

## 'POETRY SLAM' WORKSHOP AND PERFORMANCE TO SUPPORT YOUNG POETS IN QATAR

*QNL Initiative Part of Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture*

**Doha, Qatar, March 07, 2017:** Qatar National Library (QNL), in collaboration with the German Embassy Doha and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, will hold a three-day 'Poetry Slam' workshop from March 18 – 20, leading to a final performance on March 21, as part of the Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture.

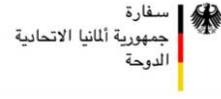
The workshop aims to support students and poetry enthusiasts in Qatar, aged 18 – 22 years, who are interested in literature, poetry and performance. With the guidance of two renowned German poetry slammers and workshop instructors, Julian Heun and Dominique Macri, participants will develop their own texts reflecting their culture and interests.

Participants will be given the opportunity to work on their ideas with the instructors, get feedback from their co-participants and practice performance and reading techniques together. Participants will then prepare a presentation for a public poetry slam performance, which will conclude the workshop.

Abeer Al Kuwari, Director of Research and Learning at QNL, said: "'Poetry Slam' is a new and growing field in Qatar, and through this workshop we aim to support young talent interested in learning more about this art form. One of QNL's mandates is to cultivate creativity and we hope to give our young poets an opportunity to express themselves through this educational and creative platform."

Dr. Gabriele Landwehr, General Manager of the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, added: "Cultural exchange through literature is normally bound to a common language, but with poetry, and especially poetry slam, the performance aspect is added which makes it accessible to people of different backgrounds. We are happy to host this event as part of the Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture and hope to build on this initiative for future projects."

Maya Röder, who is based in Doha for the Goethe-Institut as Project Manager for Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture, said: "When I first moved to Qatar last autumn, I witnessed a poetry slam event at the Student Center in Education City, and I was impressed by the way the poets switched from one language to another. Language seemed to be no barrier and this is exactly what we want to achieve with our projects – a cultural dialogue that crosses all boundaries."



To take part in the QNL Poetry Slam, interested participants are asked to send an e-mail with some information about themselves, their motivation for entering, as well as some samples of their work – in English or Arabic – by March 12, to Sebastian Wilke at: [swilke@qf.org.qa](mailto:swilke@qf.org.qa) or phone: +974 4454 7156. Those selected will be contacted by email.

Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture is a year-long program designed to deepen understanding between nations through the mutual exchange of arts, culture, heritage and sport, developed by Qatar Museums in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, the German Embassy Doha and the Embassy of Qatar in Germany.

QNL, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), supports Qatar's journey towards becoming a knowledge-based economy by spreading knowledge, nurturing imagination, cultivating creativity and preserving the nation's heritage for future generations.

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## Qatar National Library:

*“To be one of the world's preeminent centers of learning, research, and culture; a guardian of the region's heritage; and an institution that promotes discovery and the nourishment of the human spirit.”*

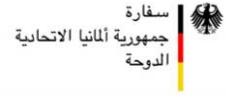
Qatar National Library (QNL) is a non-profit organisation under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). QNL is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon-based economy to knowledge-based economy by providing resources to students, researchers, and the community in Qatar. It was announced in November 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNL carries out its mission through three functions: National Library, University and Research Library, and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age. The National Library function collects and provides access to global knowledge relevant to Qatar and the region. It also collects, preserves, and provides access to heritage content and materials about Qatar and the region. The University and Research Library function supports education and research at all levels by providing printed and digital library materials for students and researchers. Metropolitan Public Library delivers library services and information for everyone to enjoy reading, meet people, and become information literate.

**Website:** [www.qnl.qa](http://www.qnl.qa)

**Twitter:** @QNLlib

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/TheQatarNationalLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/TheQatarNationalLibrary)



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## **About The Goethe-Institut:**

The Goethe-Institut is a world-wide organization working to promote German language and culture. With a network of 159 institutes in 98 countries around the world and 12 institutes in Germany, the Goethe-Institut acts on behalf of the German Government to implement its cultural relations policy. The Goethe-Institut Gulf Region offers German language courses and organises cultural events in the Gulf Region. Together with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region arranges the programs of Qatar Germany Year of Culture 2017.

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