

Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Qatar donates valuable books to Qatar National Library

The donation is part of The Republic of Korea's ongoing efforts to promote cultural relations with the State of Qatar

Doha, 1 February 2014 – The Qatar National Library (QNL) accepted a number of valuable books donated by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Qatar. The donations were made by His Excellency Chung Keejong, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Qatar, during a recent visit to QNL's Heritage Collection Building. The visit was part of the Korean Embassy's efforts to promote cultural relations with Qatar.

Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library, welcomed His Excellency Chung Keejong and expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Ambassador for the generous donation; the latest addition to the library's renowned and growing collection. She also stressed that QNL seeks to bridge cultures with knowledge.

The donated books cover a wide range of knowledge fields and include books such as "A Concise History of Modern Korea from the Late Nineteenth Century to 2010" and "Masterpieces of Korean Art", as well as other books by the most important Korean writers and men-of-letters of different historical eras. Among the donated books is a replica of "Jikji," which was the first in the world to be printed using movable metal types in July 1377. The donated books also reflect different sources of knowledge and information in a variety of fields such as literature, history, and arts. Alongside QNL's vast collection, this donation will further enhance researchers' opportunities and provide library members with access to valuable, rare, and historical information materials.

Speaking about the donation, His Excellency Mr Chung Keejong, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Qatar, said:

"I am very pleased and honoured to make this donation of books. This year is the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Qatar and Korea, and I hope that cultural cooperation between the two countries enhances further."

His Excellency further added: "All the books donated are important, especially the replica of "Jikji," also known as "Buljo Jikji simche yojeol," a Korean document, printed during the Goryeo

Dynasty in 1377, it is the world's oldest existing book that was printed with movable metal type. The book was accepted as UNESCO World Record Inheritance and was recorded as a “Memory of the World” for its outstanding value on 4 September 2001. The donation of these books will hopefully provide a chance to introduce the Korean culture to Qatari citizens and help enhance their understanding of Korea.”

“Such book donations play a great role in promoting cultural and historical exchanges between the Republic of Korea and the State of Qatar,” said Dr Claudia Lux. “This book donation will support QNL’s mission to spread knowledge. The books will enrich the Library’s collection and further enhance the opportunities for library members to look at valuable cultural and historical information on Korean old and modern civilisation.”

QNL’s Heritage Collection Building is open to the public for tours every Sunday and Tuesday from 10.00am - 11.30am. For information about registering for a tour, visit www.qnl.qa/visit-request-form

Qatar National Library is currently offering free, online access to a vast collection of online resources including the latest bestsellers, classical works, concerts, top academic journals and documentaries. QNL’s registered members can access a complete list of online resources by visiting <http://www.qnl.qa/find-answers/online-resources>. Anyone who lives in Qatar and has a valid Qatari ID/Residence Permit is eligible for free library registration. To register, please visit <https://library.qnl.qa/selfreg>.

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Qatar National Library – Bridging with knowledge Qatar’s Heritage and Future

Qatar National Library (QNL) is a non-profit organisation under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). QNL is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon-based economy to knowledge-based economy by providing resources to students, researchers, and the community in Qatar. It was announced in November 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNL carries out its mission through three functions, National Library, University and Research Library and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age. The National Library function

collects and provides access to global knowledge relevant to Qatar and the region. It also collects, preserves and provides access to heritage content and materials about Qatar and the region. The University and Research Library function supports education and research at all levels by providing printed and digital library materials for students and researchers. Metropolitan Public Library delivers library services and information for everyone to enjoy reading, meet people and become information literate.

Learn more about Qatar National Library online at www.qnl.qa

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