



مكتبة قطر الوطنية

QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY

عضو في مؤسسة قطر

Member of Qatar Foundation

## FAMILIES ENJOY RICH CULTURAL ARABIC HERITAGE DURING QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY'S CHILDREN'S BOOK LAUNCH

*'The Blue Jackal' Book Launch Attended By More Than 150 Children And Their Families*

**Doha, Qatar, 28 June 2014:** Qatar National Library, (QNL) in collaboration with Occidental Petroleum of Qatar Ltd. (Oxy Qatar) recently welcomed more than 150 children and their families to 'The Blue Jackal' book launch. The event, which took place last week, reflects QNL's commitment to keeping local traditions alive and encouraging young people to preserve Qatar's heritage.

Appealing to children, the story of 'The Blue Jackal' and the 17 other fables written by Qatar-based author Frances Gillespie have been inspired by the rich cultural heritage from all over the Muslim world.

The book launch featured a variety of activities including recitals of selected stories from the book, colouring activities and distributing free autographed copies of the book to the participating audience. Parents gathered at the event expressed their deep admiration for QNL in organising such useful and entertaining activities aimed at children.

The event was held at Hamad bin Khalifa University Student Center within Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's Education City. It was organised to promote local culture among Qatar's youth, encouraging them to read and share knowledge in order to preserve Qatar's heritage for future generations.

Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of QNL, said, "Participants were extremely impressed with our fun-filled book launch of 'The Blue Jackal'. Many also expressed the joy of bringing young people and adults together through the cultural works. As a result of this positive response, QNL is certainly planning to host similar educational and entertaining events in the future."

Stephen Kelly, President and General Manager of Oxy Qatar, commented in his opening speech: "We are very pleased to collaborate with Qatar National Library in organizing this event and the launching of 'The Blue Jackal and Other Tales from Islamic Lands'. Oxy proudly dedicates this book to the children of Qatar. We hope the re-told fables and original illustrations in 'The Blue Jackal and Other Tales From Islamic Lands' will encourage reading and learning. All of us at Oxy believe this beautiful book will be enjoyable and inspiring to everyone who reads it."

In this context, Frances Gillespie, author of the book, said: "I would like to express my appreciation to Oxy Qatar for sponsoring this publication and to both Oxy and Qatar National Library for their efforts in planning and organizing the event. I am delighted to see so many children and their families present."

Gillespie has worked in Qatar as a teacher, environmental consultant and freelance journalist. She began authoring books about Qatar in 2000. In recent years, she concentrated on publications for young readers about Qatar and the Arabian Gulf including 'Qatar Nature Explorer'; a series of six colourful hardback books about Qatar. She is also the author of the best-selling book 'Discovering Qatar', which has been re-printed three times since its launch in 2006.

QNL, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is currently offering free online access to a vast collection of online resources including children's books, illustrated books, text reading materials, magazines, DVDs and audio books and many others. Anyone who lives in



Qatar and has a valid Qatari ID/Residence Permit is eligible for free library registration. To register, please visit [www.qnl.qa](http://www.qnl.qa) and to access the complete list of online resources, please visit <http://www.qnl.qa/find-answers/online-resources>.

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#### Qatar National Library – Bridging with knowledge Qatar’s Heritage and Future

Qatar National Library (QNL) is a non-profit organization under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). QNL is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon-based economy to knowledge-based economy by providing resources to students, researchers and the community in Qatar. It was announced in November 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNL carries out its mission through three functions: National Library, University and Research Library, and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age. The National Library function collects and provides access to global knowledge relevant to Qatar and the region. It also collects, preserves, and provides access to heritage content and materials about Qatar and the region. The University and Research Library function supports education and research at all levels by providing printed and digital library materials for students and researchers. Metropolitan Public Library delivers library services and information for everyone to enjoy reading, meet people, and become information literate.

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