

ROTA HOSTS IEARN-QATAR TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS

Programme Provides Opportunity for Teachers and Students to Collaborate via Global Online Learning Network

Doha, Qatar, 28 December: Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) recently hosted an iEARN (International Education and Resource Network) teacher training workshop on Project Based Learning (PBL) methodology at Michael E. DeBakey High School – Qatar.

A group of 124 teachers from 20 independent and private schools attended the iEARN teacher training workshop, providing the opportunity for teachers and students in Qatar to collaborate with an online network of educators and learners across 140 countries.

iEARN is a non-profit organisation that connects schools and youth organisations worldwide via a virtual network to empower young teachers and students, encourage inter-scholastic collaboration, and promote debate on world issues in real time.

The programme allows participants to take advantage of the collaborative features of iEARN, which enables them to meet national requirements and enhance personal development.

For the third year running, the training workshop was organised in collaboration with the National Center for Educational Development (NCED), College of Education at Qatar University, and sponsored by Muntajat (Qatar Chemical and Petrochemical Marketing and Distribution Company Q.J.S.C.).

Shamma Al Dosari, ICT for Education Specialist at ROTA, said: “The iEARN-Qatar programme equips teachers with the skills to empower students to realise their full potential and make positive contributions to their communities. The workshop is a truly global initiative that has been specifically tailored to meet the needs of teachers and students in Qatar.”

“iEARN’s model of global Project-Based Learning allows young students to acquire skills in critical thinking and cross-cultural awareness while connecting their learning to real world issues, making learning both challenging and enjoyable,” Al Dosari added.

Since the programme was launched in 2008, more than 670 teachers from 110 schools have attended iEARN-Qatar workshops and participated in numerous iEARN projects with their students.

The programme also offers educators an opportunity to join the ROTA Knowledge Network for professional development to enable them to integrate internet technologies and project-based learning into their curriculum.

Marwan Muftah, Arabic Language and Islamic Studies Department Coordinator at Michael E. DeBakey High School who attended the workshop, said: “The programme enabled us to further our professional development and introduced us to an invaluable global learning network. I look forward to incorporating these innovative teaching

methods into our curriculum, which will enrich my students' learning experience.”

As the official sponsor of the iEARN-Qatar programme, Muntajat has enabled ROTA to expand the programme's reach. Mr Abdulrahman Ali Al-Abdulla, Chief Executive Officer, Muntajat, said: “At Muntajat we strongly believe in promoting education to encourage and nurture the development of our future generations. The iEARN programme continues to deliver real value to our community and we are proud to support such a worthy initiative. We commend the continuous effort of ROTA to empower cross-border knowledge exchange and enhance the education sector in Qatar.”

The iEARN-Qatar programme builds on the basic principle of Project-based Learning (PBL) by connecting classrooms around the world via an online network.

Abdelkarim Chaabane , NCED's Professional Development Specialist and Coordinator of NCED and ROTA (PBL) Partnership at Qatar University, said: “Implementing project – based learning at Qatari Independent Schools is an opportunity for students to relate their learning to their lives, practice research and employ ICT to learn independently and cooperatively while allowing teachers to incorporate experimental learning in the classroom.”

iEARN is the world's largest non-profit global network that enables teachers and students to use the internet and other technologies to collaborate on projects that enhance learning and make a difference in the world. More than 50, 000 educators and two million youth across 140 countries make up the global education network.

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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

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>