



VCUQATAR STUDENTS WIN QUR'ANIC BOTANIC GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Student Photography Exhibition at HBKU Student Center

Doha, Qatar, April 19, 2017: Students from Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCUQatar) have won the top three prizes in the Qur'anic Botanic Garden's (QBG) Ghars Photography Competition, held as part of the annual 'Ghars' tree planting campaign.

The competition, which is open to all university students in Qatar, is designed to showcase Qatar's photography talent and support botanical conservation efforts in the country. The initiative was developed by QBG in conjunction with Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), VCUQatar, and the Youth Hobbies Center of the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

The QBG event aims to create an opportunity for students to appreciate and interact with Qatar's natural landscape, and increase local knowledge about Qatar's flora through the medium of photography.

Ms. Fatima Saleh al-Khulaifi, Project Manager, QBG, said: "QBG is delighted to see such enthusiastic participation from students across Qatar in the Ghars Photography Competition. At QBG we believe university students are the future leaders of our country and play an integral role in shaping a sustainable future for Qatar and its environment, which we all seek to protect."

In the run up to the competition, QBG provided students with a technical workshop at HBKU's Student Center. The workshop was delivered by VCUQatar Professor George Awde, and aimed to improve and refresh the students' photography skills, and guide and enhance their understanding of light and subject, among other photography topics.

QBG also held a presentation on a wide range of plants and trees in Qatar to assist and inspire participants with the competition's themes of: 'Most attractive tree/trees/landscape in Education City/flora of Qatar'; 'The biggest and oldest trees in Qatar'; 'Tree Components, including roots, bark, stem, leaves, and flowers', as well as other pre-existing 'Ghars' initiatives in Qatar.

The award ceremony was held at HBKU Student Center recently with first prize awarded to VCUQatar student Maryam Khalil who received QR5,000; 2nd place was awarded to Nimrah Kabiruddin (VCUQatar) who received QR4,000; and 3rd place to Amira Khalil (VCUQatar) who received QR3,000.



On the sidelines of the awards, QBG launched a photo exhibition of the students' work at the HBKU Student Center where 50 photographs are on display, expressing different scenes of plant life and nature in Qatar.

Dr. Akel Kahera, Dean of VCUQatar, said: "I'm very pleased to learn our VCUQatar students won all three prizes in the Ghars Photography Contest. This win is emblematic of the emphasis we put on encouraging students to creatively explore their world through their own lens, and to find their voice and harness it to contribute to making a difference. I applaud our student winners and all of the participants who took time to reflect on the world around them. Through their focus and hard work, we can all see ourselves and our place on this earth a little more clearly."

QBG, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), aims to encourage social engagement and strengthen cultural and conservation awareness in Qatar, supporting QF's commitment to promoting environmental sustainability within the wider community.

For more information about the competition and about QBG; please visit www.qbg.org.qa

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About Qur'anic Botanic Garden:

The Qur'anic Botanic Garden, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, the first of its kind in the world, exhibits all the plant species mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, and those in the Hadith and *Sunnah* (Sayings & traditions of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH). The Garden exhibits the botanical terms mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, explaining the significance of their mention in the Holy Qur'an, as well as the scientific explanations of composition, application and usefulness to man. It inspires appreciation of nature by encouraging respect and responsibility for our environment. The Qur'anic Botanic Garden was inaugurated by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, on 17 September 2008. To mark the event, she planted the Garden's very first tree, the Sidra (*Ziziphus spina-christi* Willd, Sidr), which is also the symbol of the Foundation.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir of Qatar, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

حديقة القرآن النباتية
QUR'ANIC BOTANIC GARDEN
عضو في مؤسسة قطر
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QF carries out its mission through three strategic pillars: education, science and research, and community development. QF's education pillar brings world-class universities to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. Meanwhile, its science and research pillar builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. Finally, its community development pillar helps foster a progressive society while also 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>

For more information about Qatar Foundation please contact our press office at: pressoffice@qf.org.qa