The consultation will allow the views of over 300 young participants aged between 18 and 30 representing 82 countries, including 70 youth from Qatar, to be incorporated into the UN Secretary-General's report, and



the overall recommendations for the World Humanitarian Summit, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 23rd to 24th May 2016.

The importance of the GYC lies in the fact that the last major consultation on humanitarian action took place nearly 25 years ago. Since then, the world has changed dramatically. The World Humanitarian Summit will offer an opportunity for youth to make recommendations and tangible commitments to set about some major changes in humanitarian action.

“ROTA strongly believes in the importance of unlocking the human potential, especially in the youth,” said HE Doctor Sheikha Aisha Bint Faleh Bin Nasser, ROTA Board Member. “We are very proud to host such a milestone event, as Qatar will be participating in gathering the input of the world’s youth to change the shape of the future on humanitarian issues. I would like to extend my gratitude to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for selecting ROTA, as well to HE Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed Al-Attiya, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, for his esteemed support.”

Essa Al Mannai, ROTA’s Executive Director said: “ROTA is proudly representing Qatar. The youth of the world will be present in Doha to come up with recommendations that will directly affect the decision making on world humanitarian issues. On behalf of ROTA, I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude to HE the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his support, as well as the international delegates, organisations, and Qatari sponsors who have partnered with ROTA to ensure that this event is a success.”

For the GYC, ROTA partnered with international organisations, including the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, World Humanitarian Summit Youth Task Force, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Societies, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, and Plan International.

Furthermore, the organisation of the GYC was possible due to the support of Qatari sponsors, including: Qatar National Bank (QNB) as the bank partner, Qatar Airways as the official carrier, Qatar Petroleum (QP) as the corporate partner, Nakilat as the brand partner, Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services (RAF) as the humanitarian partner, and United Muslim Relief as the International NGO partner.

Mr Abdullah Al Sulaiti, Managing Director, Nakilat, said: “We are proud that Nakilat has partnered with ROTA. The World Humanitarian Summit is critical to us because it involves one of our most vital assets – our young people. It empowers our family members to be agents of positive change at home, in our communities, and at work. At Nakilat, we celebrate these



successes and look forward to creating additional value through greater alignment of our sustainable corporate social responsibility initiatives. Social Development and Human Development are two of the pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030, and we see participation in this event as reinforcing those values.”

Dr. Ayed Al-Qahtani, General Director of RAF Foundation said:”RAF is so proud to be the humanitarian partner of the Global Youth Consultation. It is aligned with our global mission to support the humanitarian issues. It is such an honour to be part of a world event that will change the course of events in the world.”

ROTA was chosen by UNOCHA for its tremendous efforts in supporting the youth, in particular, EMPOWER, ROTA’s flagship youth conference which has taken place annually for seven consecutive years. EMPOWER has built a great reputation for enabling young people, from all over the world, to voice their opinions in the global sustainable development agenda.

For WHS-GYC Live Streaming, please visit: <http://rchout.org/whsyouth-live>

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About ROTA

Reach Out To Asia is a non-profit organisation launched in December 2005 in Doha, Qatar, by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Operating under the



auspices of the Qatar Foundation, ROTA is committed to providing high quality and relevant primary and secondary education, encouraging relationships among communities, creating safe learning environments and restoring education in crisis affected areas across Asia and around the world. ROTA envisions a world, where all young people have access to the education they need in order for them to realise their full potential and shape the development of their communities.

For more information about Reach Out To Asia, please visit: www.reachouttoasia.org

About Qatar Foundation

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

About the World Humanitarian Summit – Global Youth Consultation, Doha, 2015

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) is an initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to improve global disaster preparedness and response. In the lead-up to the summit in 2016 in Istanbul, the WHS wants to collaborate with young people to create humanitarian solutions. The WHS will leverage off of existing mechanisms and other post-2015 processes. The WHS will also engage in other events and processes that will focus on young people.



For more information please visit <http://rchout.org/whs>