



Voucher program to increase variety and choice of schooling options

The Supreme Education Council launched the educational voucher program, which over time will allow parents to use government funding for select private schools in Qatar. The voucher program aims to increase variety and choice of high quality choices for parents and students in schooling options. The first phase, which will begin

in September 2008, will test the mechanism and administration procedures of the educational vouchers for eligible students in a small number of accredited private schools. Consequent phases will see expansion of the educational voucher program to include more private schools that meet high standards of excellence.

Two int'l schools to open branches in Qatar under the Outstanding Schools Initiative

As part of the Supreme Education Council's Outstanding Schools Initiative the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions from Houston, Texas in the United States and The International School of London (pre-K – 12) will open branches in Qatar and begin operations in September 2008. The two schools will offer different programs, which will enhance schooling options for Qataris and expatriates. These are the first schools to sign agreements under the Outstanding Schools Initiative, which expects to open 2 - 3 private international schools in Qatar each year over the coming 3 - 5 years.



More than 1300 students from eight independent schools sit for QSSC exams

At least 1378 twelfth grade Independent school students participated in the Qatar Senior School Certificate (QSSC) exit exams from May 25 through May 29, 2008. The tests administered by the Supreme Education Council's Evaluation Institute, measure the basics and abilities acquired by students during their schooling in four subjects - Mathematics, Science, English and Arabic - and are based on the curriculum standards set by the SEC

Qatar conducts second PISA tests

More than 2,100 15-year-old students from 70 schools operating in Doha including the Ministry of Education, the private Arabic, international and the Independent schools participated in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests. The tests held between March 25 and April 15, 2008 aim at assessing how well students in Qatar at age 15 are prepared to meet the challenges of today's global society, particularly in reading literacy. This is the second time Qatar has participated in PISA.

Higher ed Open House a big draw

Hundreds of potential students gathered at the Open House organized by the Higher Education Institute to receive advice and guidance about studying at universities in Qatar and abroad. The event held on May 4 and 5, 2008 at the Four Seasons Hotel provided the students with information on the different scholarship programmes, their requirements, list of universities, application processes and admissions requirements. The 2008 -09 Scholarship guide was also issued on the occasion.



Conference on Action Research to be held

The Supreme Education Council's Education Institute and Qatar University's College of Education will hold the first annual conference on action research in schools, entitled "Reflective Practice." The one-day conference, taking place on June 21, 2008 at the College of Education at Qatar University, will allow practitioners to not only share best practices they have identified through research, but also to discuss the challenges of action research and solutions to those challenges. The event is open to the public. Registration forms are available at www.qu.edu.qa/qu/colleges/education

24,000 students sit for national exams

More than 24,000 students from all the Independent schools sat for the Qatar Comprehensive Educational Assessment (QCEA) tests administered from April 6 to May 1, 2008. The QCEA tests aim at providing a common measure of student proficiency according to the new standards set by Supreme Education Council, as well as monitor student progress over time. The tests also provide data on Qatar's education system performance in general.

iEARN-Qatar holds info session for independent school administrators

The non-profit International Education and Research Network (i-EARN), which recently paired up with Qatar's non-governmental organization Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) held an information session for administrators of independent schools in Qatar on May 17, 2008. iEARN-Qatar aims to provide

opportunities for students and teachers in the country to engage in collaborative education across the globe using the internet and other new technologies. For more information please contact: Cherie Clark-Moore, Head of Connect ROTAsia, Email: iearn@rotaknowlegenet.org

