



## Press Release

### A NEW MILESTONE FOR REACH OUT TO ASIA IN PAKISTAN

#### *ROTA Launches Mobile Learning Pilot Project in Partnership With Commonwealth Of Learning Through Doha Training Course*

**Doha, Qatar, 14 September, 2015:** Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), has partnered with Commonwealth of Learning (COL) to launch mobile learning services in Pakistan following a training course held in QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha.

As a member of QF, ROTA believes in the importance of unlocking human potential as well as the development and power of human capacities, and ROTA's latest mobile training will help fulfill QF's important mission of fostering a progressive society and addressing immediate social needs.

The mobile learning project, which ROTA and COL have begun implementing in Pakistan's SWAT region, will provide students and teachers of schools in remote locations access to electronic learning materials on a local server without the need for grid electricity or internet through the use of the Aptus system designed by COL.

Following ROTA's four-day training for six teachers and project staff members from Pakistan, educators will now be able to integrate mobile learning in their curricula to provide students with independent learning opportunities and to improve access to learning material and enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the three selected classrooms in the rural areas of the country.

Mr. Essa Al Mannai, ROTA's Executive Director, said: "This is a new milestone for ROTA in supporting quality education for the marginalized children of Pakistan. ROTA is honored to partner with an esteemed organization like Commonwealth Of Learning and to invite such wonderful trainers for that purpose. They have done a wonderful job creating the new innovative Aptus system that will be of great benefit to the teachers and students of Pakistan."

The training, held from the 6 to 9 September, was conducted by Canadian professors Dr. Mohamed Ally, Senior Researcher at Athabasca University, and Mr. Ricky Chang, Head of the Technology Department at COL and the designer of the Aptus System.



In addition to the mobile services, a research lead by Dr. Ally will be conducted to determine the effectiveness of the mobile learning on the fulfilment of educational priorities in rural Pakistan and to obtain students and teachers feedback.

COL is an intergovernmental organisation created by Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) to encourage the development and sharing of open learning/distance education knowledge, resources and technologies.

Hosted by the government of Canada and headquartered in Burnaby, British Columbia, COL is the world's only intergovernmental organisation solely concerned with the promotion and development of distance education and open learning. COL is helping developing nations improve access to quality education and training.

## ENDS

*For further media information and interview requests please contact:*

Yasmin Shehata

Grayling

Telephone: +974 3362 1460

Email: [yasmin.shehata@grayling.com](mailto:yasmin.shehata@grayling.com)

## **About ROTA**

Reach Out To Asia is a non-profit organisation 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 realise their full potential and shape the development of their communities.

For more information about Reach Out To Asia, please visit: [www.reachouttoasia.org](http://www.reachouttoasia.org)

### **About Qatar Foundation**

#### **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.