



QATAR FOUNDATION'S FOURTH ANNUAL TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE ATTRACTS MORE THAN 1,000 PARTICIPANTS

Educational Forum on Professional Development Proves a Great Success

Doha, Qatar, April 22, 2017 More than 1,000 teachers, education leaders and policymakers from across Qatar and the region attended Qatar Foundation's fourth annual Teaching and Learning Forum at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) today.

The event organized by the Education Development Institute (EDI), part of QF's Pre-University Education (PUE), aims to showcase the most dynamic, innovative and effective presentations and workshops from top international education professionals. This year's forum, sponsored by ExxonMobil in Qatar, was further designed to inspire and motivate teachers to reach for the highest level of student engagement and achievement.

The forum featured international experts, motivational speakers and authors in the field of education, technology and leadership, including astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison, who gave the keynote speech at the conference's opening session. Dr. Jemison was the first African American woman to travel in space, and NASA's first science specialist, performing experiments in material science, life science and human adaptation to weightlessness.

The Teaching and Learning Forum falls under QF's year-round professional development program, and is designed to provide educators with the opportunity to share knowledge and discuss industry issues, while enhancing the education system by empowering teachers.

Commenting on the forum, Buthaina Al Nuaimi, President of PUE, QF, said: "In just four years, EDI's Teaching and Learning Forum has become one of the premiere annual teaching conferences not only in Qatar, but throughout the region. This important forum constitutes an integral part of QF's drive to ensure innovation and knowledge sharing remain central to building creative educational strategies and to helping our teachers prepare today's young men and women with the skills, knowledge, and tools they need to face the challenges of tomorrow."

This year's forum featured presentations from more than 40 schools and organizations from across the region, including teachers from QF and other local schools, bringing together a diverse range of experiences and innovation led practice.



Sheikha Noof Ahmed Al-Thani, Executive Director of EDI, PUE, commented: “The Teaching and Learning Forum strives to lay down the foundations for a culture of excellence, by exchanging expertise, ideas and best practices, and encouraging teachers to enhance their professional skills continuously. The success of this year’s edition will certainly contribute to the amelioration of the standard of education in Qatar, producing graduates and global citizens who will ultimately lead Qatar to become a more sustainable and diverse economy.”

Additional guest speakers included Mrs. Katherine Merseth and Dr. Deborah Jewell Sherman, both leading educators at the Harvard Graduate School of Education; Dr. Mahmoud Al Batal, a leading author and voice in Arabic language education; and Mr. Tom Shimmer, an independent education consultant from Vancouver, Canada, who is an internationally recognized expert in the areas of assessment, grading, RTI, and educational leadership.

Alistair Routledge, President and General Manager for ExxonMobil Qatar said: “We are delighted to be involved in Education Development Institute’s Teaching and Learning Forum 2017 once again as its main sponsor. This important event is in line with our broader efforts to help improve the quality of education in Qatar’s schools by providing teachers with the tools and skills needed to inspire students to excel, especially in STEM subjects. We believe that quality education ultimately helps citizens work together to create strong, sustainable institutions and societies.”

Through the Teaching and Learning Forum, EDI, is supporting QF’s mission to promote a culture of lifelong learning in Qatar and to further advance its commitment to education in helping shape the future of the nation.

For more information about EDI, please visit: www.edi.qa

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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. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation’s Chairperson. 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>