



Press Release

Media Dialogue II: Journalists Building the Future

Doha, Qatar; 19 December, 2017: This program by Deutsche Welle Akademie which is tailor made for journalists from the Gulf Region went into its second round in Kuwait. Journalists from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Germany met from 6 to 8 December 2017 to join the program.

Deutsche Welle Akademie invited a group of 16 journalists, photographers and bloggers from the Gulf Region to participate in the second round of its media dialogue program to foster the exchange of variegated new ideas and to discuss the safety of journalists in the region. The Media Dialogue started in May 2017 with a week long visit to the German capital Berlin during which various lectures and activities were offered to the participants as well as a visit to the German parliament and the studio of the German broadcaster "Deutsche Welle".

With the second round of its Media Dialogue program the Deutsche Welle Akademie continued their work in this field and focussed especially on the current situation of the media against the backdrop of the conflict between Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. Other topics covered were the working practices of the respective colleagues in Germany and the Gulf Region, the projects and challenges they have and on further work on the media dialogue's blog and Facebook activity. Furthermore the participants worked on a strategy for their future cooperation.

"In December 2017 we continued in Kuwait City what we started on May 2017 in Berlin: A Media Dialogue with 16 Journalists from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, discussing the approach of journalism in these countries and future cooperation. A project of the DW Akademie with the Federal Foreign Office. The main focus during the Follow Up Dialogue in Kuwait was the Qatar-Crisis that for the last six month has been a source of conflict in the Middle East," explains Deutsche Welle anchor and journalist Christopher Springate who moderated the Media Dialogue.

The Media Dialogue was funded by Germany's Federal Foreign Office as part of the "Qatar Germany 2017" program.

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 DW Akademie:

DW Akademie is Germany's leading organization for media development and Deutsche Welle's center of excellence for education and knowledge transfer. As a strategic partner of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development we strengthen the universal human rights of free expression, education, and access to information.

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.