

122 Graduates Honored at Hamad bin Khalifa University's Graduation Ceremony

May 3, 2015 – In the presence of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development, Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2015 at the HBKU Student Center within Education City this evening.

Also present was His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani, Prime Minister and Interior Minister of Qatar. Invited dignitaries, HBKU staff and faculty, deans of the partner universities, friends and families of the graduates were among the 650 in attendance.

The ceremony, marking the university's second graduating class, introduced 122 new graduates into the accomplished community of HBKU alumni, who are shaping the future of Qatar and the region. Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser was among the graduates from HBKU's Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, graduating this year with a Master of Arts in Public Policy in Islam.

HBKU was established to continue fulfilling QF's vision of education and research to support the human, social, and economic development of Qatar. It has created, and will continue to create, academic programs with local and international partners, contributing to the further development of Qatar's higher education landscape. As QF marks its 20th anniversary this year, HBKU's graduation is testament to QF's and HBKU's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders in Qatar and around the world.

The Class of 2015 included 14 students from HBKU's Translation and Interpreting Institute (TII), 80 students from HBKU's Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies (QFIS), and 28 graduates from the College of Science and Engineering. The Class of 2015 boasts representatives from 25 countries, with each graduating student having contributed their unique creativity to HBKU's diverse and multicultural student body.

The graduates were awarded master's degrees from a variety of disciplines: Translation Studies, Energy and Resources, Islamic Studies in Contemporary Fiqh, Contemporary Muslim Thought and Societies, Islamic Studies in Comparative Religions, Public Policy in Islam, Urban Design and Architecture in Muslim Societies, and Islamic Finance. HBKU also recognized participants completing diploma programs in Islamic Finance and Public Policy in Islam.

Commenting on the graduation of HBKU's Class of 2015, President of Hamad bin Khalifa University, Dr. Ahmad Hasnah said: "This is a momentous occasion in the life of any student. It is an important part of their educational and professional journey and by graduating with these degrees it enables them to take what they've learned in the classroom and integrate it into the workplace.

"We are proud to graduate the Class of 2015. Our graduates leave us equipped with tools and knowledge to face whatever challenges and opportunities that may come their way, whether at work or in their daily lives.

"Moments like these are very sentimental; such moments evoke rich memories in those of us who have graduated previously, prompting us to feel the same strong emotions as the graduates."

Congratulating Her Highness and all the graduates, QF's President, Engineer Saad Al-Muhannadi, commented, "Today our dynamic cycle of education and research is making a vital contribution to Qatar's national priorities, while also developing a progressive and engaged community appreciative of its heritage."

"It is the first-class education offered by Hamad bin Khalifa University that draws students from around the world to Qatar. This is a testament to the quality of education that we offer here at Education City, and is a clear demonstration of our successful strategy of developing human capital in Qatar, while driving innovation and economic diversification."

Lolwah Al-Khater, HBKU's Class of 2015 student representative, during the ceremony said, "Today we are 122 graduates. 122 dreams achieved and 122 beliefs that the future of tomorrow will become more beautiful. Each of us has our own individual story which is stored in our hearts. Some of these stories begin on a different continent or from students who speak a different language, but all of these stories intersect in one place known as Hamad bin Khalifa University."

With 81 students graduating in the Class of 2014, the growing HBKU alumni network is some 203 strong as the university looks toward the start of the next academic year.

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About Hamad bin Khalifa University

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 students through an array of interdisciplinary 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 UCL Qatar.