



## THIMUN QATAR 2017 CONFERENCE OPENS

*Largest Student-led Conference in Middle East Educates Students about Current World Events*

**Doha, Qatar, January 25, 2017** – The sixth annual THIMUN Qatar conference kicked off today with an opening ceremony held at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC). Organized by Qatar Foundation's (QF) Qatar Academy schools and THIMUN Foundation, the three-day conference brings together more than 1,800 Model United Nations (MUN) students from over 80 international schools and 36 local schools, representing 87 nationalities.

Students taking part in the Model United Nations (MUN) conference engage in a simulation of the United Nations (UN), designed to educate them about current world events, topics in international relations, and diplomacy. Participants take on roles as diplomats, discuss and debate international issues, and then develop solutions to the challenges facing the global community through imitation sessions of UN committees, such as the Security Council or the General Assembly.

The ceremony was officially opened with the Flags Procession led by participating student delegations, with the welcome address given by THIMUN Qatar Secretary General, Mr. Ahmed Al Hajari. The opening ceremony was also attended by a number of ambassadors and United Nations diplomats.

Commenting on the conference, H.E. Bahia Tahzib-Lie, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Qatar, said: "THIMUN Qatar is a fantastic event where students are taught leadership qualities and given the opportunity to openly practice those qualities. It's superb training from where to experience what the UN is about, and to contribute actively and offer fresh solutions."

"The UN is the only legitimate worldwide platform where countries can meet to reach solutions to global issues. These students learn how to give and take, and how to build coalition. The conference is also wonderfully organized which is reflected in the fact there are so many countries represented at what is the biggest MUN in the Middle East."

Commenting on the conference, Ms. Buthaina Al Nuaimi, President of Pre-University Education (PUE), Qatar Foundation (QF), said: "The THIMUN conference is now in its sixth year. Through this event, we, at Qatar Foundation, are demonstrating our ongoing commitment to equipping young men and women with the skills and tools to excel, both personally and academically."



“Our integrated and thriving learning environment enables us to facilitate key extracurricular activities that cater to the individual needs of our students. We want to empower the future leaders of tomorrow so that these young people can become the agents of meaningful change and devise solutions to global issues.”

Students have been preparing for the conference for nearly five months, conducting sessions and carrying out research in order to be able to represent their countries. And over the next few days, students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of committees addressing a number of topics, including disarmament, human rights, and the environment. Additionally, the Arabic Committee will be running for the third time, allowing students to debate in Arabic; while the French Committee will be launched for the first time this year.

Shaza Amjad, from Amna Bint Wahab Independent Secondary School in Doha, part of the delegation representing Argentina at the conference, said: “This is a very important conference because there are students here from all over the world and it can really help us to develop our skills to international standards. I want to study political science and hopefully become part of the United Nations someday, so this is the perfect training for the future. Being here teaches me how to communicate and share experiences with representatives from other countries.”

THIMUN Qatar Regional Office was created as a joint project between QF’s Qatar Academy schools and the THIMUN Foundation, an affiliation program designed to develop high quality MUN conferences throughout the world.

**Image Captions:**

**Image 1:** The flag procession at the opening ceremony of the THIMUN Qatar 2017 conference.

**Image 2:** Mr. Ahmed Al Hajari, THIMUN Qatar Secretary General, delivers the welcome address during the opening ceremony at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

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**Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization 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 commercializing 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>