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**His Excellency Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim bin Faisal Al-Thani speaks to Texas A&M at Qatar students during Dean's Leadership Series talk**

Texas A&M University at Qatar hosted H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim bin Faisal Al-Thani, founder and chairman of Al Faisal Holding, during a Dean's Leadership Series lecture 2 March in the branch campus' building in Education City.

During his talk, H.E. Sheikh Faisal praised the branch campus' mission in contributing to the development goals of the State of Qatar by educating exemplary engineers. He said, "Having a degree, getting an education in Qatar is better than getting one abroad. Here, you are actively participating in the culture and building connections that will serve you in your professional life. Upon graduation, you are a step ahead to build a career and you also have the knowledge to build your country better than how you found it." His closing words of wisdom were to be content with what you have in order to build a better, sustainable future and seek out a virtuous circle of friends from whom you can benefit and grow from, and engage in lifelong learning with.

Texas A&M at Qatar dean Dr. César O. Malavé said, "Leadership is a core value instilled in every student at Texas A&M University, and His Excellence is an inspirational business and cultural leader in Qatar. We are honored to have him share his experience and wisdom with our students, who will be the next generation of engineering leaders in Qatar."

Born in Al Markhiya in 1948, H.E. Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim bin Faisal Al-Thani is one of Qatar's most successful businessmen and has played a significant role in the development of the business sector in Qatar. The story of Al Faisal Holding's growth and development reflects the same entrepreneurial vision, drive and innovative thinking that has seen the transformation of Qatar into one of the world's strongest and fastest growing economies. Originally created with modest start-up capital in 1964 as a small, local trading company, founder and chairman H.E. Sheikh Faisal has built that business over the past five decades into one of Qatar's largest privately held diversified industry groups with operations that continue to grow across local, regional and international markets.

Playing its part in the evolution of a broad, knowledge-based economy in Qatar, the Group has earned a strong reputation for anticipating and meeting the growing demand for goods and services of the highest quality as the country's needs and prosperity have developed, in many cases attracting significant foreign direct investment in the process. The Group's strategy focuses on sustained, profitable growth through diversification by identifying, evaluating and exploiting complementary market opportunities, both organically and in collaboration with world-class, industry-leading partners. Today, its operations encompass a wide range of sectors, including real estate, hospitality, industrial manufacturing, trading, services, transport, entertainment, education and sport, together with a range of investments that include its majority interest in Aamal Company Q.S. C, one of the fastest growing companies listed on the Qatar Exchange, operating 24 branches and subsidiaries with a particular focus on industrial manufacturing.

In the past decade, the expansion of its hospitality and leisure business through the Al Rayan Tourism & Investment Company (ARTIC) — a wholly owned subsidiary engaged in real estate development, acquisition and leasing with a primary focus on the hospitality sector and hospitality-related services both in Qatar and overseas — has been a particular recent focus for the Group, which is in the course of building a high-quality hotel portfolio in prime city locations. ARTI'sC current portfolio comprises more than 25 hotels located across MENA, Europe and America.

H.E. Sheikh Faisal has also pioneered the establishment of a heritage venue, the Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum, with the objective of reviving public interest and appreciation of local culture. This window to the beauty and splendor of the past of Qatar, and the Islamic world has been opened for people from all walks of life to view and experience.

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#### About Texas A&M University at Qatar

Texas A&M University, recognized as having one of the premier engineering programs in the world, has offered undergraduate degrees in chemical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering and petroleum engineering at Qatar Foundation's Education City campus since 2003, and graduate degrees in chemical engineering since fall 2011. Texas A&M at Qatar has awarded more than 750 degrees since 2007. In addition to engineering courses, Texas A&M at Qatar provides classes in science, mathematics, liberal arts and the humanities. All four of the engineering programs offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. The curricula offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are materially the same as those offered at the main campus in College Station, Texas, and the courses in Doha are taught in English in a co-educational setting. The reputation for excellence is the same, as is the commitment to equip engineers to lead the next generation of engineering advancement. Faculty from around the world are attracted to Texas A&M at Qatar to provide this educational experience and to participate in research activities now valued at more than \$236.4 million, and that address issues important to the State of Qatar. Visit [www.qatar.tamu.edu](http://www.qatar.tamu.edu).

