



QATAR FOUNDATION'S NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT DARB EL-SAAI SHOWCASE MODERN PEARL FARMING TECHNIQUES TO VISITORS

VIP Guests Impressed by Activities Promoting Qatar's Heritage At QF's Tent

Doha, Qatar 11 December 2014: Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's (QF) range of activities at its dedicated Darb El-Saai tent during the ongoing National Day celebrations has attracted VIP visitors in addition to huge public appeal.

A QF delegation welcomed HE Mr. Salah Bin Ghanem Al Ali, Minister of Youth and Sports in Qatar and HE Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Dr. Abdullatif Al-Zayani.

Thousands of visitors of all ages have been enjoying the diverse range of activities all week, including robotics, horse-riding and horse grooming techniques, reading, demonstrations of medical tests, and arts and crafts, in addition to presentations and live demonstrations of modern pearl farming technologies.

The pearl farming presentations received much attention from visitors, especially due to its close relationship with Qatar's history as many people in the past relied on this prime industry that is now considered a symbol of Qatari pride.

An extensive overview of modern-day techniques and methods of harvesting pearls was provided, stressing that natural pearls rarely occur in nature.

The workshop showed the efforts made to revive this important traditional industry by using the latest techniques. Modern pearl cultivation methods are less labour intensive and offer a 40 per cent increase in the production of high quality pearls. Previously, pearl divers faced many challenges due to currents and storms, so manually gathering pearls has become a thing of the past thanks to the up to date methods.

Impressed with the presentation, visitor Nada Al-Sharif said: "Pearl hunting used to be a prime industry in Qatar. Divers would be absent for many months in order to find pearls in spite of great difficulties encountered in the depths of the sea.

"Even though the old ways have disappeared because of the discovery of new pearl farming techniques, they remain in the minds of Qataris as a dear part of their history and heritage."

The presentation is one of many activities that demonstrate Qatar Foundation's dedication to community development, fostering a progressive society while enhancing Qatar's cultural life and protecting Qatar's heritage.

The QF tent will be open throughout the Qatar National Day celebrations which, this year, are taking place from 8 December until 20 December. Qatar National Day is celebrated every year, and is a national commemoration of Qatar's unification and independence.

Qatar Foundation Qatar National Day Celebrations in Darb El Saai Tent Photo Captions

Image 1: Crowds of visitors take part in Qatar National Day celebrations by watching a live demonstration of modern-day pearl farming technologies at Qatar Foundation's tent in Darb El-Saai.

Image 2: Students at Qatar Academy conducting a military parade inside Qatar Foundation's tent at Darb El-Saai.

Image 3: Qatari children participating in a debate organised by QF member, QatarDebate in Qatar Foundation's tent at Darb El-Saai.

Image 4: Kids reading about Qatar Foundation at QF's tent celebrating Qatar National Day in Darb El-Saai.

Image 5: A crowd of kids enjoys an electronic quiz to get information about potential future careers in Qatar Foundation's tent in Darb El-Saai.

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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. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, QF is chaired by 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.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>