



## Forty students get scientific boost at training program

The Education Institute of the Supreme Education Council (SEC) in conjunction with Texas A & M University at Qatar (TAMU-Q) conducted a 10-day scientific training program in physics, chemistry and mathematics for students in the independent schools. Forty Qatari students participated in the 40-hour program aimed at enhancing their scientific skills and increasing their prospects of enrolling in world-class universities.



## Skill enhancement workshop for independent schoolteachers

The Education Institute conducted a 5-day workshop on 'Lesson Study' for 40 teachers from 11 independent primary and preparatory schools aimed at raising their mathematics teaching skills. Lesson Study, which has its origins in Japan, is a professional development practice that helps enhance the teaching skills of teachers. Lesson study involves teachers working in small groups, collaborate with one another, meet to discuss learning goals, plan an actual class room lesson plan, observe how it works practically and then revise and report on the findings so that other teachers can benefit.

## Qatar records decline in illiteracy rate

HE Sheikha Ahmed Al Mahmoud, the Minister of Education and Higher Education and Secretary General of the Supreme Education Council stated that Qatar recorded a decline in the illiteracy rate to 7.5 according to the 2006 census. HE Al Mahmoud was speaking on the occasion of the Arab Literacy Day held in January where she underlined that the State of Qatar has sensed the danger illiteracy poses on community development plans, consequently listing literacy and adult education programs within the government education systems.

## Students receive sample questions for PISA 2009

The Evaluation Institute of the Supreme Education Council has distributed sample questions to students in preparation for participation in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) scheduled from mid-March to mid-April 2009. At least 11,000 students from 170 schools - Ministry of Education, Independent, private Arabic, Community and International - in Qatar will sit for the tests.



## Qatar begins comprehensive school surveys

The Evaluation Institute of the Supreme Education Council began the annual Qatar Comprehensive School Surveys on 252 Independent, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, International and private Arabic schools. Surveys will be conducted on parents having children in grade 1 to 12, while students' surveys will be carried out on students in grades 4 through 12. The surveys will continue until March 2009.

## Thirty teachers receive training on test scoring for QCEA 2009

The Student Assessment Office of the Supreme Education Council's Evaluation Institute conducted a working session on the quality assurance of test questions that will be used for the English and Arabic Qatar Comprehensive

Educational Assessment (QCEA) 2009. Thirty Arabic and English teachers from independent schools attended the sessions aimed at assessing the test questions for content validity, difficulty, clarity, alignment to grade-level standards

and cultural appropriateness. The session was conducted under the guidance of the Evaluation Institute and the Educational Testing Service (ETS).