



## **QUR'ANIC BOTANIC GARDEN HOSTS ANNUAL GHARS CAMPAIGN**

*2016 Planting Ceremony Brings Qatar Foundation Community Together To Raise Awareness About Environmental Responsibility*

**Doha, Qatar, 25 January 2016** – The Qur’anic Botanic Garden (QBG), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), recently held its annual ‘Ghars’ campaign in Education City. The one-day event brought together over 200 students and family members to plant 15 trees.

QBG prepared the trees and the specially-dedicated site in collaboration with a number of QF centres. Symbolising QF’s dedication to promoting sustainable development, the event aimed to raise awareness of the importance of environmental responsibility, contributing to the Qatar National Vision 2030.

As part of the endeavour, QBG also seized the opportunity to provide all visitors with useful information about the environmental value of trees, and how they can help grow and care for botanic life to help address global environmental issues.

Ms Fatima Al-Khulaifi, Project Manager of QBG, commented on the event, saying: “The Qur’anic Botanic Garden regularly tries to raise awareness of the environment through initiatives like the ‘Ghars’ campaign. This year’s event brought together members of the community in a bid to address challenges through practical actions, as well as getting children to realise the importance of tree planting.”

QBG also carried out workshops for young students and children, engaging them with topical colouring activities and seed planting exercises.

One of this year’s participants, Michele Gaddy, a science teacher at Awsaj Academy, said: “The Awsaj Academy family is delighted to participate in the annual ‘Ghars’ campaign. As our lives become increasingly technology-driven, our need to connect with nature becomes even stronger. The ‘Ghars’ campaign provides our children this valuable opportunity.”

In 2011, QBG partnered with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Billion Tree Campaign to plant trees in Education City. Furthermore, following the climate change conference, COP18, held in Doha in 2012, QBG, through the ‘Ghars’ campaign, planted a number of trees with Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) students. Additionally, QBG aims to cultivate 2022 trees in Qatar by the year of 2022, through multiple planting campaigns.



The 'Ghars' campaign; whose name derives from the Arabic translation of 'Planting' from the Hadith narrated by Anas bin Malik: 'Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)', is a brain child of QBG and aims to promote an understanding of the plants, botanic terms, and conservation principles mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, Hadith, and Sunnah. QBG hopes to achieve this by applying scientific innovations, building an appreciation of cultural traditions, and creating a garden that will provide unique opportunities for learning.

### **Images Caption**

**Image 1:** Group photo of the 'Ghars' campaign 2016 participants.

**Image 2:** Participants planting trees in Education City during the annual 'Ghars' campaign, hosted by the Qur'anic Botanic Garden (QBG).

**Image 3:** Children taking part in a colouring activity at this year's 'Ghars' campaign.

**ENDS**

### **About Qur'anic Botanic Garden:**

The Qur'anic Botanic Garden, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, the first of its kind in the world, exhibits all the plant species mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, and those in the Hadith and *Sunnah* (Sayings & traditions of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH). The Garden exhibits the botanical terms mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, explaining the significance of their mention in the Holy Qur'an, as well as the scientific explanations of composition, application and usefulness to man. It inspires appreciation of nature by encouraging respect and responsibility for our environment. The concept comes from a region-wide UNESCO. The idea of the Qur'anic Botanic Garden was started since it was inaugurated by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation on 17 September 2008. To mark the event, she planted the Garden's very first tree, the Sidra (*Ziziphus spina-christi* Willd, Sidr), which is also the symbol of the Foundation.

### **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development is a private, non-



حديقة القرآن النباتية  
QUR'ANIC BOTANIC GARDEN  
عضو في مؤسسة قطر  
Member of Qatar Foundation

profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from a 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 of Qatar, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF carries out its mission through three strategic pillars: education, science and research, and community development. QF's education pillar brings world-class universities to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. Meanwhile, its science and research pillar builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. Finally, its community development pillar helps foster a progressive society while also 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>

For more information about Qatar Foundation please contact our press office at: [pressoffice@qf.org.qa](mailto:pressoffice@qf.org.qa)