

QATAR FOUNDATION ACADEMIES PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

QF Schools Organise Cultural Events To Celebrate Qatar's Culture And Heritage

Doha, Qatar, 19 December 2014: Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's (QF) Academies have taken part in National Day celebrations by hosting traditional and educational activities to commemorate Qatar's culture and legacy.

QF members Qatar Academy Doha, Qatar Academy Sidra, Qatar Academy Al Wakra, Qatar Academy Al Khor, Qatar Academy Msheireb, Awsaj Academy, Qatar Leadership Academy and Qatar Music Academy organised a diverse range of activities to mark the nation's pride celebrating National Day.

Students and staff at the five Qatar Academies went to school dressed in their finest traditional Qatari apparel to add to the festive mood. Activities included henna decoration, face painting, pearl making, and traditional art and crafts for students and families.

The traditional sword celebration, 'Arda', was performed by students who also recited patriotic poems to express their love for Qatar.

The events were aligned with QF's mission to preserve the nation's heritage, and instill a sense of pride among the young by enhancing their knowledge about Qatar's cultural life.

In order for students to learn more about Qatar's heritage, history teachers organised a presentation in both English and Arabic explaining Qatar's past and how the nation has been shaped to today's dynamic environment.

Commenting on the National Day celebrations, Dr Eric Sands, Qatar Academy Doha Director said: "Qatar Academy's National Day celebration is a source of great pride for our community. From the student sword presentation (Arda) in the High School, to the variety of activities on offer throughout the campus, our community has embraced the wonderful spirit of friendship, tradition, and culture on display."

Qatar Academy Msheireb, a new QF member, hosted its first Qatar National Day celebration. Passionate about the celebrations, Qatar Academy Msheireb Director, Suad Abdulla Al- Kindi, spoke about National Day's inspiration role in supporting progress towards the achievement of Qatar's National Vision 2030.

"Every year on 18 December, I renew my commitment to providing a quality education that celebrates authenticity and modernism in total synergy. Qatar National Day beholds the

meaning of love, solidarity and loyalty among its people and towards Qatar’s leadership.”

Qatar Leadership Academy (QLA) students participated in Darb El-Saai festivities in addition to the Qatar National Day Military Parade on 18 December.

Commenting on Qatar’s history and heritage, QLA Director Brigadier Ali Al Kuwari said: “Our nation is built on a history of brilliant generations, dating back to our first achievement, the Al-Wajba Battle. This was the turning point for the future of Qatar.

“Qatar is full of traditions and a rich culture of Islamic values. Our flag honours those who have fought to protect Qatar, and is a reminder of the sacrifice of our nation's founders and heroes. For more than 100 years, we have been proud of our heroes and their achievements. This is why I live for and love Qatar.”

To celebrate Qatari culture, the Qatar Music Academy’s (QMA) Arab and Western music departments held a short concert featuring Western and Arab music. QMA also offered workshops in rhythm and percussion, as well as an interactive lecture by the Arab music department discussing Arab music origins and instruments.

Excited to be a part of the festivities, QMA student Fatima Al-Jefairi said: “I love Qatar because it has made me feel like I matter and that I belong here. Qatar has given me more opportunities than I could ever ask for. Although Qatar is small in size, it makes up for it in its goals and ambition.”

Image Caption

Image 1: Group performing the traditional ‘Arda’ celebration during the National Day celebrations at Qatar Academy Msheireb.

Image 2: Qatar Academy Al Wakra students singing patriotic songs during their National Day celebrations.

Image 3: Qatar Leadership Academy students during military training in preparation for the National Day celebrations.

Image 4: Qatar Leadership Academy students performing a military parade during the National Day celebrations.

Image 5: Students at Qatar Academy in Doha proudly performing patriotic songs during the National Day celebrations.

Image 6: Students from Qatar Academy Doha explore traditional activities such as fishing during their National Day celebrations.

ENDS

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.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>