



عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation

Academic Bridge Program برنامج الجسر الأكاديمي

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ABP Celebrates Qatar National Day

Doha, December 4, 2014 –Students from Qatar Foundation’s Academic Bridge Program (ABP) celebrated National Day with traditional dances, modern technology, some poetry, and a sea of burgundy flags. The ABP held the event early so that students could celebrate this important occasion and express their patriotism before they begin semester examinations on December 10. Students begin winter break on December 16, 2014.

The celebrations started with an introductory welcome by ABP student Ibtisam Al-Kuwari followed by Quran recitation from ABP students Jaber Al Tamimi.

Then, Ms. Moza Al Boainain, ABP Assistant Director for Student Services, began her comments by extending warm congratulations and blessings, on behalf of the Academic Bridge Program, to His Highness the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, to His Highness The Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and the Qatari people on the occasion of the National Day of their beloved country, Qatar. Ms. Moza then went on to request that,

“God Almighty perpetuate the blessing of safety, security, splendor and well-being and that God protect the Emir of Qatar, and perpetuate the grace of health and wellness on him.”

She continued,

The National Day is a dear occasion that recurs each year in which we follow the march of the giant renaissance our country is experiencing in all fields and which made Qatar join, in record time, the ranks of the well developed countries....

The National Day pride requires that we comply with the message of our national heroes who underwent severe hardship and paid a heavy price for the sake of the pride of this nation. Our loyalty for the founder of this glory requires us to move forward in making



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ourselves, our institutions and universities beacons of education and righteousness and dedicated to the circulation of goodness among all human beings.

This also requires the embodiment of pride in individual and collective responsibility at its peak because any country will only develop when its people are committed to its values and collaborate to achieve their country's goals.

We will be able to achieve our national goals insha' Allah because the leadership and people work together in harmony and cooperation. We are aware of our local, Arab, Islamic and international responsibilities since the time of Sheikh Jassim, the founder, who started a bright era for the State of Qatar.

The event was organized by the ABP Student Services department in collaboration with the ABP Student Association and a number of enthusiastic student volunteers. Faculty, staff and ABP students flocked to experience the traditional Qatari setting. The festivities included a poetry recitation by ABP alumnus and Texas A&M freshman, Suhaim Al-Qarni; a brief history of the State of Qatar presented by ABP student and Student Association President Wadad Al-Jassim; and the traditional Arda (sword dance) performed by ABP students.

New this year was a live Twitter feed displayed on a huge monitor. It allowed students to interact with one another during the event. They could tweet messages of congratulations and pass along best wishes to others whether they were in attendance or following online. Such technology allowed more individuals to participate directly in the celebration.

Among the other attractions was a traditional *sadu* tent furnished with traditional Qatari furniture, traditional Qatari coffee, some traditional Qatari dishes, henna painting, a bouncy castle, a classic car show, and the traditional game of "keeram." Patrons even brought a number of traditional animals such as Arabian horses, camels, and at least one falcon.

Keywords: ACADEMIC BRIDGE PROGRAM, ABP, QATAR FOUNDATION, EDUCATION CITY, QATAR NATIONAL DAY, PATRIOTISM, LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

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About the Academic Bridge Program

The [Academic Bridge Program](#) (ABP) is a center of [Qatar Foundation](#). The mission of the ABP is to provide high school graduates of Qatari high schools (and other similar schools) who meet the admission requirements with the academic and personal skills for success in reputable English language universities around the world, with special emphasis on preparing students for the universities at Qatar Foundation. Since the launch of the ABP in 2001, the program has developed a model curriculum including English, math, science, and computer skills, combined with a wide range of other activities such as debate, Model United Nations, robotics, sports teams, and student government experience. The ABP is fully accredited by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) in the United States. This makes it easier for ABP graduates to fast track into universities in the United States without a university foundation year.