

QATAR FOUNDATION LEADS STUDENTS IN AI-ISTISQA RAIN SEEKING PRAYERS

Hundreds Of Boys And Girls Attend Prayers At Qatar Academy

Doha, Qatar, 21 November 2014: Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development led Al-Istisqa prayers for rain on Thursday morning as per the directions of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar.

Engineer Saad Al Muhannadi, President of Qatar Foundation, Mr Fahad Al Qahtani, Group Executive Director of Qatar Foundation Administration and staff members of Qatar Academy, were joined by hundreds of students at Qatar Academy's Senior School in prayer.

The Istisqa prayer is part of Qatar Foundation's efforts to instil Arab and Islamic values in students and teach them the importance preserving their heritage.

"Through this event, Qatar Foundation keeps Islamic culture and teachings alive by strengthening young people's connection to Qatari culture and heritage," said Engineer Saad Al Muhannadi.

"The fast pace of modern life can make people forget much of the Islamic and Arabic culture. For this reason, Qatar Foundation strives to maintain a deep connection between education, scientific research and our Arab and Islamic values.

"Keeping these Islamic teachings alive serves to remind young people of our heritage, without which, we will not be able to succeed in going forward in achieving Qatar's National Vision, transforming the country into a knowledge-based economy and building a prosperous nation that is based on a cultural and religious foundation that we can all be proud of," he added.

This year marks the fifth time the Academy has led students in Al-Istisqa rain seeking prayers following the directives from the Supreme Education Council in Qatar.

Mr Fahad Al Qahtani, Group Executive Director of Qatar Foundation Administration, commented on observing the Istisqa prayers by saying: "Undoubtedly, religion is the foundation that society is built upon, be it in education or in other sectors.

"Qatar Foundation is leading this prayer not just because it is an annual tradition, but because it is essential to our faith. This is what we want our sons and daughters to understand in order to strengthen their religious awareness."

After the prayers, Islamic Education Teacher Faisal Al Qahtani gave a sermon about the religious significance of the Al-Istisqa rain seeking prayers.

Senior School Assistant Principal Maha Al Romaihi said: “The school organises the prayer for rain annually upon the announcement of this prayer by Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Qatar. This is a great opportunity for the school to promote the Islamic identity among Muslim students through the reinforcement of such Islamic practices.

“It is also an educational opportunity to instil among our students different important values. The school prepares students for the prayer beforehand by educating them about the prerequisites of this type of prayer, including the supplications recited during the performance of this prayer.”

Al Awsaj Academy also led its own Istisqa prayer for rain on Thursday morning for students and teachers of all classes to evoke Islamic religious values in students. The prayer, at Awsaj Academy, was well organised and attended by a large number of teachers and employees.

Photo Caption:

Image 1: Hundreds of students join teachers and Qatar Foundation officials at the Al-Istisqa rain-seeking prayer at Qatar Academy's Senior School

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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>