

Press Release

21st September 2013

ROTA volunteers' trip to Nepal Builds schools' capacities

Doha, Qatar, 21 September 2013: Qatar's pioneering non-profit educational organization; Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), is fostering the spirit of volunteerism in Qatar by partnering with Qatar Foundation to send 24 volunteers on a 10-day visit to a ROTA Project in Nepal that supports the role of schools in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Supported by Vodafone Qatar, the trip offers a unique service opportunity for the volunteers to explore and expand their skills.

Working in 22 villages in the Kailali District of western Nepal, the Vodafone Qatar-Rota partnership, through the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project, has improved the lives of thousands of students and teachers in many schools since the mission started in 2010.

Departing Doha on 19th September, the ROTA volunteers will participate in a focused activity program featuring student-led activities in non-formal centers of education, and deliver a series of workshops for the Nepali students. During the Trip, volunteers will also support the Saraswari Primary School in Dhangardi in the far western Kailali Region of Nepal by facilitating classes for over **XX** students in subjects such as Art, English, Qatari Culture, Environmental Awareness and Sport.

Volunteers will assist Nepali children with local translators in the classes. There will be around 6 contact work hours per day followed by organized cultural activities that focus on the team building within the local community.

“ROTA’s international volunteer trips provide unique opportunities for Qatar-based volunteers to be exposed to the incredible ROTA contribution around Asia and actually get involved in the hand-on work on the ground. Volunteers commit themselves to an exhausting program of activities over the trip but, in the end, enjoy gaining from an immensely rewarding and fulfilling experience,” said ROTA National Program Director, Mohammed Al Saleh.

The ROTA Volunteer Program has been taking volunteers from secondary schools and universities as well as adult professionals on life-changing experiences to countries around Asia for eight years in a row, with the aim to support multiple projects that empower ROTA’s mission of providing high quality and relevant primary and secondary education, encourage relationships among communities, create safe learning environments and restore education in affected areas across Asia and around the world.

“This is my first volunteer experience with ROTA”, says XXX, one of the volunteers. “ I look forward to more similar activities. Thank you ROTA for granting us the privilege of experiencing in depth another part of the world and different types of people with all their concerns, dreams, smiles, tears and ambitions. I am confident that after such a volunteer trip, we will end up discovering the true essences of life; sharing and giving.”

Another volunteer XXX said, *“I have always wanted to play my part in the charitable service. No just because I think it is important but because it is something I enjoy. I feel honored to participate in such visit organized by ROTA. I am sure this tour will be a rewarding experience and I will get to do many things I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to do otherwise.””*

After returning from Nepal, the volunteers and supporters will be invited to a Reflection Event where they will come together to discuss and share their Nepal experience with others.



In addition, Qatar Foundation and ROTA will seek to maintain the momentum of their partnership by exploring opportunities to publicize the volunteers' trip reflections to their peers and the wider community, as well as advocating for the needs of students in Nepal through Qatar-based activities.

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

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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'