

## REACH OUT TO ASIA RECOGNISES INVALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

*Participants in Adult Literacy Programmes Benefit from Passionate Local Contributors*

**DOHA, April 24, 2016:** Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) commended the volunteers and participants who attended its adult literacy programmes during a ceremony recently held at the Hamad bin Khalifa University Student Centre in Education City.

During the ceremony, certificates of appreciation were awarded to trainers and trainees in recognition of their contributions to the 2015-2016 edition of ROTA's Adult English Literacy (RAEL) and Adult Arabic Literacy (RAAL) programmes.

More than 270 volunteers helped low-income workers in Qatar acquire basic English language skills, which will assist them to better communicate in their daily lives and help achieve their personal goals. Additionally, 20 volunteers participated in RAAL.

Rasmeya Hassan Al Jamali, Community Development Specialist, National Programmes Department, ROTA, said: "ROTA believes in the importance of unlocking human potential to develop cohesive communities built on solid foundations. ROTA's initiatives, such as RAEL and RAAL, place significant importance on the development of society, and aim to ultimately benefit the State of Qatar and support Qatar Foundation."

"The adult literacy programme has proven to be an effective way to support low-income workers. It enables them to better communicate within their own communities, while equipping them with new teaching skills. This in turn offers participants the opportunity to give back to the community as part of a unique volunteering experience," she added.

Abdulaziz Al Kuwari, a ROTA volunteer and student at Carnegie Mellon University Qatar, elaborated on his own experience, saying: "My participation in this programme was extremely beneficial. On the one hand, I learned a great deal about how education facilitates success and improves human lives while, conversely, I realised the personal importance of giving back."

My volunteering experience has shaped my personal life and has offered me a priceless opportunity to gain new skills while helping others. I'm deeply grateful to ROTA for giving me the chance to put my skills to use to make a difference in the lives of others."

Douglas Njihia, a participant who benefited from the programme, said: "I was happy to enrol in this beneficial programme, which provided me with basic language skills. It has had a positive impact on my life, enabling me to communicate better at work and in my social life. It was an entertaining and valuable experience that I would go through again, and I thank ROTA for offering us this opportunity."

First introduced in 2009, Rael was created primarily to develop the English literacy and language capabilities of low-income workers in Qatar. The Arabic version of the programme was launched in 2013.

The programme offers young people in Qatar the opportunity to teach first hand, thereby developing their skills and giving them the opportunity to give back to foreign guests in Qatar. The programme is designed to help participants improve their language skills as a means of enhancing their ability to achieve personal goals, improve life opportunities and develop their communication skills.

ROTA is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, and organised this year's edition in collaboration with a number of local entities, including the Academic Bridge Program, Qatari Diar and Ashghal.

**ENDS**

#### **About ROTA**

Reach Out To Asia is a non-profit organisation launched in December 2005 in Doha, Qatar, by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Operating under the auspices of the Qatar Foundation, ROTA is committed to providing high quality and relevant primary and secondary education, encouraging relationships among communities, creating safe learning environments and restoring education in crisis affected areas across Asia and around the world. ROTA envisions a world, where all young people have access to the education they need in order for them to realise their full potential and shape the development of their communities.

For more information about Reach Out To Asia, please visit: [www.reachouttoasia.org](http://www.reachouttoasia.org)



## About Qatar Foundation

### **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. Qatar Foundation was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Chairperson 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>