



PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q Holds Workshop For Qatar Physics Teachers

Doha, May 18, 2009 – The CNS Institute for Physics Teachers (CIPT), under the sponsorship of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, recently delivered a three-day workshop to Doha high school physics teachers – the first in a new series of workshops from WCMC-Q.

The physics workshop's dual focus included an overview of the emerging field of nanotechnology, as well as proven techniques for increasing student engagement and for fostering learning in the classroom, with particular stress on the value of hands-on learning. In addition to hearing lectures on these topics, the teachers also conducted various physics experiments in WCMC-Q laboratories.

The 17 teachers represented four local high schools: Al-Ieman Secondary Independent School For Girls, Omar bin Al-Khattab Educational Complex for Boys, Al-Bayan Educational Complex for Girls, and Amna Bent Wahab Secondary School for Girls.

Dr. Julie Nucci, CNS director of education programs, said, "The workshop is a wonderful chance for us to get to know these great teachers who are really enthusiastic, and to bring things that we know have been helpful to American schools and American students, and to share that with teachers and students here."

CIPT is part of the Center for Nanoscale Systems in Information Technology (CNS), which was established in 2001 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by the US National Science Foundation to address existing challenges and opportunities in nanotechnology research and development.

Dr. Ilham Al-Qaradawi, Qatar University professor and founder of the Qatar Physics Society, who also attended the workshop, said, "The most important thing teachers take from workshops such as this is a broader view of teaching methodology. It gives teachers an opportunity to reflect on what they do rather than take it for granted. They think about how to make physics more interesting, how to help students learn more and apply what they learn."

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Kemal Keman, physics instructor from the Omar bin Al-Khattab school, said that he found the workshop's mix of theoretical lectures and hands-on experiments particularly appealing. "We don't get many opportunities to conduct experiments outside of our own classrooms," he noted.

"If we can transmit this into our classes and the students get the same exposure, it will be extremely beneficial for them and help them succeed in the future," Keman added.

Organized by WCMC-Q assistant dean for research administration and director of the Foundation Program, Dr. Imad Makki, the Physics Teacher Workshop is the first in a planned series of workshops offered to local high school teachers and covering the basic sciences – physics, biology, chemistry, and math – and English. These workshops, and numerous other activities in Qatar schools, are all part of WCMC-Q's extensive and ongoing outreach program to engage the wider educational community.

"We are committed to partnering with the local school system to advance the cause of medicine and science in Qatar, and to provide every opportunity for more Qatari students to gain admission mainly to the Medical College and also to other branch colleges in Education City," said Dr. Makki.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, the first American institution to offer its M.D. degree overseas. WCMC-Q offers a complete and integrated educational program, comprising the two-year Pre-medical Program, followed by the four-year Medical Program, with teaching by Cornell faculty. There are separate admission processes for each Program, guided by the standards of admission in use at Cornell University in Ithaca, and its Medical College in New York City.

Website: www.qatar-med.cornell.edu

About Qatar Foundation

Founded in 1995 by decree of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, Qatar Foundation is a non-profit organization focusing on education, scientific research and community development. Under Qatar Foundation's umbrella are Education City, which comprises elite universities, several academic and training programmes and Qatar Science and Technology Park, which boasts more than 21 world class companies involved in scientific research and development.

Chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation also aims to enhance lives through community development initiatives including Doha Debates, Reach out To Asia and Al Jazeera Childrens Channel. Joint venture partnerships in the areas of design, ICT, telecommunications, policy studies and event management contribute to fulfilling the objectives of Qatar Foundation.

Website: www.qf.org.qa