



## **QATAR FOUNDATION STUDENTS STEP INTO THE FUTURE FOLLOWING PRE-UNIVERSITY SCHOOL GRADUATIONS**

*332 Students From Four Qatar Foundation Pre-University Schools Honoured For Superb Academic Achievements*

**Doha, Qatar, 23 June 2015:** Hundreds of Qatar's future leaders have marked a significant step in their academic journeys by graduating from four Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) pre-University schools.

Having satisfied the high requirements of their respective institutes, 194 students from QF's Academic Bridge Programme (ABP) graduated in May, with a further 95 students graduating from Qatar Academy Doha (QA-D) this month, in addition to 21 cadets from Qatar Leadership Academy, and 12 students from Awsaj Academy in Education City.

All four top-level institutions support QF's mission to unlock human potential by offering a tailored academic and extra-curricular syllabus, designed to develop students as individuals whilst preparing them for the demands of higher education. Through these efforts, the schools make up a crucial link in QF's education cycle – that looks to cater to students as young as six months, all the way up to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral level.

Commenting on the achievements of the new graduates, Engineer Saad Ebrahim Al Muhannadi, President of QF, said: "It is with great pride that we celebrate the superb academic and personal accomplishments of the hundreds of students that have graduated from Qatar Foundation's pre-University schools in 2015 – several of whom have graduated with the highest grades in their institute's history. Since its founding 20 years ago, QF has established a comprehensive education cycle that provides world-class education options to benefit all students in this country. By fostering a culture of research, innovation and creativity in these institutions, we aim to develop the skills that will equip our students to thrive in university and make decisive contributions to the realisation of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030)."

QF's commitment to developing top level, well educated graduates is one that began two decades ago, when His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani shared a vision with Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser; that the future of Qatar lies in unlocking the most precious resource of all: human potential.

With this, QF was born to serve the people of Qatar by providing ground-breaking initiatives in education, science and research, and community development that will equip the country and its people with the knowledge and tools to develop their nation.

At the beating heart of the organisation's vision is its dedicated learning complex Education City, a

sprawling campus on the outskirts of the nation's capital Doha, where QF caters to students as young as six months all the way up to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral candidate level.

As part of this comprehensive education cycle, QF has established eight top performing pre-University education institutions throughout Qatar in order to prepare students for the demands of higher education.

Of these eight schools, amongst the most recent to hold a graduation ceremony was the Awsaj Academy, who honoured its students earlier this month. Awsaj, which serves students with learning challenges in grades K-12, celebrated the dedication of 12 of its students for overcoming their personal challenges in order to secure a better future for themselves. Filled with praise for the institute and its role in shaping him as a person, Mohammed Al Kubaisi, a Class of 2015 graduate, commented: "At Awsaj, I have grown from a boy into a man. I have improved my skills in English as well as many other areas, and I have learned independence and the importance of taking responsibility. Awsaj Academy has given me a lasting positive energy, and I will use this positivity in my future career."

Meanwhile, one of the first of QF's pre-University schools to hold graduation events was QF's Academic Bridge Programme, which recognised 194 student leavers during a ceremony in May at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

In 2015, this fresh batch of graduates brought the total of ABP graduates to more than 2,500 since the programme's founding in 2010.

Qatari student and ABP graduate Nawal Aqueel was ranked second in his year for academic performance. Commenting with mixed-emotions about his leaving, Nawal said: "When I look back upon my journey at ABP, I will not only remember a programme that merely looked to adapt me to working under the pressure of university life, a demanding grading system, or numerous assignments, I will remember this journey as one that has turned me into a new person, with a sense of responsibility and self-confidence."

Meanwhile, another institute to celebrate the success of its students with a ceremony at the QNCC was Qatar Academy Doha, which staged a graduation this month for its high-achieving class of 2015.

This year, the enduring excellence of QA-D, which provides world-class primary and secondary education to students in Doha, was illustrated by its new class of leavers, who achieved the highest grades in the history of the school.

Amongst this talented group was 17-year-old class Valedictorian Osama Ghani. Reflecting on his experience at QA-D during a speech to his peers at the graduation event, Osama said: "Everyone's personality has been polished here at Qatar Academy, and each individual in their gown today is a complex individual, with many talents, and a story to tell. We are ready to show the world what we are made of. Qatar Academy has given us a wonderful support system, and it is up to you to ensure that you provide others with such a system by opening your heart to people."

Separately, the Qatar Leadership Academy also staged an impressive graduation ceremony, with His Excellency Major General Ghanim Bin Shaheen Al Ghanim, Chief of Staff for the Qatar Armed Forces, as a guest of honour.

This year, the Al-Khor based leadership school graduated its eighth cohort of graduates with a ceremony on 19 May 2015. A total of 21 students graduated this year, including Mohammed Al Romahi, the QLA

Class of 2015 Valedictorian, who said his school represented “a solid track of success and excellence,” adding: “Now we are moving onto a new stage in our knowledge and work. Qatar, our home, deserves the best, so we have to continue the process of giving back to our country.”

Students from Qatar Foundation’s four other schools have also completed their studies for this year. Qatar Academy Al Khor, Qatar Academy Msheireib, Qatar Academy Al Wakra and Qatar Academy Sidra students will be returning to school to begin the new Academic year in September.

QF Pre-University graduation figures:

- 332 students have graduated from a total of four QF Pre-University schools.
- Since its founding in 2010, more than 2,500 students have now graduated from QF’s Academic Bridge Programme.
- More than 40 per cent of the ABP Class of 2015 has been accepted into at least one QF partner university.
- Approximately 90 per cent of all ABP graduates have been accepted into universities in Qatar, the UK and elsewhere.
- QA-D’s class of 2015 achieved the highest grades in the history of the school.

Image Caption

Image 1: The twelve graduates from Awsaj Academy

Image 2: The 194 graduates from Qatar Foundation’s Academic Bridge Programme

Image 3: The 95 graduates from Qatar Academy Doha

Image 4: The 21 graduate cadets from Qatar Leadership Academy

**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>

