



## **Qatar Career Fair Urges Joint Action To Promote Career Guidance Across Qatar**

*Recommendations Part of Collaboration with Ministry of Education and Higher Education*

**Doha, Qatar, 4 September 2016:** Qatar Career Fair (QCF), in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, has recommended the development of an integrated career guidance system following the 2016 edition of the Career Guidance Stakeholders Platform. The new system will be based on a joint action plan to strengthen collaboration among career guidance stakeholders in Qatar.

The theme of this year's platform, which took place earlier this year, was 'Evidence-based insights into strategic collaboration among career guidance stakeholders in Qatar'. It was the first event of its kind in Qatar and brought together more than 150 experts in the field of career guidance.

QCF Director, Mr. Abdulla Al-Mansoori, said: "Through this meeting and the subsequent recommendations, we are taking a step forward in empowering Qatari youth and helping young men and women to meet their professional aspirations, which will ultimately support Qatar's economic needs. Through collaboration, we aim to support innovation, knowledge sharing and the exchanging of research findings, while promoting best practices in the field of career guidance."

Experts wrapped up the event with a set of strategic recommendations including the establishment of a national committee comprising all stakeholders in the area of career guidance from various government institutions and private organizations. The committee will be tasked with the development of a strategy to coordinate efforts in the area of career guidance within the framework of Qatar's Education and Training Sector Strategy 2017-2022.

Participants also called for the establishment of a national body to promote career guidance. The body is to develop and implement specific policies within a national joint action framework to ensure the workforce's access to professional development through education and training. Other recommendations include making use of Qatar's advanced IT infrastructure to create and develop an electronic system for career guidance in order to help advance the human development pillar of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV2030).

For the short-term, participants recommended the preparation of booklets about the fundamentals of career guidance. These booklets will be accessible to the public, particularly youth, both in print and online.



Participants also stressed the importance of efforts to support the professional development of all the segments of society throughout the different educational stages, in addition to the organization of events, activities and lectures to raise awareness among students about the importance of guidance in choosing a career path. The recommendations also included the creation and implementation of a coordinated program whereby professional development centers at universities and colleges across Qatar partner to promote a culture of counseling and career guidance among university students.

The Career Guidance Stakeholders Platform was aimed at advancing and supporting career guidance as a powerful means for personal, social, educational and economic success of young Qataris, in particular, and Qatari society, in general. This support is instrumental to the success of Qatar's Education and Training Sector Strategy and the accomplishment of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV2030), particularly the Human Development Pillar.

The event featured an expert panel discussion as well as four breakout sessions. Each session focused on one of the following four issues: development of career guidance policies and strategies, building the organizational capacity of career guidance centers, professionalization of career guidance practices and integration of information technology into career guidance practices.

A number of policy-makers also participated in two roundtable discussion groups. One group discussed issues related to investment in career guidance, while the other group touched on the values associated with the development of life and business skills among Qatari youth.

QCF is a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and the recommendations, which aim to empower the Qatari youth, reflects QCF's commitment to supporting QF in its mission to unlock human potential.

#### **Image Captions:**

**Image 1:** Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Al Mansoori, Director of QCF, speaks at the opening of the Career Guidance Stakeholders Platform.

**Image 2:** Dr Sheikha Bint Jabor Al Thani, former Vice President of Academic Affairs at Qatar University; Mr Abdulla Al-Mulla, Activities and Volunteering Officer at QCF; and Dr Abdulaziz Al-Horr, CEO of Qatar Finance and Business Academy participate in a panel discussion during the plenary session.

**Image 3:** A group of policymakers participate in a roundtable discussion.



## ENDS

### **Qatar Career Fair – Your Future in Your Hands**

Qatar Career Fair is one of the centres operating under the auspices of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. The goal of the centre is to develop and implement a number of programmes and initiatives that aim to spread career awareness and establish a career culture in society. It also seeks to achieve reassurance to Qatari citizens through career development, which would lead to utilising their capabilities and skills in a competent and efficient way in different work sectors of the country. Moreover, it also aims to create an atmosphere of career awareness as well as skills and capabilities development amongst students and graduates by enabling them to wisely plan for their future career paths, especially to select their areas of specialisation and the careers which are most suitable for their qualifications and capabilities.

### **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. 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 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>