

Thai Embassy donates precious 200 year-old Holy Qur'an to Qatar National Library

Doha, 17 September 2013 – Qatar National Library (QNL) has received a precious and valuable 200 year-old Holy Qur'an as a gift from Thailand. His Excellency Mr. Panyarak Poolthup, Ambassador of Thailand to the State of Qatar recently visited QNL's Heritage Collection Building and donated the Holy book on behalf of his country, as part of the Thai Embassy's efforts to promote cultural relations with Qatar.

The Holy Qur'an was previously owned by Ustaz Yusuf bin Harun from the Southern Pattani Province of Thailand. It was hand written in Makkah by Al Sheik Al Khatib Hud bin Mahmoud in 1236 of the Islamic Hijriyah calendar.

Dr. Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library welcomed His Excellency Mr. Panyarak Poolthup and expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the Ambassador for the generous donation, the latest addition to the library's renowned and growing collection.

"We deeply appreciate this generous donation, as it symbolises the important historical and cultural relationship between Thailand and Qatar," Dr. Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library said. "It also supports our vision of bridging Qatar's Heritage and Future with knowledge. This donation will not only enrich the Library's collection, it will further enhance researchers' opportunities and provide library members with access to a valuable, rare and historical materials."

"Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visited Qatar National Library's Heritage Collection Building in January 2012 and was shown a number of ancient copies of the Holy Qur'an. Her Royal Highness then deemed it appropriate to link the past to the present by donating a historical Qur'an to the vast collection ; bridging the cultural and academic ties between the Arab and Islamic world," **said His Excellency Mr. Panyarak Poolthup, Ambassador of Thailand to the State of Qatar.** "Since Muslims make up 10% of Thailand's already diverse and multicultural population, we hope that Qatar and Thailand build on a firm cultural relationship by establishing more contact with one another, increasing familiarity and enhancing our understanding of one another."

Following the presentation of the donation, His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Panyarak Poolthup toured QNL's Heritage Collection Building, which contains a rare trove of manuscripts, books, and artefacts; all documenting a wealth of Arab-Islamic civilisation and human thought.

The donated Holy Qur'an will reside in QNL's Heritage Collection Building and families, students, researchers and tourists can see, explore, and enjoy it, along with thousands of other books. It is an

unparalleled showcase of historical sources about Qatar and the Arab World and includes writings by travellers and explorers who visited the Arabian Gulf region. Amongst more than 100,000 works, the collection contains an edition of Ptolemy's Geographia, which was printed in Rome in 1478 and is the oldest printed map showing the name of Qatar, referred to in Latin as 'Catara'.

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

QNL, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, 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 currently 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 organization 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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