



DOHA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES BEST RESEARCH PAPERS AT CONCLUSION OF FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY RESEARCH AND POLICY

The Arab Family In An Age Of Transition: Challenges And Resilience

Doha, Qatar, 11 May 2015: Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation, Science and Community Development (QF), concluded its inaugural Annual Conference on Family Research and Policy by announcing this year's Best Research Papers.

Held at the Qatar National Convention Centre, DIFI's conference centred around the theme: 'The Arab Family in an Age of Transition: Challenges and Resilience'. And through continuous efforts to preserve the Arabic family and its status as a nucleus for the society, DIFI supports Qatar Foundation's mission to enhance human, social and cultural development.

The two-day conference featured formative panel discussions and parallel sessions along with presentations that highlighted the key themes of the conference through selected papers. The conference received more than 400 submissions to its call for proposals with only 30 being shortlisted.

A total of three papers were then selected for Best Paper Awards in the three specified subtopics; which were all peer-reviewed by individual experts.

Recognising the three Best Research Papers, Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, Executive Director of DIFI, commented: "The awards are intended to recognise high quality research, evident from the nominated papers being subjected to a rigorous peer review process. DIFI congratulates the winners of this year's awards and we look forward to our next conference and Best Research Papers awards next year."

Under the theme 'Political, economic and cultural challenges facing the Arab Family', Dr Paola Gandolfi, Junior Lecturer at the University of Bergamo in Italy, was awarded for her research paper titled 'Multiple families in changing societies in the Maghreb: the case of Morocco'.

Professor Humoud Al Qashan, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies at Kuwait University, was awarded for his paper on 'Does Parental Divorce Affect the Attitudes Towards Marriage and Divorce: A Comparative Study of Intact and Divorced Families', under the theme of 'Marriage and Divorce in the Arab World'.

And finally, Dr Jocelyn Mitchell, Assistant Professor at Northwestern University in Qatar, was awarded for her paper about 'In Majalis Al Hareem the complex, professional and personal choices of Qatari Women' under the theme 'The Role of State Policies on Family Formation and Stability'.

For more information about DIFI, please visit: www.difi.org.qa

-Ends-

About DIFI

Acknowledging the importance of the family in society, The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), formerly known as Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIIFSD), was established in 2006 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation. The mandate of the Institute is based upon the affirmations set forth in the Doha Declaration on the Family, which was the outcome of the Doha International Conference on the Family, organized in 2004 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The Institute has a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC).

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.