



Press Release

Qatar Museums and the German Archaeological Institute present fascinating findings from five years of fieldwork

Doha, 3 May 2017: Under the patronage of its Chairperson, H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Qatar Museums (QM) and the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) will reveal findings from a successful five-year collaboration looking at Sudan's and Qatar's archaeological record. The presentations will take place on Thursday 4 May at 10:00 AM in the Doha Fire Station Auditorium.

Ali Al-Kubaisi, Acting Chief Archaeology Officer, Qatar Museums, said: *"In celebration of the Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture, we are very proud to be presenting the findings from these unique archaeological projects with our long-standing partners, the German Archaeological Institute. At QM, we work hard to support our heritage by cooperating with international experts, hosting conferences and seeking out like-minded partners. Projects such as these bring us one step closer to protecting our heritage and promoting its value to future generations."*

The first presentation will be given by Professor Ricardo Eichmann, First Director of the Orient Department at the German Archaeological Institute. During the talk, he will share insights from the South Qatar Survey Project (SQSP), during which archaeologists gathered extensive information on Qatar's pre-modern settlements. The project specifically focused on investigating the southern part of Qatar, documenting prehistoric, historic and natural heritage sites through surveys and excavations.

The second presentation focusing on the work of the "Qatar Mission for the Pyramids of Sudan" (QMPS) will be presented by project head Dipl.-Ing. Alexandra Riedel. Running since 2015, QMPS focuses on the stabilisation and conservation of the Sudanese World Heritage site of Meroe-Bagrawiya, looking at its pyramids, funerary temples and underground tombs.

The Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture is part of the landmark 'Years of Culture' initiative developed by Qatar Museums, designed to deepen understanding between nations and their people through mutual exchanges of arts, culture, heritage and sport. The bilateral Years of Culture initiative was launched in 2012 under the guidance of Qatar Museums' Chairperson, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

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About Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums connects the museums, cultural institutions and heritage sites in Qatar and creates the conditions for them to thrive and flourish. It centralises resources and provides a comprehensive organisation for the development of museums and cultural projects, with a long term ambition of creating a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure for Qatar. Under the patronage of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM is consolidating Qatar's efforts to become a vibrant centre for the arts, culture and education, in the Middle East and beyond.

Since its foundation in 2005, QM has overseen the development of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, and the Al Zubarah World Heritage Site Visitor Centre. QM also manages the QM Gallery at Katara Cultural Village, the ALRIWAQ DOHA Exhibition Space and the Fire Station: Artists in Residence. Future projects include the launch of the highly anticipated National Museum of Qatar and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

QM is committed to instigating Qatar's future generation of arts, heritage and museum professionals. At its core is a commitment to nurturing artistic talent, creating opportunities and developing the skills to service Qatar's emerging art economy. By means of a multi-faceted program and public art initiatives, QM seeks to push the boundaries of the traditional museum model, and create cultural experiences that spill out onto the streets and seek to involve a wide audience. Through a strong emphasis on originating art and culture from within and fostering a spirit of national participation, QM is helping Qatar find its own distinctive voice in today's global cultural debates.

Press Contacts:

Rania Hussein, Qatar Museums: rhussein@qm.org.qa (+974 4402 8535)

Federica Zuccarini, Qatar Museums: fzuccarini@qm.org.qa (+974 4402 8510)

About The Goethe-Institut:

The Goethe-Institut is a world-wide organization working to promote German language and culture. With a network of 159 institutes in 98 countries around the world and 12 institutes in Germany, the Goethe-Institut acts on behalf of the German Government to implement its cultural relations policy. The Goethe-Institut Gulf Region offers German language courses and organises cultural events in the Gulf Region. Together with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region arranges the programs of Qatar Germany Year of Culture 2017.

qatargermany2017@goethe.de

www.goethe.de/qatargermany2017

SNAPCHAT: qatargermany17

FACEBOOK: deutschesaison.qatargermany2017

INSTAGRAM: ds_qatargermany2017

German Archaeological Institute:

The mission of the German Archaeological Institute is to conduct and facilitate research worldwide in the archaeological sciences and classical studies. Through its research projects the DAI creates an important foundation for dialogue between cultures, for international scientific collaboration and for the preservation of cultural heritage. The DAI is active on five continents in over 350 projects. So the remains of ancient civilizations can be successfully



safeguarded in the long term, careful work is needed in the prevention, monitoring and documentation of archaeological sites. Against the background of a growing historical consciousness such sites are key to the formation of cultural identity in the host and partner countries of the DAI. As such the Institute's work makes a substantial contribution to stable political and cultural ties.