

OCTOBER 2016

QATAR CAREER FAIR
معرض قطر المهني

NEWSLETTER

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مستقبلك بين يديك
YOUR FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS

عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



ABDULLA A. AL MANSOORI,
Director, Qatar Career Fair

In a few months, Qatar Career Fair will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary; 10 years that culminated with success to achieve our mission in spreading career awareness, establishing a career culture in society, and developing the skills and abilities of young Qataris. Thanks to the efforts and the hard work strived by the Qatar Career Fair team, we are now closer to achieving our mission as well as our firm commitment to advancing Qatar Foundation's mission of unlocking human potential and supporting our nation in its transition toward a knowledge-based economy. Our unwavering commitment to drive our mission forward and expand our reach among Qatar's youth was crowned this year with the launch of the new interactive smart phone application of the 'Career Guide' magazine, the first free mobile app for one of Qatar Foundation's publications.

Our success has been also reflected in our ability to host a myriad of events and workshops to promote a culture of career development within the local community.

Through interactive workshops and programs intended to guide Qatari youth into making informed career decisions that fit their capabilities and preferences, in addition to specialized programs for career counselors and advisors, we continue to contribute to achieving the Human Development pillar of the Qatar National Vision 2030 as well as Qatar's Education and Training Sector Strategy.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to all who contributed to achieving our vision and mission over the past ten years, and we look forward to further striving to achieve a prosperous future for the people of Qatar.

QUOTE OF THE ISSUE

"Building a solid foundation in the early years of a child's life will not only help him or her reach their full potential, but will also result in better societies as a whole"

Novak Djokovic

2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Students experience university life at the 'Winter Career Camp'

Building on last year's success, Qatar Career Fair organized the second edition of its 2016 Winter Career Camp, an event that brought together young Qatari students, to learn about making informed career decision.

The camp, which is part of a series of year-round integrated programs and initiatives organized by QCF, featured a series of stimulating career-oriented workshops that were tailored to help students discover their talents.

In addition to being awarded completion certificates, participants were given the opportunity to experience university life as they

toured Texas A&M University and Northwestern University in Qatar, to learn more about the variety of academic programs and admission requirements.

Students also visited Rumailah Hospital, a member of the Hamad Medical Corporation, toured the simulation station at Qatar Aeronautical College, and explored Al-Rayyan TV studios.



'School Career Day' brings new prospects to youth

As part of its efforts to support Qatar Foundation's strategic objective of unlocking human potential, Qatar Career Fair organized in February its annual 'School Career Day', an event designed to introduce youth to future career opportunities in-line with their abilities and interests.

Held at Hamad bin Khalifa University's Student Center, the two-day event brought together over 340 high school students from 24 independent schools across the country, as well as academic advisors and career guidance counselors.

Leading Qatari organizations from various sectors informed students about the scholarship and development opportunities available within their companies, allowing the students to make more informed decisions about the career path they want to pursue.

Participating organizations included the Qatar Community College, Hamad bin Khalifa University, Sidra Medical and Research Center, Aspire Zone Foundation, Qatar National Bank, RasGas, Qatar Airways, and Bedaya.



QCF successfully organizes the 2nd 'Career Counsellors Training Workshop'

In a week-long workshop held at Education City Club House, more than 40 career counsellors from public and private schools across Qatar received training on how to best guide young students into making informed academic and career decisions.

The workshop, organized by Qatar Career Fair and administered by US-licensed professional counsellor Margo McCoy, was held for the second consecutive year in Qatar in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and the Embassy of the United States of America in Doha.

Participants discussed the importance of vocational guidance and the advantages of pursuing higher education in the United States.



Local community gains insight into career guidance best practices at 'The Platform'

Career advisors, researchers, HR practitioners, policy makers and parents flocked in May to the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) to participate in the Career Guidance Stakeholders Platform 2016.

The annual event, organized by Qatar Career Fair in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, aimed at promoting innovation and encouraging the exchange of knowledge, research findings and best practices in career guidance.

Reflecting QF's commitment to supporting Qatar's sustainable development, the event served as a powerful tool to support the personal, social, educational and economic success of young Qataris and Qatari society in general.



Titled 'Evidence-Based Insights into Strategic Collaboration Among Career Guidance Stakeholders In Qatar', this year's platform highlighted opportunities and constraints based on the findings and recommendations of QCF's three complementary pieces of research conducted in 2015.



QCF celebrates the graduation of a new batch of career advisors from the 'Career Advisor Training Course'

For the second consecutive year, Qatar Career Fair celebrated the graduation of 25 participants from its Career Advisor Training Course (CATC), the first program of its kind in Qatar and the Gulf region, in May 2016.

Career advisors, academic and vocational counsellors, human resources personnel, professors, instructors, scholars and parents participated in the five-day bilingual course certified by Kuder Inc., a world leader in career planning services.

Participants gained valuable career planning knowledge that will help them carry out their duties in a professional manner, in line with QCF's mission to empower Qatari youth through effective career guidance and planning services.

The course focused on nine vital competencies: helping skills; career development and choice theory; assessment and career planning; the role of information technology in career planning; ethical guidelines; teamwork; the use of technology; employment research skills; and program planning and implementation.



In a first, 'Career Guide' magazine goes interactive

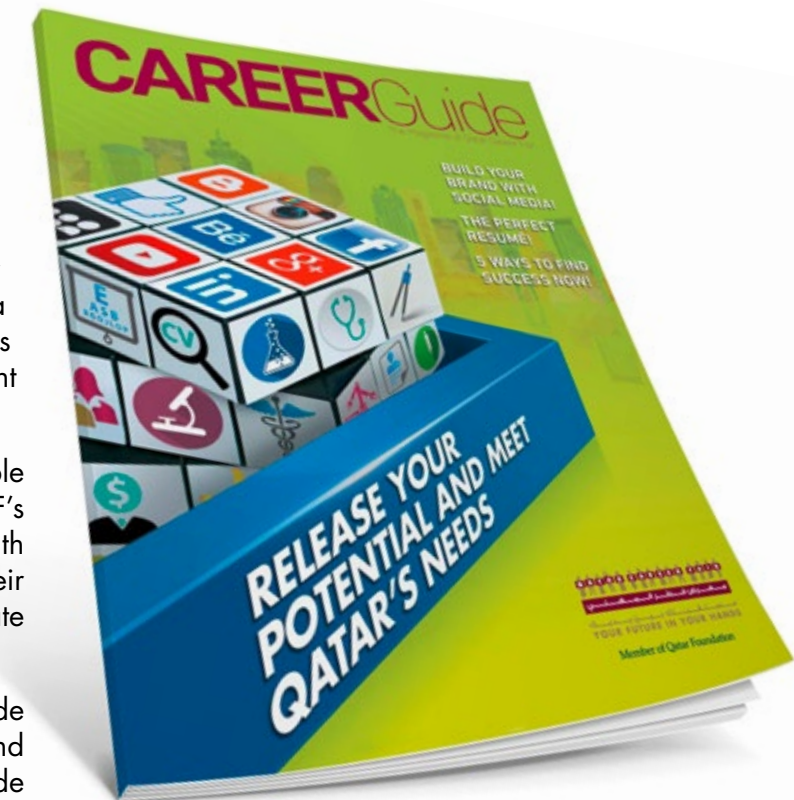
Six years after launching the first issue of its annual bilingual 'Career Guide' magazine, Qatar Career Fair ventured into the digital world with the introduction of the publication's new interactive smart phone application.

The 'Career Guide' has become Qatar Foundation's first publication to produce a smart phone app, reflecting the organisation's ongoing efforts to promote youth engagement in Qatar.

The app, which can be downloaded via Apple Store and Google Play, will expand QCF's reach as part of a wider plan to help youth choose an occupation that aligns with their skills and aspirations, while making appropriate educational and professional choices.

Every year, 10,000 copies of the guide are distributed to schools, universities and educational institutions across Qatar to provide advice and guidance to Qatar's youth, and to promote a culture of career development within the local community.

This year's 64-page issue offers information and tips from career development experts to those looking for assistance in entering the employment market, offering tips on how to write an appealing CV, cover letter and social media profiles to attract potential employers.





QCF hosts 'Career Development Workshop Series' to develop career management skills

As part of its nation-wide efforts to equip youth and professionals with the necessary skills to effectively manage their careers, QCF has offered a series of 13 workshops designed to facilitate the acquisition of progressive types of career management skills.

These included basic career exploration and preparation skills, information technology-based career development skills and career planning skills for mid-career change, career break, further education and career ladder.

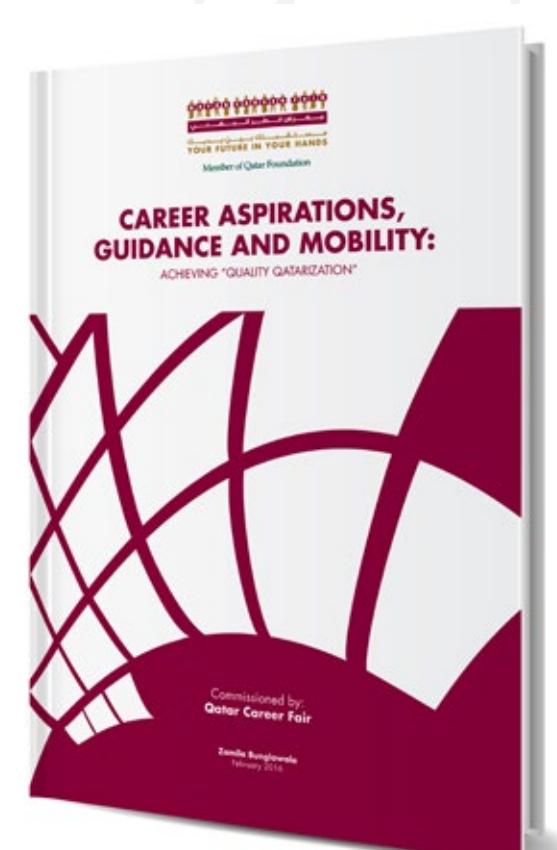
Discover Your Dream Career, Developing Positive Self-Image, Evaluating and Negotiating Job Offers, Resume and Cover Letter Development and Employment Interview Techniques, were all among the workshops offered from January 2016 to December 2016.



QCF Career Research Papers

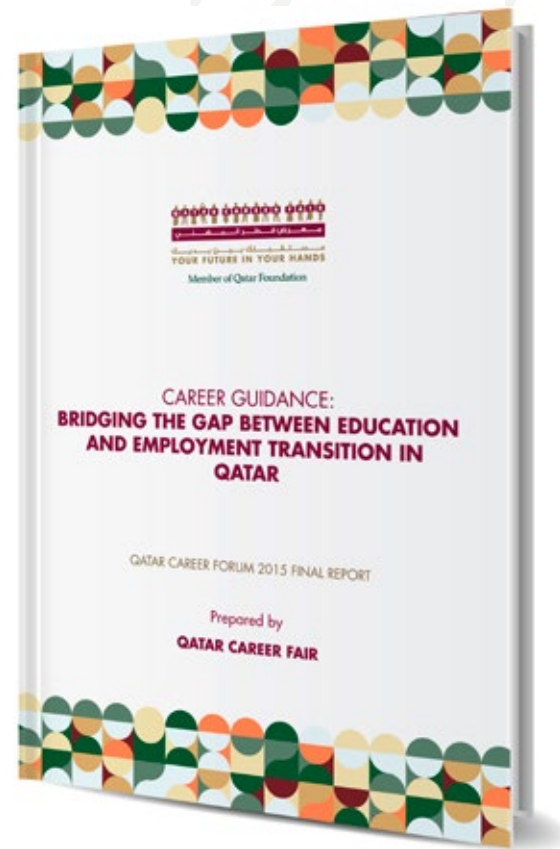
1. Qatar Country Paper: The Role of Career Guidance in the Preparation, Placement and Development of Qatar National Workforce

This research paper was submitted at the 7th ICCDPP Symposium organized by the International Center for Career Development and Public Policy in the USA. Based on the symposium's theme, "Building the Talent Pipeline and Providing Youth with Hope for the Future", the paper addressed four career guidance issues central to youth empowerment. These issues included emerging technologies, return on investment, engaging employers and integrated policies. The paper also identified and addressed major challenges for establishing an effective career development system in Qatar.



2. The Career Aspirations, Guidance and Mobility: Achieving "Quality Qatarization"

The paper aims to assess qualitative perspectives of Qatari youth and diverse education and employment stakeholders of career guidance services and needs of the labor market in Qatar, and to identify key challenges and policies now needed to address structural, institutional and cultural issues to meet career aspirations of Qataris, needs of the economy and QNV 2030 goals.



3. "Career Guidance: Bridging the Gap Between Education and Employment Transition in Qatar"

This paper was based on the activities of Qatar Career Forum 2015, which was organized by Qatar Career Fair Center in collaboration with various stakeholders. Through four focus group discussion and validation meeting, forum participants expressed and shared views, perspectives and insights related to career guidance challenges in Qatar. Reflecting on such experience, and based on discussion of best practices within the State of Qatar, forum participants were also able to put forward key strategic structural, institutional and cultural policy recommendations related to developing a national level career guidance and education-to-employment system in Qatar.

Career Advisor Training Course

"I participated in the Career Advisor Training Course to learn how to implement international best practices in career development in my professional life. The CATC has provided me with a lot of scientific and technical information, such as assessments and theories in the field of career planning and guidance, which will assist me as a professional in the field in providing guidance to those who need it."

Winter Career Camp

"QCF Winter Camp is one of the most interesting programs I have ever taken part in; it gives every student the chance to learn more about their career preferences. The camp encouraged me to think about my future, which, I think, is to become a doctor. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity, so I would advise other students to sign up."

Career Counsellors Training Workshop

"I would like to thank Qatar Career Fair and the Embassy of the United States in Qatar for their effort in organising this workshop, which provided academic counsellors with the knowledge needed to guide our students towards applying to universities that suit their potential and capabilities, as well as the market needs of Qatar. At the Training and Education Development Center, we value our training partnership with Qatar Career Fair and the United States Embassy and look forward to developing our cooperation."

TESTIMONIALS

FAISAL AL-NUAIMI,

Head of Career Counselling at
Qatar Petroleum

ABDUL RAHMAN EMAD,

Student at the Cambridge School

MONA MOHAMED AL KUWARI,

Director of the Training and Education
Development Center at the Ministry of
Education and Higher Education

DID YOU KNOW?

Social media is a growing recruitment tool for employers nowadays. According to a recent study, 84% of organizations recruit via social media now vs. only 56% in 2011.

You can know more about why and how employers nowadays use social media at <https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/hr-topics/talent-acquisition/pages/using-social-media-find-passive-candidates.aspx>

- QCF Ambassadors Program – October 2016
- Career Advisor Training Course (CATC) – January 2017
- Winter Career Camp 2017 – January 2017

Please check our website to know more about our future events and programs
www.qatarcareerfair.com.qa

COMING UP SOON

2015/2016 ACHIEVEMENTS

12

Initiatives/ Projects

More than

85%

of participants in QCF events expressed satisfaction

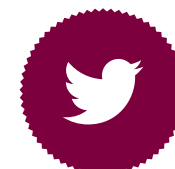
36,272

persons impacted

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