

Qatar Academy Al Wakra hosts highly beneficial workshop for teachers of English as a second language

14 May 2013 (Doha, Qatar): Qatar Academy Al Wakra, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, recently hosted the fourth edition of its workshop series designed to enhance the teaching of English as a second language. Held at the Academy, more than 80 teachers from 25 independent and private schools nationwide attended.

Melissa De Leeuw and Meredith Hedrick, both experienced teacher trainers specialising in English as a second language. In addition to the teaching strategies that were revealed during the series' third workshop in March, two new highly-effective teaching strategies were recommended to this gathering's participants.

The first called 'Foldables', is a three-dimensional, interactive organising tool that helps students to retain information on various subject matters. 'The Four Square Writing strategy' was also presented as a simple and efficient way for students to plan their writing tasks.

The workshop also provided beneficial advice and guidance with the aim of ensuring that non-native English speakers are taught by highly-qualified instructors. Participants' feedback has been overwhelming positive. A teacher who attended the workshop explained her satisfaction, stating, "I have been teaching for 34 years. Teaching writing to speakers and non-speakers of English is not easy. The information that Qatar Academy shared with the group has given me a new lease on teaching. I can't wait to get into class and teach writing using these new methods. I have already started drafting new teaching material."

These workshops reflect Qatar Academy's recognition of the value of teacher training as a means to enhance their own experience in the classroom and that of their students. The series of workshops will help to further the careers of the teachers and improve knowledge transfer to non-native English speaking students.

Bedriyah Itani, Qatar Academy Al Wakra Principal commented, "English is the language through which the world communicates. It is important that we continue to adopt new and effective teaching methods to ensure that our students make sustained progress towards set standards in English,"

"At Qatar Academy Al Wakra, we consistently strive to organise events aimed at developing teaching methods. We believe that students are tomorrow's leaders, which is why we are working to foster a generation that is well-educated and informed."

The workshop series is sponsored by the United States Embassy in Doha in an effort to support local schools' determination to develop sound English language programmes for youth. In an effort to enhance language teaching credentials, those who attend the workshops also receive a U.S. Embassy Certificate of Achievement.

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