

Press Release

Mathematics and Internationalization

Doha, Qatar; 12 December, 2017: As part of Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture the Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) and Texas A&M University at Qatar organized an international panel discussion on "Mathematics and Internationalization: Innovative Approaches in Research and Education" on 26 November 2017.

With this event on mathematics AGYA aimed at raising awareness for the social relevance of mathematical education as well as for student centred activities and innovative learning environments. The keynote speech "Mathematics as a driving force of social development" by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Martin Grötschel, President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, showed how – especially since the last 50 years – mathematics has contributed significantly to competitiveness of countries as it has made production and business more efficient, profitable and safer: His examples ranged from computer aided optimization of telecommunication networks, the optimization of traffic and transport systems to the optimal control of antennas in hyperthermia cancer treatment planning.

In a panel discussion high-ranking scholars and experts from Qatar and Germany addressed the social relevance of mathematical education, student centred activities and innovative learning environments. The panellists discussed the social dimensions of mathematical education as well as innovative pedagogical tools for presenting and teaching mathematics around the world. The topics ranged from mathematics education at local, regional and international level, innovative teaching didactics for different types of learners, cultural and social aspects of mathematics as well as mathematics as an international language. During the event German YouTube star "DorFuchs" (Johann Beurich) showed how math combined with music can help memorize mathematical formulas. He sang and rapped about linear functions and the quadratic formula, which was enthusiastically received by the audience.

The event on "Mathematics and Internationalization" addressed policy makers, academics, teachers, interested parents and students and was attended by a total of 90 Qatari and international guests. After the panel discussion the audience engaged in a vivid exchange with the visiting scholars from Germany. The evening event was part of the AGYA Math Olympiad Camp which took place in Doha for the second time at Texas A&M University in Qatar from 23 to 25 November 2017. More than 300 students applied to participate in this second AGYA Math Olympiad Camp. In a highly competitive selection process 50 students were chosen. Together with around 50 teachers they were trained by Qatari and German trainers in different approaches to mathematical questions and problems over a course of three days.

Prof. Dr. Ahmad El-Guindy, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Texas A&M University at Qatar and the Cairo University, who initiated the math camp, is enthusiastic about the success of the math project: *"The spirit and commitment shown by the students and teachers in the camp was truly inspirational. It was fantastic to witness them eagerly gaining new knowledge in a friendly atmosphere. I believe the AGYA math camp will be a cornerstone for a scientific community of passionate learners and educators."*

Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture is a yearlong program designed to deepen understanding between nations through the mutual exchange of arts, culture, heritage and sports, developed by Qatar Museums in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, the German Embassy in Doha and the Embassy of Qatar in Germany.



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About The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA):

The Arab-German Young Academy of Sciences and Humanities (AGYA) was established in 2013 at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW) as the first bilateral young academy worldwide. AGYA promotes research cooperation among outstanding early-career researchers from all disciplines who are affiliated with a research institution in Germany or any Arab country. The academy provides partnership building opportunities and funding to support the innovative projects of its members in various fields of research as well as in science policy and education. More than 50 members—in equal number Arab and German scholars—have been selected to join AGYA since 2013. AGYA is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with four million Euro from 2016 – 2020.

WEBSITE: www.agya.info

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/agya.info

TWITTER: @AGYA_events

About The Goethe-Institut:

The Goethe-Institut is a worldwide 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 organizes 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.

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About Qatar Museums:

Qatar Museums (QM) 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, QM Gallery AL RIWAQ 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 multifaceted 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.