Qatar Leadership Conference helps nurture leaders from a young age

**DEVELOPMENT** NU-Q plays a big role in an inspirational event targeted towards students

**THIMUN** Qatar, in collaboration with Northwestern University-Qatar (NU-Q), a partner university of Qatar Foundation (QF), recently held its fourth annual Qatar Leadership Conference (QLC) at the Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC).

The event, which saw 622 students from 61 countries participating, is touted as one of the biggest Model United Nations (MUN) conferences. Qatar is one of only three destinations in the world that hosts the THIMUN conferences, Singapore and The Hague being the other two.

The 2015 edition of the Leadership Conference consisted of more than 100 workshops that focused on developing skills in MUN, leadership, entrepreneurship, and film and media studies. As the region's premier networking opportunity, the QLC offered students a chance to learn essential leadership skills advantageous to their future ambitions.

I believe the programs that we are running are probably this country's greatest leadership incubator; because a lot of times when we talk about leadership, we talk of university students, but this is leadership at even a younger age.” Lisa Martin, Head of THIMUN Qatar, said.

The Qatar MUN and Media Leadership Conference has two main objectives: To provide high school students and teachers with quality workshops to equip them with the leadership skills and tools to run successful MUN and Media studies programs; and to provide an annual meeting place for MUN and Media leaders to exchange ideas and develop partnerships.

As someone who has already attended the conference twice, Hannah Akhtar, a Grade 12 student at Qatar Academy (QA) Doha, noted that she learned a lot at her first QLC experience.

“QLC was a great learning experience for me, and not a conference in which I had to talk in front of a large group of people,” she said. “I decided to make the most of the opportunity and attend as many and different sessions as I could.” Today she heads the press office of THIMUN Qatar.

For first-timer Soomin Chung, a Grade 11 student at the American School of Doha, the QLC was very motivating. She said: “This was my first conference, and I was very inspired. I feel like I’m a minuscule part of this community, and I am pondering ways to contribute more to this community because these inspiring speakers really make me feel like I can do more.”

The film and media stream at QLC gave students the chance to bring important aspects of story telling to the forefront. Social media took center stage at some media workshops.

“It’s important for students to learn to amplify their message,” said Emily Wilson, Manager of Community Relations at QF. “When you are speaking to the world that hosts the THIMUN conference, it’s one of only three destinations in the world that hosts the MUN conferences, Singapore and The Hague being the other two.

The conference also provided training for teachers.

Rob Pendlebury, a teacher at QA Sidra, said: “My colleague and I are both very new to MUN, and we have done some training that we found to be very informative, and it’s really going to help us develop our program. Our school is very new, and therefore we don’t have anyone to do that kind of in-house training, so something like this is brilliant.”

**Unique QScience glossary will bridge language gap**

**LEARNING** Arabic-speaking students are being supported in learning and applying scientific terms through a unique glossary produced within Qatar Foundation (QF) that will help to promote a research culture in Qatar by bridging the language gap.

English-Arabic Biological Terms: A Glossary for Academic Success, published by QScience.com, the online platform of Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation (BQF), a member of QF, includes the Arabic equivalents of the most commonly-used English words in undergraduate biology programs, making use of similarities between Latin – from which much English scientific terminology derives – and Arabic.

The book’s objective is to allow Arabic-speaking students to connect meanings, confidently use scientific terms in Arabic as well as English, and expand their bilingual vocabulary while broadening their understanding of scientific concepts.

Co-authored by Dr Rachid Bendris and Dr Ghizlane Bendris, who teach at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, a QF partner university, it also divides parts of English words into their roots, and uses color coding to highlight specific elements and origins of words.

Describing the glossary as a means of linking the Arabic language to the Latin roots and modern English usages of many biological terms, Christopher Leonard, Editorial Director, QScience.com, said: “Due to its groundbreaking layout, we believe Arabic students will benefit enormously from this format, and we hope to extend the glossaries to other subject areas soon.”

**QF Qatar Foundation’s film tells the story of UCL Qatar Collaborations**

The story of an international collaboration involving UCL Qatar, a Qatar Foundation partner university, into how exhibitions can help research catch the public imagination is being told through a recently launched short film.

The production, ‘Research in Translation’, provides insight into the goals of the Research in Translation (RiT) project – a translation partnership university, into how exhibitions can help research catch the public imagination is being told through a recently launched short film.

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