

## ROTA VOLUNTEERS TEACH ARABIC TO MIGRANT WORKERS THROUGH ARABIC LITERACY PROGRAM

**Doha, Qatar, February 5, 2017:** Volunteer tutors recently attended a ‘Training for Trainers’ workshop hosted by Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), as part of its Adult Arabic Literacy (RAAL) program, at Qatar Foundation’s (QF) Recreation Center.

Students from the Academic Bridge Program took part in the training course, designed to equip volunteer tutors with the necessary skills to effectively facilitate the RAAL initiative. The workshop covered a range of topics, including ROTA’s literacy curriculum, practical information relating to teaching Arabic, issues facing low-income migrant workers, methods to effectively facilitate adult learning, and community-based learning tools.

The RAAL initiative is a result of a survey carried out by ROTA, which suggested that 55 percent of low-skilled workers did not possess Arabic literacy skills, while 45 percent of workers appeared to have a fair degree of spoken Arabic with no reading or writing skills.

A key feature of the program is that it allows young people in Qatar to take part in an experiential service learning opportunity, developing their skills and knowledge as RAAL literacy Trainers and Champions.

Rasmeya Hassan Al Jamali, Community Development Specialist, National Programs Department, ROTA, said: “The ‘Training for Trainers’ course is an intensive program that ensures our volunteers are qualified to facilitate the RAAL initiative. Our volunteer tutors have a sound understanding of migrant workers’ circumstances and are equipped with the relevant skills to teach adults through our community-based Arabic literacy program.”

Yousef Mohammed Yousef Ali Abdulmalek, volunteer tutor, said: “After completing the training program, I feel confident in my ability to effectively facilitate the Arabic literacy program. It’s an honor to be part of an initiative that’s making continuous learning opportunities available to migrant workers.”

The Arabic literacy program was established to address the learning needs of migrant workers in Qatar and to promote mutual respect between different cultures. Upon completion of the course, migrant workers will be able to speak conversational Arabic and have a greater understanding of Arab culture and Qatari society.

The literacy classes will be taught over a six-week period, from February to April, and will require two to three hours of instruction per week. In April, ROTA will host an event to showcase and celebrate the achievements of both trainers and learners.

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### **About ROTA**

Reach Out To Asia is a non-profit organisation launched in December 2005 in Doha, Qatar, by Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. Operating under the auspices of the Qatar Foundation, ROTA is committed to providing high quality and relevant primary and secondary education, encouraging relationships among communities, creating safe learning environments and restoring education in crisis affected areas across Asia and around the world. ROTA envisions a world, where all young people have access to the education they need in order for them to realise their full potential and shape the development of their communities.

For more information about Reach Out to Asia, please visit: [www.reachouttoasia.org](http://www.reachouttoasia.org)

### **About Qatar Foundation**

#### **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. Qatar Foundation was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Chairperson Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

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>