



For Immediate Release

Over 120 volunteers to educate migrant workers through ROTA'S Adult English Literacy Program

- sponsored by Qatar Petroleum

Doha, Qatar –September 14 2014:

Reach Out To Asia's Adult English Literacy (RAEL) Program has been launched again this year in collaboration with the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, as well as the Public Works Authority (Ashgal).

The program, which is sponsored by Qatar Petroleum, enables migrant workers to take a break from their daily duties and acquire language skills that can help them achieve their personal goals and improve their opportunities in life. The initiative enables the migrant workers to develop their ability to effectively communicate at a basic level in English in their daily activities.

Started on 6 September 2014, the RAEL Program will take place over a 16-week period that is split into two terms. The first term began this week and will last for eight consecutive weeks, while the second term will start in February 2015.

This year, over 120 volunteers from the Qatar Foundation's branch campus universities, Ashgal, and ROTA are entrusted with the task of helping low-skilled workers improve their English language skills. By teaching workers within their own organizations, the student volunteer tutors will help improve productivity as well as demonstrate a commitment to social responsibility and life-long learning.

The RAEL Program provides both an educational opportunity for workers who may have had limited schooling in their own countries, and a valuable service learning opportunity for the students and volunteers who will gain new teaching skills along with an understanding of different communities and their needs. The training course will cover a variety of topics to support the student volunteers in becoming full-fledged Literacy Trainers. The topics covered in the training will include teaching and learning, communication, and understanding the overall context of global migration.

ROTA's Community Development Manager, Mr. Abdulla al Bikri, said: *"ROTA's Adult English Literacy Program has proved to be a very effective way of supporting migrant workers and empowering them to achieve their aspirations and goals at work. I am pleased to see such a big number of volunteers signing up for this humanitarian initiative. It does make me proud to know that we have so many people dedicated to improving and empowering the well-being of others. We are thankful to our sponsor, Qatar Petroleum, which also shares our belief of supporting workers to enhance their ability to achieve personal goals and improve life opportunities through our adult literacy program."*

"We in Qatar Petroleum are delighted to continue our sponsorship of ROTA's Adult English Literacy Program, as this initiative is fully consistent with the human development pillar of the Qatar National Vision 2030," said Mr. Abdulrahman Abdulla Al-Obaidly, Public Relations & Communications Manager of QP. "We wish the participating workers all the best as they commit themselves to improve their English language skills, and we would also like to commend all the student volunteers who are contributing their valuable time and efforts for the continued success of this program."

First introduced in 2009, the RAEL Program was created primarily to develop the English literacy and language abilities of low-skilled migrant workers in Qatar. A key feature of the programme offers opportunities for young people in Qatar to take part in experiential service-learning, thus developing their skills and knowledge as RAEL Literacy Trainers and Champions.

Follow @reachouttoasia to learn more about volunteering with ROTA.

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For further media information and interview requests please contact:

Samer Bsaiso
Grayling
Telephone: +974 6664 7185
Email: samer.bsaiso@grayling.com

About ROTA

Reach Out To Asia is a non-profit organization launched in December 2005 in Doha, Qatar, by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Operating under the auspices of the Qatar Foundation, ROTA is committed to providing high quality and relevant primary and secondary education, encouraging relationships among communities, creating safe learning environments and restoring education in crisis affected areas across Asia and around the world. ROTA envisions a world, where all young people have access to the education they need in order for them to realize their full potential and shape the development of their communities.

Further information on Reach Out To Asia can be found at www.reachouttoasia.org

About Qatar Foundation

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people. The headquarters of Qatar Foundation are located within its flagship project, Education City. A fourteen million square-metre campus, Education City is home to numerous progressive learning institutions and centers of research, including branch campuses of six of the world's leading universities, plus a cutting-edge science and technology park. Qatar Foundation also works to enhance the quality of life in Qatar by investing in 'Education, Science and Technology and Community Health and Development'.