

ROTA Shows Appreciation For learn Sponsors, Partners And Volunteers

Doha, Qatar, 11 September 2013: Following the success of the 20th Annual iEARN (International Education and Resource Network) International Conference and 17th Youth Summit, Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), Qatar's pioneering not-for-profit educational organization hosted an Appreciation Night to acknowledge the contribution made by volunteers, sponsors, staff and supporters towards making the event an unprecedented success.

The Appreciation Night took place on Tuesday the 10th of September 2013, at Qatar Foundation Student Center and was graced by the attendance of volunteers, sponsors, and partners representatives.

Qatar became the first country in the Gulf to host this conference since it began in 1994. The conference took place at Qatar National Convention Center from 1-6 July. The Supreme Education Council was the official ROTA partner of the iEARN conference, while RasGas was the Gold Sponsor and Qatar Vinyl Company, the Bronze sponsor.

At this year's annual iEARN International Conference, around 700 teachers, students and specialists in information technology from more than 50 countries, as well as a number of representatives of various media organizations from all over the world came to Qatar to share and learn how technology is being used in the classrooms.

Appreciating the efforts of sponsors, volunteers and partners, Essa Al Mannai Executive Director at ROTA said, *"On behalf of ROTA, I want to express our sincere thanks for the outstanding efforts of all partners, donors, supporters and volunteers who worked hard to ensure the iEARN conference was a success and to extend my sincere appreciation to all the volunteers who participated and demonstrated tireless commitment in contributing to the success of the event."*

“The success of iEARN would not have been possible without your assistance and each of you should be proud of your contribution. It has been a great privilege to have you by our side and we really appreciate your contribution to our mission,” added Essa Al Mannai.

The theme of this year’s conference was ‘ICT for Education: Reaching Out, Building Bridges’, and focused on the use of technologies in education to reach out, learn and build a better world together.

Topics such as environment, cultural diversity and film in education were also taken up at the conference. Educators and students attended plenary sessions and a variety of workshops to further develop their knowledge and skills, share experiences, discover innovative ways to use ICTs, and connect with their peers across the world.

“At ROTA, we have always believed strongly in the use of technology to develop education and promote global collaboration and debates. The iEARN conference was a perfect platform that allowed Qatar to showcase educational technology activities, school partnerships, new Internet-based professional development tools and the collaborative efforts of youth and educators from across the world,” said Essa Al Mannai.

“We are proud to have hosted the iEARN conference, as we believe that it supported our mission and opened the floor for exchange of ideas between educators and students. iEARN offered us the rare opportunity to step into innovative uses of technologies, and thereby facilitate the integration of global technologies into local knowledge.”

In Qatar, Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) is the official representative of the iEARN program. iEARN-Qatar provides opportunities for students and teachers to collaborate through the network with other iEARN communities around the world. Educators have the opportunity to join the ROTA Knowledge Network and benefit from professional development to further develop their professional skills and implement meaningful online projects supporting their teaching.

Since its launch in 2008, the program has reached 95 schools, 411 teachers have been trained and 1,442 students have actively participated in projects. *“By hosting the 2013 iEARN Annual Conference, iEARN-Qatar created thought-provoking and information-sharing occasions for all iEARNers as well as educators for a better quality of education”* added Essa Al Mannai.

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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'