

## **Doha International Family Institute signs cooperation agreement with the Family Consulting Center for Qatari Marital Preparation Program**

**Doha, Qatar, June 7, 2017** - Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) has signed a cooperation agreement with the Family Consulting Center (FCC), a center operating under Qatar Social Work. According to this agreement, DIFI will conduct an empirical study to assess the preparation program set for people intending to get married, males and females, provided by FCC. The study aims at evaluating and developing this program and upgrading its outcomes.

Through this cooperation, the two parties aim to achieve their common objectives of promoting Qatari families. In addition, this agreement falls within the scope of DIFI's action to support family policies in the State of Qatar by strengthening the knowledge base on Qatari families, evaluating policies and developing programs on families and their members. The preparation program benefiting Qataris intending to marry is considered one of the most important programs aiming at providing them with the basics and know-how required to establish a well-functioning, successful and stable family through the adoption of a preventive approach that contributes to reducing marital conflicts and high divorce rate. The study, which will be conducted by DIFI, to assess the impact of FCC's program on its beneficiaries and the prospects of its development, is the first of its kind to be carried out in this program since its inception in 2003 and is part of the development efforts exerted by FCC.

Ms. Noor Al Malki Al Jehani, DIFI's Executive Director, in her comment on this cooperation agreement said: "We are delighted to partner with the Family Consulting Center, and look forward to supporting the programs it offers for the benefit of the family. The study we are going to carry out, to investigate the impact of the preparation program on its beneficiaries and how to develop it, comes in line with our continued efforts to support the formulation of evidence-based policies and programs, drawing on the best practices. We are fully aware of the importance of this program; therefore, DIFI will implement this study and fund the related research activities."

In his comment on the Agreement, Mr. Rashid Al Dosari, Director of the Family Counseling Center (FCC), said that the "cooperation agreement between the Center and DIFI is an important step in supporting the community outreach services provided by the Center, especially the preparation program offered to people intending to get married. This program marked our first awareness endeavor that introduced the Family Counseling Center to the community for the first time back in 2003."

The Center attaches special importance to the program because of its relation to the youth, the cornerstone of family building. In addition, the preparation program set for people intending to get married is considered one of the mechanisms to reduce divorce rate. This is why FCC seeks to continually develop the program design by adopting an adequate methodology that ensures quality, excellence and professionalism in satisfying the needs of beneficiaries. The Center also aims to translate the results of such development into a practical model to be followed in designing similar programs provided by institutions serving the youth intending to get married. This would ultimately lead to a reduction in divorce rates and the adoption of a proper scientific methodology in design, from the specification of objectives to the assessment of the impact on beneficiaries. Mr. Al-Dosari added that cooperation between the two entities would be fruitful in terms of community partnership and its key role in the process of sustainable development of the community. This cooperation is an important convergence point conducive to reaching the highest level of community awareness and enhancing family unity and stability in society, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and Qatar National Development Strategy.

END

### **Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)**

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), was established in 2006. The Institute works to strengthen the family through the development and dissemination of high quality research on Arab families, encouraging knowledge exchange on issues relevant to the family and making the family a priority to policy makers through advocacy and outreach at the national, regional and international levels. Among the Institute's most important initiatives are the Annual Conference on the Family; and the OSRA Research Grant in collaboration with the Qatar National Research Fund, an annual research grant which encourages research related to the Arab family and family policy. The Institute has special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).