

Contact: Tammy Macneil, PR Officer
E-mail: tmacneil@qf.org.qa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 19, 2013

4 Qatar Academy students invited to attend gifted learning camp in Malaysia

Sharing the common goal of developing the potential and talents of its brightest students was what brought together PERMATApintar and Qatar Academy together. The Malaysian-based organization holds the annual CTY School Holiday Camp, a joint venture between Johns Hopkins University (JHU) and the National University of Malaysia with support from the Malaysian Prime Minister's office.

This year Qatar Academy students Abdulaziz Al Marri, Al Jazi Al Thani, Usama Usman and Sahana Kanabar will be participating in the camp scheduled this December. Their participation came into fruition largely in part by the efforts of Qatar Foundation Pre-University Education division, in particular Executive Director Ms. Buthaina Al Nuaimi. Ms. Al Nuaimi shares that when PERMATApintar Director Dr. Noriah Mohd Ishak initially reached out to them a year ago, she saw that the center's programs perfectly aligns with that of Qatar Academy's own gifted and talented program, TAP.

PERMATApintar, which actually means Little Gems, was designed for talented students to experience academic enrichment to further push their potential. This purpose is parallel to QA's TAP which was launched in 2009 to support students with Talents, in Aptitude, Achievement, Creativity, Leadership and Potential.

Program Coordinator Barbara Reynolds shares that for the last four years, TAP has been sending highly able students to C-MITES, a summer camp for talented elementary and middle school students based in Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. It was this familiarity with student learning enrichment programs in addition to the school's ongoing discussion with JHU Center for Talented Youth Director Simeon Brodsky that helped seal the deal for this new endeavor.

On a recent trip to QA, PERMATApintar representatives Dr. Ishak, Dr. Mohd Arif Ismail and Dr. Nor Sakinah toured the school's facilities and met with the parents of the selected students. The visit allowed them to see firsthand the school's International Baccalaureate programs in action, integrating local culture into its international curriculum.

For QA Director Dr. Eric Sands, the upcoming trip underscores the significance of creating meaningful partnerships with learning institutions like the esteemed JHU and PERMATApintar who are as committed to advancing educational excellence as QA. Through the support of QF, he shares, this collaboration will provide students with educational opportunities that challenge their potential and broaden their international mindedness. Most importantly, the experience allows the development of their leadership capabilities in becoming the future leaders and movers of their own countries.