

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Tariq Ramadan Inspires Future Leaders at Hamad bin Khalifa University's EBDA Leadership Program

Doha, November 07, 2015 – Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), launched this year's EBDA Leadership Program for students with a series of three interactive discussions led by respected contemporary Islamic scholar Dr. Tariq Ramadan.

The EBDA program is an innovative yearlong initiative that is open to all HBKU students as well as those enrolled at HBKU's partner universities across Education City. It teaches the fundamentals of leadership, often by placing participants in challenging situations outside of the classroom that require high levels of collaborative effort, as well as critical and creative thinking skills, and by encouraging them to interact directly with thought leaders such as Dr. Ramadan.

Dr. Ramadan, who *Time* magazine has referred to as "one of the 100 most influential people in the world", is a visiting professor at HBKU's Faculty of Islamic Studies and the Director of the Research Center of Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE) at HBKU. He is a prolific author and in addition to his roles at HBKU he is also the professor of contemporary Islamic studies in the Faculty of Islamic Studies at the University of Oxford. During his discussion series he focused on the principles of leadership in Islam, drawing on the experience of various Muslim prophets throughout history. He explored in detail how such experience can be drawn upon when considering the concept of leadership and the expectation of leaders in the contemporary world.

Enock Woga, a student at HBKU who served on the Leadership Council of EBDA last year, remarked: "I've been very involved in a variety of interesting leadership programs throughout my studies; however none of them have looked at leadership through an Islamic perspective."

Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar student Sahar Al Ansari added: "EBDA brings students from all the different universities across Education City together. I was involved in EBDA last year and my involvement in the initiative has really given me an insight into how to be a leader. I think that the dynamics of how Dr. Ramadan shares his ideas is unusual and challenging in a way that I've not experienced before with my lecturers."

Reflecting on the sessions, Dr. Ramadan said: "This was a great opportunity to meet the students from diversity of backgrounds and to share with them the common universal values regarding leadership".

The discussion series is the first of many EBDA events that have been organized by the HBKU Student Affairs team for the 2015-2016 academic year. Other initiatives as part of the program include an outdoor leadership development trip to Oman and a week-long leadership workshop called LeaderShape.

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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.