



## QCDC WRAPS UP SECOND EDITION OF CAREER GUIDANCE STAKEHOLDERS PLATFORM

*Event in line with QF's efforts to promote career guidance in Qatar*

**Doha, Qatar, April 3, 2018:** Under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC), a member of QF, has wrapped up the second edition of its Career Guidance Stakeholders Platform.

The event, which took place today at the Qatar National Convention Centre under the theme 'Moving Operationally to Strategically Enhance Career Guidance in the State of Qatar', brought together a large number of senior government officials and ministers.

These included H.E. Salah bin Ghanem Al-Ali, Minister of Culture and Sports; H.E. Dr. Issa Saad Al Jafali Al Nuaimi, Minister of Administrative Development, Labour And Social Affairs; and H.E. Dr. Mohammed Abdul Wahed Ali Al Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education. Additionally, Omran Al-Kuwari, Acting CEO, Executive Director-CEO Office, Qatar Foundation, and Mrs. Machaille Al-Naimi, President of Community Development, Qatar Foundation, were also in attendance.

The event, organized in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Doha Office and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, comes within the framework of QCDC's commitment to delivering on the priorities stipulated by His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in his address to citizens and residents of Qatar in July 2017, when he stressed the importance of investing in the development of national human capital.

In his opening speech, Mr. Abdulla Al-Mansoori, Director, QCDC, said: "Nation-building requires a diverse set of competencies, skills, and jobs to ensure self-sufficiency when it comes to the local labor force required to bolster the state's economy at present and in the future. Many professions that young people may choose to pursue in the future have yet to exist. Raising awareness about various options and how to obtain more information about future careers are key elements of national career development and are at the core of QCDC's mission.

"Qatar is currently well positioned to develop career guidance programs and initiatives that instill career guidance within the nation's social and economic fabric. QCDC is collaborating with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, UNESCO, and public and private institutions represented today, to create a framework for the development of standards and policies for career guidance at the national level and to identify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the implementation of this strategy inspired by the Qatar Education and Training Strategy 2017-2022. This event highlights the importance of integrating technology-based career guidance services and resources and applying UNESCO's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) standards," Mr. Al-Mansoori added.

The event brought together more than 250 participants from Qatar and around the world. Participants included policy-makers, decision-makers, and senior executives from international organizations such as UNESCO and government



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institutions such as the Ministry Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

Representatives from educational institutions including QF, Qatar University, Community College of Qatar, College of the North Atlantic – Qatar, and national talent development committees in institutions like Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar Petroleum, Sidra Medicine, and Qatar Airways also participated in the event.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Raimo Vuorinen, Associate Professor at the Finnish Institute for Educational Research, at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland and Vice-President of the International Association for Vocational and Educational Guidance, said: “After this event, we will first seek to agree on a strategy and standardized policies that will identify how different government sectors and agencies could work together in harmony for a common goal. As we move forward, such strategies would serve as catalysts that would speed up the development process.”

In her speech, Dr. Faryal Khan, Programme Specialist for Education, UNESCO Doha Office, emphasized that “Qatar, alongside its partners on the national, regional, and global levels, is a leading country in promoting career guidance in accordance with a well-planned agenda that falls in line with its national strategies and vision.”

The opening ceremony also featured a plenary session, which brought together Professor Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad, Former President, Qatar University; Mr. Saif Al-Kaabi, Human Resources Department Manager, Public Works Authority; and Mrs. Fawzia Abdulaziz Al-Khater, Assistant Under-Secretary for Educational Affairs, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and was moderated by Mr. Jaber bin Nasser Al Marri, Managing Editor, *Al Arab* newspaper.

During the discussion, Mrs. Al Khater stated: “The Ministry of Education and Higher Education is fully aware of the importance of promoting career guidance and has long sought to advance this objective, preparing students to easily access the labor market or universities. In a first step towards achieving this objective, the ministry has designated academic counselors across secondary schools in Qatar and established an academic guidance department to train and empower counselors. The ministry has also ratified agreements with various government agencies to develop the Basic Skills course that is being taught to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to equip youth with the necessary skills for post-public education.”

Participants were then divided into 10 focus groups including four roundtable discussion groups and six knowledge and practice exchange groups.

Roundtable discussion groups were aimed at developing concrete actions needed to operationally move towards development of career guidance in Qatar along four strategic dimensions. Expressed in terms of topical discussion areas, these dimensions aim to provide the foundational work needed to develop: (1) national level career guidance framework, standards, and policies; (2) stakeholders’ roles in, and responsibilities for, implementing Qatar’s career guidance strategy for 2017-2022; (3) technology driven career guidance services and resources; and (4) UNESCO’s career guidance standards related to TVET.

The six knowledge and practice exchange groups, on the other hand, touched on cases of best career guidance practices in Qatar. The six cases included: (1) maximizing the impact of career guidance on national talent development programs, (2) employability skills development program for university students, (3) further development of entrepreneurship



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practices in Qatar, (4) career development framework for students with special abilities, (5) integrated career guidance in the secondary education curriculum – the Finnish experience, and (6) assessing the life-skills program implemented across secondary schools in Qatar.

Group members also took part in valuable discussions on how to address strategic and national career-guidance related issues before making a number of key recommendations on the development of an organizational structure for career guidance and career development in Qatar.

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#### **Qatar Career Development Center - Your Future in Your Hands**

Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, formerly known as Qatar Career Fair (QCF), aims to be the country's beacon for career guidance, preparing the nation's young human capital to respond to the requirements of the QNV 2030, by instilling career guidance within Qatar's socio-economic culture.

QCDC supports Qatari capacity building and empowers youth to better plan their career paths in line with their potential and the future needs of Qatar's labor market. It also equips parents and career guidance and development practitioners with career guidance knowledge and information needed so they may best advise and guide their children and students.

QCDC also aims to enrich and support career guidance policy making and practices by contributing to quality career literature, insights and consulting as well as offering high quality career services by professional experts.

#### **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>



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## QCDC UNVEILS NEW CAREER ADVISING SYSTEM ACROSS PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

*New system part of MoU between QCDC and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education*

**Doha, Qatar, April 3, 2018:** Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, announced today that it will roll out its new Career Advising System (CAS) across public secondary schools in Qatar during the second semester of the 2017-2018 academic year.

QCDC made the announcement on the sidelines of the Career Guidance Stakeholders Platform 2018, organized under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Doha Office and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Mr. Abdulla Al-Mansoori, Director, QCDC, said: "Today, we are delighted to witness a new milestone in QCDC's journey, expanding our reach to provide all students across public secondary schools in Qatar with career guidance services that will have a lasting impact on their academic and career journeys.

"The new career advising system is unique, as it provides a tailor-made solution that factors in Qatar's social and economic conditions. The CAS features diverse and innovative components as well as psychometric and personality assessment tools to help students identify the most appropriate academic and career paths in line with the future needs of Qatar."

The implementation of CAS comes within the framework of the MoU that was inked last year between QCDC and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education with the aim of establishing a strategic partnership in promoting academic, career development, and career guidance-related activities.

Ms. Fawzia Al-Khater, Assistant Under-Secretary for Educational Affairs, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, said: "Career guidance plays an important role in the academic and career journeys of students, helping youth discover their talents and develop their skills to meet the demand for skilled professionals in various sectors. The MoU between the Ministry and QCDC culminated in several training programs including intensive career guidance trainings targeting academic and career counselors across public schools in Qatar. The agreement eventually laid the foundations for implementing a new Career Advising System developed by QCDC to guide 10th grade students into planning their academic and career paths. The nationwide implementation of the new CAS, which was designed to meet the requirement of Qatar's education environment, is a first of its kind initiative in the Middle East."

Al-Khater also hailed the active partnership between QCDC and the Ministry, represented by the Academic and Career Guidance Division of the Department of Educational Guidance, praising the latter for its efforts in following up on the implementation of the joint programs with QCDC.

Within the framework of its ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, QCDC has trained more than 70 academic counselors on the use and integration of CAS across secondary schools in Qatar to offer career guidance services for students.



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CAS was developed by QCDC in co-operation with Kuder Inc., a world leader in career planning services, and various government entities, for the purpose of integrating specialized IT solutions into the career guidance framework in Qatar.

## Ends

### QCDC AND AWSAJ ACADEMY SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

*MoU in line with Qatar Foundation's efforts to promote career guidance in Qatar*

**Doha, Qatar, April 3, 2018:** Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC) and Awsaj Academy, both members of Qatar Foundation, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing the delivery of career guidance services at Awsaj Academy.

The MoU, which was signed on the sidelines of QCDC's Career Guidance Stakeholders Platform 2018, will contribute to the efforts aimed at instilling a career guidance culture within Qatar's socioeconomic fabric.

QCDC has tailored the initiative to students who are eager to learn outside the classroom. The program will unfold in two stages: the pilot phase, designed for the remainder of the 2018 academic year, will bring together 20 senior students from the Awsaj Prime program - launched in February 2015 as Qatar's first blended learning program; while the second phase is planned for the next academic year 2018-2019, and will target more students.

QCDC will work with Awsaj Academy on enhancing its delivery of career guidance services through a four-step process that falls in line with the best international practices and adapts specially selected models into the local context in a bid to help guide youth into making informed choices about their future. The initiative will also create more opportunities for students and graduates to grow their skills, reshape society's approach to education and learning, and establish local career ecosystems that work.

Awsaj Academy is a K-12 specialized school that addresses the needs of students with mild to moderate learning challenges. Awsaj Academy is the only school of its kind in Qatar and one of only a handful of schools dedicated to working with students who have demonstrated aptitude in certain areas while facing academic challenges in others.

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