



PRESS RELEASE

AWSAJ ACADEMY HONOURS CLASS OF 2014

Nine Graduates Receive Diplomas During Academy's 9th Graduation Ceremony

8 June 2014

Doha, Qatar: AWSAJ ACADEMY has reached another milestone by honouring a fresh batch of graduates with their diplomas.

The ninth annual graduation ceremony was held last Thursday at the auditorium of Awsaj Academy, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

Many proud parents, students, staff members attended the event, in which nine graduates were acknowledged.

Distinguished guests included Mrs Buthaina Al Nuaimi, Associate VP Education, Pre-University Office; Mrs Noof Al Thani, Director of Academic Outreach, Pre-University Education Office, Qatar Foundation; Dr Ken MacLeod, President of College of The North Atlantic Qatar (CNA-Q); Mr Rashid Al Fehaidi, DOT Project Director, ORYX GTL; Dr Taher Shaltout and other Awsaj Academy Board Members.

The ceremony opened with the Qatari National Anthem and followed by a recital of the Holy Qur'an.

Dr Ralph Pruitt, Director of Awsaj Academy, paid tribute to the graduates in his address: “You have been successful due to your perseverance and desire to achieve important goals, in spite of challenges.

“I would like to thank all of you who have made this evening possible, especially the teachers, administrators, and parents who have believed in these students and who have encouraged them to do their best and accomplish this important goal.”

The keynote speech was delivered by Dr Abdunasser Al-Ansari, Deputy Executive Director of the Qatar National Research Fund.

Highlighting the important role graduates will play in the development of the State of Qatar, he said: “We are confident that you will do your best by applying your talents. As you endeavour to achieve your dreams, you will bring to fruition Qatar’s long-term vision of building a knowledge-based society. We ask that you never give up trying to make a difference.”

He continued by reminding graduates of the importance of helping others. “Do not forget about your community. Dedicate time through volunteering and give back to those less fortunate than you. There is nothing more self-rewarding than helping others; especially those in need. You are this nation’s greatest source of wealth and we are looking forward to the day when you will lead us into the future.”

Senior Nasser Al-Solaitti spoke of how he and his classmates had struggled at times, but explained how their bonds had helped them develop into admirable young men and women. “Let us start all over again,” he said. “It is a brave new world out there, and if anyone can make the best of it and start all over again, we can,” he said.

Dr Don Francis, Awsaj Academy’s High School Principal, encouraged the graduates to remember the past and look towards the future. “I leave our graduates with a few words regarding not only yesterday’s memories, which will forever be treasured, but regarding future memories and legacies. Make tomorrow unforgettable!”

Dr Don Francis ended the ceremony by declaring that the candidates had successfully completed the Awsaj Academy course of study. Diplomas and gifts were awarded by Dr Ralph Pruitt and Dr Don Francis. The graduating class of 2014 now plans to continue studies at colleges and universities in Qatar, the UAE, the UK and the United States.

Awsaj Academy is a K-12 specialised school that addresses the needs of students with learning challenges, an outreach centre that provides evaluation and professional development services to the community and a Centre for Education Research and Development that conducts and promotes education research and reform initiatives that benefit all students including those with academic challenges.

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