

ROTA volunteers share their experiences From Nepal

Doha, Qatar, October 2013: Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), Qatar's leading non-profit organization, held a Reflection Event at Qatar Foundation's Recreation Centre on 28th October 2013 for adult professional volunteers who participated in a recent volunteer trip to Nepal to acknowledge their efforts and reflect on their collective experience during the trip.

Eighteen adult professionals from Qatar Foundation, Vodafone Qatar and elsewhere, took part in the event which showcased video and photos from the 10-day ROTA-organized trip to Nepal from 19 to 28 September. Volunteers shared their individual experiences and lessons learned describing how the trip increased their interest in offering and giving, and helped them better understand the challenges that students face in rural communities in Nepal.

Congratulating the volunteers, ROTA Executive Director Essa Al Mannai said: *"I would like to thank you for playing a role in fulfilling our goal of 'education for all'. The impact that you have left on the local students in Nepal will be felt for many years to come"*. He continued: *"Through trips to Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia and Cambodia, ROTA has created a movement of volunteers and responsible global citizens within Qatar who make a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of communities across Asia."*

With the generous financial assistance from Vodafone Qatar and in partnership with in-country partner, Action Aid International, ROTA also provided a computer lab for the school in which students and teachers were taught by volunteers' ways to utilize ICT for Education.

During the Trip, volunteers facilitated 5 hours of classes at the "Moti" Secondary School in Tikapur for 5 days for students in subjects such as Social Studies, English Language, Cultural Exchange, Environmental Awareness and Sport..



“Spending a week at the school and seeing the humble conditions that the teachers have to teach in and the students learn in definitely opened my perspective” ROTA volunteer Ghalia Farzat said. “No matter what you prepare beforehand, until you get to the school, you then realize what is needed especially when there are so many kids. What their educational levels are and what is needed to help them” she added.

“ROTA thanks the many volunteers who continue to give their time, talent and skills, often in difficult circumstances, to promote education and development in Qatar and abroad. They are an inspiration to us all,” said Essa Al Mannai.

At the Reflection Event, volunteers expressed their sincere gratitude to ROTA for organizing such a life-changing experience for all involved. Executive Director, Mr. Essa Al Mannai, encouraged them all to maintain their interest in volunteering and get involved in local community-based ROTA initiatives.

“ROTA staff did a wonderful job preparing us before we went. A lot of work goes into planning to make sure to meet the needs of the children at the school, the volunteers going and all the other people involved to make the trip a success” said Fahad Al-Saiari, a Vodafone Qatar volunteer.

For more information about Reach Out To Asia’s projects in Nepal and 10 other Asian countries, visit www.reachouttoasia.org or the ROTA Facebook page, www.facebook.com/reachouttoasia

For More information about Vodafone Qatar and its other corporate social responsibility projects, please visit the Vodafone Better World facebook page: [http://www.facebook.com/VFQABetterWorld](https://www.facebook.com/VFQABetterWorld)

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About ROTA

Reach Out To Asia is a non-profit organization 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 realize their full potential and shape the development of their communities.

Further information on Reach Out To Asia can be found at:
www.reachouttoasia.org

About Qatar Foundation

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people. The headquarters of Qatar Foundation are located within its flagship project, Education City. A fourteen million square-metre campus, Education City is home to numerous progressive learning institutions and centers of research, including branch campuses of six of the world's leading universities, plus a cutting-edge science and technology park. Qatar Foundation also works to enhance the quality of life in Qatar by investing in 'Education, Science and Technology and Community Health and Development'.