



MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION BRINGS HUGELY SUCCESSFUL DOHA YOUTH FORUM ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE TO A CLOSE

Three-Day Event Concludes With Presentation Of The Doha Youth Forum Declaration

Doha, 9 April 2015 – The Doha Youth Forum on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice concluded today with a presentation of the Doha Youth Forum Declaration, a set of recommendations that will be presented to the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which is taking place in Doha next week.

The Doha Youth Forum was jointly organised by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development, in cooperation with the Organising Committee for the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Over three days, 150 participants worked together to come up with creative solutions to global issues on crime prevention and criminal justice. Their recommendations were put forward in the Doha Youth Forum Declaration, which was presented at the start of the closing ceremony. The Declaration will be presented by young people to the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which is taking place in Doha next week.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Abdul Wahed Al-Hammadi, the Minister of Education and Higher Education and the Secretary General of the Supreme Education Council (SEC), who delivered the opening keynote address, said: “I am pleased to speak to you in this great Forum that brings together a select group of the world’s youth who came to Doha with the dedication and will to participate, because these forums provide an opportunity for strengthening ties, communications and cooperation among the world’s youth as well as getting to know the cultures, experiences and points of view of their peers regarding the building of their home nations.

“The response of the State of Qatar to host the Doha Youth Forum and the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice proves its leading role in the international family and its unwavering faith in the role of the youth and their contributions to sustainable development.”

His Excellency added: "The progress of nations depends on the proper employment of their resources, especially human resources. As we meet with the youth from several countries and listen to their points of view and ideas for the future, we firmly believe that they represent the foundation of development.

"What we are witnessing today, meeting with a select group of ambitious youth in this important Forum, is a great picture of peaceful coexistence, accord and brotherhood of man between the followers of all religions, cultures and civilisations of the world. It is also part of the process of human development, leading us to the progress and sustainable development we are looking to achieve.

"Being aware of the need of nations for trained young talent and pledging to support them and ensure their participation in the challenges and issues facing their outcomes is the inevitable result of progress the world is witnessing in its transformation into a knowledge community. Here, we reiterate that the Supreme Education Council is committed to supporting the educational process in every possible way by applying modern educational methods that aid the growth of the youth and provide services and activities, enabling them to become decision makers and nurturing their positive nature in order to prevent them from falling into the world of crime and empower their human values such as compassion, rejection of violence and acceptance of others," he added.

Delivering the event's closing remarks, Engineer Saad Al Muhannadi, President of Qatar Foundation, said: "We are happy about the participation in the first Doha Youth Forum on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which represents a unique initiative by the State of Qatar to provide youth in Qatar and around the world with an opportunity to have their say in building a better future, free of crime.

"Due to the close resemblance between these ideas and QF's message of unlocking human potential, particularly among the youth, the job of organising this forum fell on our shoulders, in cooperation with the Organising Committee for the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime."

The President of Qatar Foundation expressed his hope that this Forum "realises its goal in raising a generation of educated youth, aware of the problems faced by our world, so they can be well equipped to find the right solutions. The importance of this Forum lays in the fact that young people are the leaders of today and tomorrow, and without their contributions, we cannot hope to develop our societies. Hence, it is crucial to sharpen their skills and enhance their knowledge so they can assume these roles. This purely Qatari initiative enables the participating youth to role play that of their peers at the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, examining the issues from their own youthful perspective, and presenting their recommendations to the Congress."

Eng. Al Muhannadi concluded: "This Forum has strived to select a group of educated and talented youth, from different nationalities and backgrounds, in order to provide a holistic look

at the proposed issues, draw conclusions that reflect the diversity, and allow the participants to leave their fingerprints on different UN procedures and regulations. Hence, it hit two birds with one stone, as it trains the youth to assume command in the future, in addition to allowing their ideas to find its way in the present."

The event was attended by a number of dignitaries, including Major General Dr. Abdullah Yusuf Al-Maal, legal advisor to the Minister Interior and President of the Organising Committee for the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as students from across Qatar's educational institutions.

Dimitri Vlassis, Executive Secretary of the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, assured the participants that this Forum was only the beginning and that Doha is the point of departure and not the point of arrival. "It is up to all of us to ensure that the appropriate follow-up is given to your work and your recommendations, and they do not remain a piece of paper that will be forgotten in a few months. I certainly would hope, and pledge, to work very hard from my side, together with my colleagues, to ensure that this does not happen," he said.

The youngsters later participated in a ceremony that acknowledged their contribution over the last three days, receiving special recognition from Eng. Al Muhannadi. HE Dr. Mohammed Abdul Wahed Al Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education, also acknowledged the teachers who supervised the participants, Professor Dawn Jones, Dr. Mohamed Evren Tok, and Dr. Donald Harris.

The ceremony concluded with a group photo.

Ends

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. Qatar Foundation was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Chairperson 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.