

## **QATAR ACADEMY DOHA CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2017**

**Doha, Qatar, May 24, 2017** – Qatar Academy Doha (QAD) celebrated the graduation of its Class of 2017 this evening in an official ceremony at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

The event was attended by a number of VIP guests, public figures, Qatar Foundation leadership – including President of Pre-University Education (PUE) – QAD Chairperson, parents, faculty, and school administrators.

The ceremony celebrated the graduation of 85 students, including 44 Qatari nationals. These students now join more than 750 graduates of Qatar Academy Doha since its establishment in 1996.

Mr. Don MacIntyre, QAD Director, addressed the graduates in the welcoming note, saying: “We come together on this special night to recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the individual and collective achievements of our students.”

He called upon students to make the most of this moment: “It is often easy to overlook the transition phases of our lives and focus only on the next stages. However, what if it is during these periods of transition that we are presented with the most profound and enlightening experiences.”

QA alumna Lulwa Al Darwish, who graduated in 2012, returned as this year’s guest speaker and reflected on her journey. “I grew up in this school, and the desire to give back to my society grew in me. I graduated in 2012, and, because of my teachers and Qatar Academy’s inspiring efforts through education – one’s most powerful weapon – I chose to become a special needs educator. Specifically, for individuals with autism, so thank you.”

This year’s valedictorian, Ghada Khalifa Al Thani, gave an emotional speech: “One individual cannot make a permanent change or development,” she said. “It requires the whole community to work together to achieve this. It is useless to believe that one person can do everything on their own; it requires the effort of the entire community. I am proud of all those present with me tonight, and I am sure that you are all proud too.”

Commenting on Qatar Academy Doha’s 17th Graduation Ceremony, Ms. Buthaina Ali Al Nuaimi, President of PUE, QF, said: “Since it was founded in 1996 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, Qatar Academy Doha has provided comprehensive and internationally recognized academic programs. The school aims to create graduates who are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to serve the local community.”

“Today, we share Qatar Academy’s joy. On this momentous occasion – the graduation of the 17th cohort of its students – I would like to extend my congratulations to the graduates, family members, and teachers who worked diligently to overcome challenges in a bid to build a promising generation of

young men and women. A generation that appreciates others, enjoys an open mind set, and is an active member of their community, while observing their principles and values,” Ms. Al Nuaimi concluded.

As part of the celebrations, the audience also enjoyed a musical collaboration between QAD and Qatar Music Academy (QMA).

## ENDS

**Qatar Academy - Doha (QAD)** a center of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. It is a private, chartered, non-profit organization founded on 1996 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir.

QAD empowers students to achieve academic excellence and be responsible citizens by offering a rigorous program encompassing an international English-medium education, and strong Arabic and Islamic Studies. The QAD community supports and challenges students to be critical thinkers, and active and contributing members of society, through learning experiences that serve the needs, interests and learning styles of each student.

### Qatar Academy – Doha

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### Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF’s world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation’s development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global research and development challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.



For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>