

## MORE THAN 111,000 VISITORS JOIN QATAR FOUNDATION AT NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS DURING DARB EL-SAAI

*Activities Designed To Promote Knowledge And Appreciation Of Qatar's Heritage*

**Doha, Qatar, 20 December 2015:** Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's (QF) National Day celebrations have come to a close, and, with 111,350 people participating in its Darb El-Saai activities since 8th December, QF's tent proved, once again, to be overwhelmingly popular.

As an active member of Qatar's community, QF's celebrations, designed specifically for the occasion of National Day, reflected its on-going mission of unlocking human potential and building a knowledge-based economy, while protecting local Qatari heritage and enriching cultural life.

Engineer Saad Al Muhannadi, President of Qatar Foundation, commented on this year's festivities, saying: "We have much to be thankful for on Qatar National Day 2015. We are proud to celebrate the achievements of Qatar Foundation in this, our 20<sup>th</sup> year, along with Qatar's achievements as a whole."

"It is a testament to the steadfast guidance and support of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, and His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of Qatar, that this nation is becoming a knowledge-based economy, as per the 2030 National Vision," Eng Saad added.

Visitors were impressed with the variety of activities on offer, which were designed to be enjoyed by both children and parents alike. This year, QF's exciting schedule of events focused on five main themes: Education and Lifelong Learning; Research and Innovation; Culture and Heritage Preservation; Sports, Health and Wellbeing; and Sustainability.

Last week, QF also organised a special National Day celebration for its management and staff. The festivities took place in Education City, with over 500 employees attending, and kicked off with the Qatar Leadership Academy (QLA) raising the national flag.

Additionally, QF schools hosted a series of fun-filled National Day activities. Qatar Leadership Academy performed the local dance 'Ardha', Qatar Academy Al Wakrah marked the occasion with musical performances, and Awsaj Academy students put on a series of traditional shows.

Meanwhile, many of QF's centres celebrated National Day, hosting activities both within the Darb El-Saai tent and at Education City. Some of this year's highlights included a horse simulator organised by Al Shaqab, Qatar Green Building Council's (QGBC) virtual reality game, and Texas A&M University at Qatar's (TAMUQ) 'Electronic Circuits' activity.

The Darb El-Saai committee concluded 13 days of successful celebrations on Sunday evening, officially wrapping up this year's National Day.

### **Image Caption**

**Image 1:** Three boys, dressed in national day clothes, participate in an activity in Qatar Foundation's Darb El-Saai tent.

**Image 2:** Children take part in a specially-designed national day experiment in Qatar Foundation's Darb El-Saai tent.

**Image 3:** A young child contributes to a piece of eco-friendly artwork promoting sustainability in Qatar Foundation's Darb El-Saai tent.

**-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. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. 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>