



## **QATAR FOUNDATION TO CELEBRATE CONVOCATION OF RECORD NUMBER OF GRADUATES**

**Doha, Qatar, 30 April 2015:** Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), will mark the academic accomplishments of the class of 2015 at a convocation ceremony on Tuesday 5 May, 2015. This year's event takes on particular significance as it coincides with QF's celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. QF celebrated the first joint convocation of its partner universities in 2008.

A record number of graduates, 672 in total – up 22 per cent from last year – will attend the celebrations at Qatar National Convention Centre, which will honour graduates from Hamad Bin Khalifa University and QF's eight partner universities located within Education City. The graduates will hold Bachelor and Master degrees in various specialisations that are geared towards the Qatari youth in fields that are crucial to the country's future economic development and growth, as well as tailored to address the grand challenges facing Qatar.

Commenting on this year's convocation, Engineer Saad Al Muhannadi, President of Qatar Foundation, said: "This is a momentous day in the history of Qatar Foundation and the State of Qatar. I am truly glad to see this number of graduates who will lead the nation's march towards the future. Your hard work and dedication is contributing to QF's dynamic cycle of education and research, starting as young as six-months right through to higher education programmes. After 20 years, Qatar Foundation and the State of Qatar can be proud of the high graduation rate with an ever increasing number of well-educated doctors, engineers and other specialists, who will play their role in supporting the Qatari job market and help advance Qatar towards fulfilling its National Vision 2030 with their outstanding skills."

During this year's convocation, QF will honour 122 graduates from Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), which represents the largest percentage of graduates from the different universities in Education City. This figure includes 80 graduates from Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies (QFIS), which provides Master's Degrees in the various fields of Islamic studies, and 14 graduates from the Translation and Interpretation Institute (TII), which provides high-quality programmes in

the field of translation, interpretation and foreign languages. As a pioneering centre for education and research it will serve the needs of Qatar's transformation to a knowledge-based economy, as the different programmes are designed to help shape the country into a leading centre for education, research and professional excellence.

The convocation will honour the first batch of graduates from the Executive Master's programme in Energy and Resources at HBKU, which consists of 28 students who successfully finished their studies in this multidisciplinary field, offered in partnership with Georgetown University, Texas A&M University at Qatar and HEC Paris.

This leading programme offers an innovative educational approach to the graduates with a comprehensive perspective on the field of energy and resources by integrating the disciplines of geopolitics, public policy, technology, finance, management, and strategy. It was specially designed to help directors and promising executive managers to master skills in a broad number of fields who wish to gain broader knowledge that goes beyond traditional curriculums in the field of energy and resources.

HBKU has launched a number of new programmes this year including the Juris Doctor law programme which is the research university's inaugural graduate law programme and the first academic program of its Law School. This programme is specially designed to help individuals seeking to enhance their legal knowledge, or who deal with legal issues in their professional careers. The analytical and critical skills developed in this comprehensive programme help to make it an attractive option for people seeking to become policy makers or influencers in Qatar.

The University has also launched three new programmes for higher studies at its College of Engineering and Sciences. Students now can pursue Masters and Ph.Ds in Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS), Sustainable Energy and Sustainable Environment. Classes will begin in Fall 2015.

The launch of these programmes is in line with QF's vision to provide extensive educational and research programmes, that will support human, social and economic development in Qatar. The programmes have been specially designed to address the needs of the country over the long term.

### **Graduates of the partner universities**

The convocation will also honour graduates from the partner universities of Qatar Foundation with 68 graduates from Virginia Commonwealth University in the fields of fashion design, graphic design and interior design, in addition to Master of Fine Arts in Design Studies. From Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, which became part of Education City in 2002, 43 doctors

are graduating, benefiting from high-level medical programme. As for Texas A&M University at Qatar, famed for its high quality engineering programmes, 101 students are graduating with Bachelor's Degrees in Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical and Petroleum Engineering, or with a Master of Science in Chemical Engineering.

As for Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, with its illustrious expertise of a 100 years of academic excellence, pioneering research and university programmes, 106 students are graduating in Business Administration, Information Systems, Computer Science and Biological Science.

A further 57 students are graduating from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, in a wide range of disciplines such as International Politics, Culture and Politics, and International Economics programmes which will allow them to pursue high positions in new careers.

Furthermore, 38 students are graduating from Northwestern University in Qatar, one of the most famous universities in the world in the field of journalism and communication. HEC Paris in Qatar, which offers high quality programmes to executive managers and directors in Qatar who are in the middle of their careers, is celebrating the graduation of 94 students. As for University College London in Qatar (UCL Qatar), it will have 43 students graduating in the fields of Museum studies and Archaeology, much needed to preserve Qatar's heritage and maintain its world-class museums.

The number of graduates this year is considerably higher compared to 2014 when 549 students were awarded degrees. The graduates of Education City represent the diversity in Qatar, as many students come from countries around the world to study and unlock their potential in the different fields provided by QF and its partner universities.

These graduates will join the 2,259 graduates of the previous years. The number of graduates in 2015 signifies an increase of almost 450% compared to the first joint convocation of QF's partner universities in 2008, and an increase of 22% in comparison with 2014.

The entire convocation ceremony will be broadcast live on Qatar TV from 7:00pm and can also be followed on QF Radio on 91.7 FM).

**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. 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.