

Press Release
2 October

ROTA inaugurates new school in Pakistan

Doha, Qatar, 2 October 2013: Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), Qatar's leading educational not-for-profit organization and CARE International, recently inaugurated a new school bringing hope of a better future for the children of Swat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan.

Working with CARE International, ROTA supports Revitalizing Education and Building Peace in Post Conflict and Flood Affected Swat Valley of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan, which provides quality education for children and youth in 42 schools in SWAT Valley, including increasing children's leadership skills and social cohesion through extracurricular sports activities.

Featuring 9 classrooms, a hall and a science laboratory, construction work began in 2011 and was completed in August 2013. In addition to the 596 pupils who will continue their education in the newly constructed building, the school employs 7 fully qualified teachers.

Taking part in the inauguration ceremony were ROTA representative Mr. Naseer Iqbal, International Programs Specialist, Mr. Waleed Rauf Country Director, CARE International Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Amad Executive Director **IDEA**, Miss Nagina Member Provincial Assembly Malakand Division, Mr. Mukhtar Pasha Project Manager CARE International Pakistan, PTC members and notable community members.

In the last few years, Pakistan has run into one humanitarian crisis after another: the 2005 earthquake in North West Frontier Province, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, human internal displacement in the aftermath of military operation in Swat and other tribal in 2009, and more recently, intense floods have hit the country.

ROTA has reacted almost immediately to increase access to educational facilities, improve the quality of education and to provide psychosocial support. Together with partners, volunteers, and local communities, ROTA has been working to ensure that people affected have continuous access to relevant and high-quality primary and secondary education.

“ROTA is proud to provide new educational facilities for the children of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Children’s right to education must be a priority, especially in communities where education is key to the future”, said ROTA Executive Director Mr. Essa Al Mannai. “We now have a beautiful building, a school where children will want to work hard and study, a school supported by teachers with abilities. Government Higher Secondary School Kishawara has all the qualities necessary to make it a successful school.”

Inauguration of Government Higher Secondary School Kishawara represents the latest milestone in ROTA’s ambitious educational and community development work in the Swat Valley. In total, ROTA is committed to reconstructing two Secondary Schools, rehabilitating 40 primary, middle and secondary schools, implementing a teacher training program for 200 teachers and operating youth development initiatives through sports.

“ROTA understands that the students need a protective learning environment with psychosocial support to enable them to focus on their studies for the long-term benefit of the students and the community. This new school is a testament of ROTA’s strategy to provide access to educational facilities and to improve the quality of education for its beneficiaries,” added Mr. Essa Al Mannai.

Furthermore, under the same project, the ROTA INSPIRE football team once again won the final match at the 2nd district level sports festival.

INSPIRE is a project for children and youth in 42 schools in SWAT Valley, Pakistan, implemented in partnership with CARE International. A key element of the 3-year project focuses on increasing social cohesion through youth development using sports activities.

“We are delighted at the success of our football team. We have always advocated that sports have the potential for producing positive outcomes in educational and non-educational settings for children and youth. Sport has also been shown to serve as a mechanism for the transmission of values, knowledge, and norms in creating social harmony,” said Al Mannai.

“The potential for sports to contribute significantly to community building and social cohesion is strongly recognized by ROTA, and is reflected in a range of our strategies as an integral aspect of all community-based and location-based programs.”

It is worth mentioning that ROTA along with financial assistance of different international donors is in the reconstruction process of few sports grounds that have been made partially functional. However, further interventions are needed to restore the sport activities to bring back the youth, who were attracted by the weaponry propaganda, and resume educational and recreational activities for a better future.

For more information about Reach Out To Asia’s projects in Pakistan, visit www.reachouttoasia.org or the ROTA Facebook page, www.facebook.com/reachouttoasia.

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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'.