

PRESS RELEASE

HBKU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences signs MoU with Doha Film Institute

Doha, April 30, 2016 – The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) at Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) signed a milestone Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Doha Film Institute (DFI) this week. The MoU calls for long-term collaboration between the college and DFI in the areas of education, professional training, and audiovisual translation and interpretation.

At the signing ceremony held in Education City, Dr. Amal Al-Malki, Dean of the CHSS, commented: "The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is pleased to collaborate with Doha Film Institute, who is one of our strategic partners. This collaboration falls within the remit of the College to actively engage with the local industry, in this case the film industry, and promote the importance of audiovisual translation, and translation and interpreting in general, as both academic and professional fields. The memorandum of understanding highlights the areas of commonality and the possibilities for innovative collaborations in combining translation studies and filmmaking."

The agreement demonstrates the interest of HBKU's CHSS and DFI in making films accessible to sensory impaired audiences and marks a strong commitment by both organisations to work together on various workshops, projects, and events that serve the educational needs of Qatar and the region. In addition, the MoU will allow graduate students to collaborate with and learn from professionals working in media and translation.

Fatma Al Rumaihi, Chief Executive Officer of DFI, said: "Through our partnership with HBKU, the Doha Film Institute is contributing to building the next generation of film talent in the country. We are focused on creating vibrant community development platforms that enable our youth to understand and build their skills in all aspects of filmmaking – from film appreciation to audiovisual and post-production. We have created history in the region through our past association with CHSS to deliver the first of its kind inclusive screening of 'Hero and the Message' for visually impaired audiences during the last edition of Ajyal Youth Film Festival. Creating such enriching cinema experiences highlights the innovative initiatives of the Doha Film Institute and our focus on engaging the region's youth in the industry."

Last year, students from HBKU's Master of Audiovisual Translation program, worked with DFI to include a special screening of the Qatari-produced short film, *The Hero and the Message*, at the Ajyal Youth Film Festival on the occasion of the United Nations (UN) International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The screening was the region's first inclusive cinematic experience, with HBKU students responsible for the subtitling and audio-description of the film. As a result of the collaboration, both the visually impaired and hearing impaired were able to enjoy the short film.

The MoU between HBKU's CHSS and DFI creates the potential for similar community outreach initiatives in the future and establishes a platform for knowledge sharing, academic learning, and professional development. Through the agreement, the college and DFI hope to raise awareness of the importance of translation and filmmaking and promote high standards within both fields throughout the region.

To learn more about the community outreach initiatives and partnerships of the university, please visit <http://www.hbku.edu.qa/>.

ENDS

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 that is building its foundation upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU delivers undergraduate and graduate programs through its College of Science and Engineering, Law School, College of Public Health, Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, and its College of Humanities and Social Sciences. It also provides unparalleled opportunities for research and scholarship through its research institutes, and its Center of Executive Education delivers customized programs for the business community of Qatar and the region, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.

About Doha Film Institute (DFI)

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Youth Film Festival; and Qumra. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Twitter: @DohaFilm; Instagram: @DohaFilm; Facebook: www.facebook.com/DohaFilmInstitute