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HBKU's Qatar LeaderShape event lives up to its motto to "Lead with Integrity"

Doha, 21 January 2014 – The 8th edition of Qatar LeaderShape recently concluded at the Al Sultan Beach Resort in Al Khor. The event, hosted by Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and sponsored by Maersk Oil, took place from January 4th to 9th.

60 students from HBKU's partner universities, who are empowered to be Qatar's future leaders, participated in this intense six-day program after going through a rigorous selection criteria. The local edition of LeaderShape was divided into daily themes which focused on building leadership skills, helping participants overcome challenges, and taking students out of their comfort zones as they learnt to thrive outside of the traditional classroom model.

LeaderShape 2014 kicked off with the daily theme of "Building Community," followed by "The Value of One, Power of All," "Challenging What Is, Looking To What Could Be," "Bringing Vision to Reality," "Living and Leading With Integrity" and concluded with "Staying in Action." Together, each one of these themes helped to prepare all participants to take their existing leadership skills to the next level while adhering to LeaderShape's motto to "lead with integrity."

Ameena Hussein, Director of the HBKU Student Center said: "LeaderShape, as a world-class leadership program, offers all students the unique opportunity locally to develop as global leaders. Over the last six days, all of the workshops have helped each student to identify their personality style, vision and goals, as well as their ideas of leadership."

HBKU's LeaderShape also merges the theory and the practical, such as the Guest Leader Forum on day 3. It is crucial for students to hear about real life situations from industry experts so that they are prepared for both the challenges and successes that come when leading with integrity."

One of the highlights of HBKU's LeaderShape event was the Guest Leader Forum and Reception which took place on January 6, 2014, and featured three guests from a variety of different sectors. Ajayan Al-Hababi, Head of HQ Facilities Operations from Maersk Oil Qatar, Mohammed Al Rumaihi, Museum Development manager from Msheireb Properties, and Mohammed Arif, Head of Learning at Enterprise Qatar which is part of the Ministry of Economy and Trade. Each of the panelists shared their views and experiences on leadership with the participants. The panel was moderated by Dr. Dennis Roberts, HBKU Associate Provost.

The Guest Leader Forum was an opportunity for participants to interact with significant leaders in business, education, and other professions. The informal Q&A format meant that the guests shared



their insight and experiences related to the challenges of “leading with integrity.” All of the guests concluded that being able to create a powerful vision was an important aspect of leadership.

Commenting on his participation in the Guest Leaders Forum, Ajayan Al-Hababi, Head of HQ Facilities Operations from Maersk Oil Qatar said: “I am very proud to have been able to present my own interpretation of leadership to such an engaged and enthusiastic audience. The interactions throughout the Guest Leaders Forum demonstrate the students’ keen interest in learning and developing their own leadership capabilities, and highlights how the course is making a real difference to their lives.”

Sheikh Jassim Al-Thani, Head of Qatarization at Maersk Oil Qatar, added “The LeaderShape program is a unique experience that makes a significant and practical contribution towards building the leadership capacity in Qatar and delivering leaders of tomorrow. We hope that many of these students will join organizations like Maersk Oil to continue their practical applications as we will work together to fulfil the Qatar National Vision.”

LeaderShape, a highly successful program established in the United States in 1988, is an annual event open to all students of HBKU and its partner universities interested on further developing their leadership and problem solving skills in an exciting and creative environment. To learn more about the program and the application process for next year’s edition, please visit the HBKU Student Center.

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About HBKU:

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university building upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities for scholarship, teaching, discovery, and learning for all of its faculty and students through an array of interdisciplinary graduate programs.

HBKU’s partners are Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, HEC Paris in Qatar, and University College London Qatar.

About Maersk Oil Qatar – Main Sponsor

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