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QCDC WRAPS UP THIRD EDITION OF CAREER COUNSELORS TRAINING PROGRAM

Five-Day Joint Initiative between QCDC and U.S. Embassy in Qatar, in Collaboration with Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Doha, Qatar, May 14, 2017: Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC) has successfully wrapped up the third edition of its Career Counselors Training Program. The annual event, organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Qatar, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, was tailored this year to provide level-specific training to independent school counselors.

More than 23 newcomers participated in beginner sessions on how best to guide young students to make informed academic and career decisions, while 33 experienced counselors joined discussions on issues such as the impact of counselor training programs and efforts to professionalize career guidance practices. A number of key presentations were open to both beginner and experienced participants.

Margo McCoy, a U.S. licensed professional counselor, and Patrick Desbarats, Head of the Counseling and College Placement at the American School of Doha (ASD), delivered more than 15 presentations over a five-day period on topics ranging from post-secondary school options for students, to identifying the pillars of career and educational counseling.

Mr. Abdullah Al Mansoori, Director of QCDC, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), said the latest edition of the program was designed to capitalize on its success in previous years.

“By tailoring sessions to match school counselors’ level of experience, QCDC sought to ensure that all participants gained the most from taking part in this important program, enabling them to empower Qatari youth to better serve the nation,” Al Mansoori said.

Echoing Mr. Al Mansoori, Mrs. Noor Al-Maadheed, Head of Academic Counseling, Department of Educational Supervision at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, highlighted the workshop’s contribution to unlocking human potential among academic counselors.

“The program lays the foundations for the promotion of a career guidance culture in Qatar. It aims to provide counselors with the necessary knowledge to guide students into choosing the right career path that will ultimately enable the local students to contribute to the creation of a sustainable, competitive, and diversified economy in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030,” Mrs. Al-Maadheed said.

“I would like to thank QCDC and the U.S. Embassy in Qatar for their efforts in organizing this program and hope for further collaboration in the coming years.”



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Nahid Lawson, Education Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Qatar, said: “We are very pleased that for the third consecutive year we were able to collaborate with QCDC and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to provide much-needed training for school counselors. Our trainer, Margo McCoy, is an expert in her field with many years of experience in counseling and training. It is our hope that school counselors are able to implement the knowledge and practical tips learnt this week at their schools so we have better prepared students joining colleges in Qatar or overseas.”

Ms. McCoy, who has played a key role in delivering the program over the past three years, said she was most impressed with the genuine desire of the counselors in Qatar to serve their students and assist them in making informed decisions that will shape their future as they move towards the college admission process.

For more information about its programs and activities, please visit the QCDC website:

www.qcdc.org.qa.

Image Captions:

Image 1: Participants take part in a group activity during the recent QCDC Career Counselors Training Program.

Image 2: A participant receives his completion certificate from Effrosyni Parampota, Senior Activities and Volunteerism Officer at QCDC; Nahid Lawson, Education Advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Qatar; and Fady Allaham, Educational Consultant in the Department of Educational Supervision at the Office of the Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Affairs.

Image 3: Margo McCoy, a U.S. licensed professional counselor, delivering a training session during the recent QCDC Career Counselors Training Program.

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Qatar Career Development Center - Your Future in Your Hands

Qatar Career Development Center (QCDC), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, formerly known as Qatar Career Fair (QCF), aims to be the country’s beacon



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for career guidance, preparing the nation's young human capital to respond to the requirements of the QNV 2030, by instilling career guidance within Qatar's socio-economic culture.

QCDC supports Qatari capacity building and empowers youth to better plan their career paths in line with their potential and the future needs of Qatar's labour market. It also equips parents and career guidance and development practitioners with career guidance knowledge and information needed so they may best advise and guide their children and students.

QCDC also aims to enrich and support career guidance policy making and practices by contributing to quality career literature, insights and consulting as well as offering high quality career services by professional experts.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global research and development challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>