



QATAR ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE LAUNCHES 'FASCINATION ASTRONOMY' PROJECT

Kicked Off With Series of Comprehensive Workshops for Local School Teachers

Doha, Qatar, 14 October 2015: Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute, a research and development entity under Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), kicked off its brand-new 'Fascination Astronomy' project this week, with a series of one-day workshops that targeted male and female teachers across the country.

HBKU is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and through this project, which is sponsored by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), QEERI demonstrated its support of QF's mission to build Qatar's innovation and research capacity, while unlocking human potential.

The interactive astronomy workshops, which were held in Education City from 13th – 15th October, were designed to introduce the project to teachers from independent and international schools in Qatar. The one-day seminars included discussions on topics such as 'Horizons of Astronomy in Qatar & The Astronomy Olympiad, How & Why', 'Observing the Sky by a Robotic Telescopes', and 'Schools Astronomy Curricula'. In addition, three guest speakers from Europe attended the workshops, giving teachers the opportunity to raise their inquiries.

Dr Khalid Al Subai, QEERI's Acting Executive Director, is spearheading the project. "It is important for students to learn about planets, stars, galaxies, and the universe. Astronomy is considered the best introduction to general science," he explained.

A team from QEERI's 'Fascination Astronomy' project, in collaboration with the Supreme Education Council (SEC), will visit 30 high schools before the end of 2015, and an additional 35 middle schools between January and April next year.

High school students will be challenged with a two-month project on topics such as the motion of the Earth and the moon's orbit. These projects will form the first national competition in astronomy and the winners will represent Qatar at the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), to be held next year in India. Middle school visits will include a lecture, sun observation through a solar telescope, and a demonstration in the inflatable planetarium.

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About Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI)

Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and is part of Hamad Bin Khalifa University. As a national research institute, QEERI plays a leading role addressing the national Energy and Water Security Grand Challenges through Research and Development (R&D). Aligned with the Qatar National Vision



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2030's strategy of transforming the State into a diverse and sustainable knowledge-based economy, QEERI's water R&D program is developing innovative technologies in water desalination and treatment; water quality and reuse; aquifer recharge; and climate change and atmospheric science. QEERI's energy R&D focuses on Solar Photovoltaics (PV), energy storage and smart grids. For more information, please visit www.qeeri.org.qa