It is thanks to the generous support of Reach Out To Asia’s (ROTA’s) sponsors that our projects are successfully helping to empower local communities to improve their quality of living.

Throughout this newsletter there are countless examples of ROTA’s programs in action, within Qatar and across Asia. Our projects are assisting people to build a future based on hope, where individuals have access to a quality education and are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills. We are indebted to our partners and sponsors for helping us to make this happen, not only through their financial contributions, but also through the giving of their employees’ time and resources.

All of our activities emphasize the need for society to participate in the development of the country’s society and its economic facets, and it is through society that we are making our strongest commitments.

Wheels ‘n’ Heels 2014, ROTA’s largest annual community event, brought together families of all nationalities in a fun-filled day, in which they shared their enjoyment in following a healthy lifestyle, while showing their support for ROTA’s programs. Our sponsors also participated in the day, entering teams into the events as well as staffing the activities. We are grateful for their generosity.

Wheels ‘n’ Heels 2014 will definitely be cherished by the children joining us as a day on which they enjoyed themselves and learned about ROTA’s important messages.

Engaging young people of all ages is a key theme for ROTA. The recently held Empower Youth Conference 2014 provided multiple opportunities for our youth to develop the qualities necessary to grow their leadership skills and contribute to society.

As a result of the spirit of community and collaboration woven throughout ROTA’s activities, we can enjoy a shared sense of success as our efforts make a positive change to the lives of those they assist.

Essa Al Mannai, Executive Director, ROTA
YEMEN'S YOUTH BUSINESS LEADERS RECEIVE BOOST

In its efforts to improve the prospects of Yemen's youth, ROTA has signed a series of collaboration agreements with CARE International and Slaitech. The partnerships, established in mid-November 2013, have initiated a wide-ranging program of training and mentorship to give young entrepreneurs relevant skills, access to financial services, and technical assistance in starting their own business ventures. The project will operate in seven urban and rural districts in Sana'a and Hajja until 2015.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS HELP WORKERS DEVELOP LANGUAGE SKILLS

ROTA pilots Adult Arabic Literacy Program and welcomes new season of English teaching

The initiative aims to educate workers in fundamental modern standard Arabic, which will also build cultural understanding and tolerance.

In July 2013, the 2013-2014 ROTA Adult English Literacy (RAAL) program was launched to help low-skilled workers improve their English language skills, started with a ‘Training The Trainer’ course for 36 new volunteer student tutors. The volunteers attending the training session, developed in association with Qatar Ministry of Training Solutions, went to Georgetown University in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, as well as ROTA itself. Qualified literacy Trainers are now delivering a specially tailored curriculum to low-skilled workers employed at Education City university and ROTA.

The government Higher secondary school, explained: “The Disaster Risk Reduction training from the project helped us immensely in reducing the flood’s impact. Apart from that, we received the LIKMA meter gauge reading so that we could prepare ourselves.

“Everyone who got this information was able to escape the worst effects of the flood, because they had already safely located their important documents and other valuable items,” he added. “Mock drills and the Early Warning System saved our lives and livelihoods.”

NEW SCHOOL INAUGURATED

NEARLY 600 CHILDREN NOW RECEIVING AN EDUCATION IN CRISIS-HIT AREA OF PAKISTAN

Crisis-Hit Areas of Pakistan

The inauguration ceremony was attended by ROTA representative, Naseer iqbal, international Programs specialist; alongside Waleed Rauf, Country Director, CARE international Pakistan; and Mahira Chaudhary, President, Shree Shiva Lower Secondary School. The initiative aims to educate workers in fundamental modern standard Arabic, which will also build cultural understanding and tolerance.

Behind the Program

The RAAL initiative is a result of a survey conducted by ROTA, which suggested that 55 percent of low-skilled workers did not have any Arabic literacy skills, while 45 percent of workers appeared to have a fair degree of spoken Arabic with no reading or writing skills. The initiative aims to educate workers in fundamental modern standard Arabic, which will also build cultural understanding and tolerance.

ROTA marked the inauguration of a new school in the Swat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, Pakistan, in October 2013. Working alongside CARE International, the school building was completed in August 2013 and comprises nine classrooms, a hall, and a science laboratory, and already houses 90% students. The inauguration ceremony was attended by ROTA representative, Naseer Iqbal, International Programs Specialist, alongside Waleed Rauf, Country Director, CARE International Pakistan; and Mahira Chaudhary, Project Manager, CARE International Pakistan, with Parent Teacher Committee members as well as other notable community members.

The Government Higher Secondary School Kishwarwara is part of ROTA’s commitment to support Revitalizing Education and Building Peace in Post Conflict and Flood Affected Swat Valley. The initiative provides a quality education for children and youth in 42 schools in the region, which have been hit by several humanitarian crises over recent years.

The government Higher Secondary School Kishwarwara, Pakistan.
Wheels ‘n’ Heels encourages families to adopt healthy living

Annual event brings community together in support of ROTA’s work throughout Asia, while encouraging participants to pursue more active lifestyle

“Stay Active and Healthy” was the message from the Active & Health Zone as family members were able to learn more about first aid, how to prevent accidents, and get free health check-ups. The Wheels ‘n’ Heels family fun day also listed: Aspire, Childhood Cultural Centre, Ooredoo, Qatar National Cancer Society, Qatar Orphan Foundation-Dineima, Qatar Olympic Committee, Qatar University, Green Life, Qatar Brazil 2014, Hamad Medical Corporation, Qatar Bikes, Slim’n Lite, and Qatar Football Association, among its partners.

FOCUS FOR 2014

For the second consecutive year, Wheels ‘n’ Heels made a special effort to promote the ‘Action on Diabetes’ Initiative which is designed to deliver the vision of a healthier and prosperous Qatar by 2030. Speaking before the event, Ahmed Saed Al Kuwari, Technical Liaison Manager of Maersk Oil Qatar, said: “We are proud to be sponsoring ROTA’s Wheels ‘n’ Heels 2014 as we firmly believe in doing our part to support initiatives that benefit society especially those promoting the values of education and healthier lifestyles. ‘Healthy lifestyles are a very important factor in preventing type 2 diabetes, and we are pleased to join with ROTA at this important event,” he added. For the second year running, Wheels ‘n’ Heels hosted an ‘Action on Diabetes’ village which aimed to raise awareness about the prevention and management of diabetes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

WHEELS ‘N’ HEELS HELPS ROTA’S PROGRAMS INCLUDING:

ANERA Vocational Training Program in Lebanon

ROTA marked the graduation of 53 Palestinian refugees at the National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training at the Nahr el-Bared camp in January 2014. The graduates, 28 of whom have already received job offers, were trained by ANERA (American Near East Refugee Aid), which is supported by ROTA in vocational training programs in catering, aluminum and glass skills, and plumbing.

READ Global Educational Program in Nepal

ROTA signed a collaboration agreement with READ (Rural Education and Development) Global on 29 January 2014, formalizing its agreement to support the project ‘Expanding Educational and Livelihood Resources in the Terai, with a Specific Focus on ICT and Youth’. The program, ROTA’s first project with the Gates Foundation, operates in the Terai, a rural area of Nepal. It will give young people access to ICT training enabling them to develop their own business opportunities.
Executive director, ROTA, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani, ROTA Chairperson, inaugurated Empower 2014 by calling on the 450 young people present to take advantage of the opportunities offered to them through the conference.

In the presence of Her Excellency Sheikha Dr Aisha bint Faleh bin Nasser Al Thani, Board Member, ROTA, Engineer Saud Elshemah Al Muhannadi, President, Qatar ROTA, and Eissa Al Mannai, Executive Director, ROTA, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani reminded the participants of the importance of the event’s theme ‘Sports for Youth Empowerment’.

“Sports have a unique influence of attracting, motivating, and inspiring youth, as sport naturally revolves around sharing. It motivates engagement and integration and expresses values such as respecting competition, accepting rules, teamwork, and fairness. These are all principles enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Charter and the Human Development Pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030,” she said.

“This is exactly what we are proud of sharing with the Arab and Gulf communities looking forward to raising awareness of the importance of sport and its effectiveness in achieving synergy between the individuals of one healthy society.”

The ROTA’s 6th Annual Youth Conference on Leadership, Service Learning and Global Citizenship, which was organized by a committee of ROTA youth, and was sponsored by Masinde Properties, brought together young people from across the Gulf region and further afield in workshops, lectures, and cultural activities, under a ‘work hard, play hard’ ethic.

Speakers at the conference, which ran from 27 to 29 March 2014, included Dr Auma Obama Founder and Director, Saulti Kuu Foundation, and Hassan Al Thawadi, Secretary General, Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy. Qatar Supreme Committee 2022.

An author and philanthropist, Dr Obama described how the Saulti Kuu Foundation is changing lives in Africa. She emphasized how much of its work encourages individuals currently living in poverty to make a positive change for themselves. Al Thawadi explained why the drive behind Qatar’s 2022 bid and how it was the spirit of endeavor in overcoming obstacles which motivated the team.

On the conference’s second day, Wilfried Lemke, UN Special Advisor on Sport for Development and Peace, delivered a special address by video message to delegates.

Workshops were conducted by a series of experts, companies, and Non-Governmental Organizations, including eight international organizations currently working with youth in sports.

Mohamed Abdulla Salem, ROTA National Programs Director emphasized the contribution these organizations from Qatar, the Gulf, and around the world made to the conference. “These workshops have given our youth the opportunity to share views and exchange experiences, and guaranteed participants the realization of new knowledge and skills, as well as form a collection of memories and friendship circles that reach out across the world,” he said.

The day started with a workshop on ‘Body language and effective communication’, led by Abdullah Al Buyaini. During the session participants learned how body language affects understanding and interactions.

Jawaher Al Manai hosted ‘Motivations’ which discussed the role sport plays in an individual’s life at a physical and psychological level, such as developing life quality and enhancing self-esteem.

In another workshop, Empower delegates developed a draft resolution that will be shared with the UN, suggesting ways governments and stakeholders can use sport as a tool for empowering youth around the world.

Other sessions were dedicated to developing leadership skills through sports activities. Introducing themes showcasing how sport can be used to inspire hope and motivation among young people and encouraging them to become positive agents for change within their community.

Football clinics, focusing on passing and shooting skills, were led by coaches from Liverpool Football Club. The Magic Bus organization hosted a ‘Leadership-An Analysis’ seminar, during which participants were introduced to different leadership styles exploring the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Qatar Olympic Committee conducted a workshop on ‘Developing Youth through Olympic Values’. Discussion points focused on the importance of fair play and respect.

The Coaches Across Continents organization hosted a session emphasizing how sport can be used to develop self-directed learners who are motivated to become future leaders.

Empower 2014 concluded with a series of exchange sessions in which participants shared aspects of their culture and pledged to take knowledge learned during the conference back to their peers.

EMPOWER 2014 ENGAGES WORLD’S YOUTH LEADERS

Young people learn to use the power of sport as a tool to motivate others

Conference delegates participated in sports based workshops.

CONFERENCE VOICES

KHALID AL MANSOURI, AGED 17

“This is the second Empower event that I have attended. The workshops are motivational and the conference is a great opportunity to meet other people. I’m interested in the workshop advocating the use of new technology, as this is an area that I am particularly interested in.”

SARAH AHMAD, AGED 16

“Attending events like Empower is important for my future. They broaden my experience in meeting new people and coming into contact with different cultures. I don’t really play sport but I’m interested in finding out how it can be used as a leadership tool.”

MAI EL SHESHTAWY, AGED 16

“I’m looking forward to meeting new people. We tend to spend time with just the people we already know and I think the workshops will encourage me to meet new friends. I think sport is a good way to explain the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle.”
A lifelong love for learning and a passion for education are central themes of ROTA’s projects, whether based within Qatar or overseas. The activities below demonstrate this commitment, with programs facilitating opportunities for both learners and educators to gain from their shared experiences.

ROTA partnered with Hamad bin Khalifa University in sending 19 students on a nine-day volunteering visit, during which they undertook service activities at the Saraswati Secondary School in February 2014. Supported by Vodafone Qatar, the students worked on ROTA’s disaster Risk Reduction scheme which operates in Western Nepal. Activities included setting up computer classes, designing a library, and building a boundary, flood-prevention wall.

To help combat the growing environmental impact of discarded technology, ROTA donated 50 refurbished computers to the Pakistan Welfare Forum Prep school (Pakistan Education Centre) and the Egyptian language school in Doha, in March 2014. The computers and laptops originally donated by the College of the North Atlantic Qatar and Jaidah group were refurbished by a group of ten ROTA volunteers.

ROTA and its sponsor Qatar Petroleum (QP) recognized the achievements of the volunteer student tutors and their pupils at a reflection event hosted by ROTA’s Adult Arabic literacy (RAAl) Program. The RAAl Reflection Event, the first such event for the program and held on 26 February 2014 – also recognized the support the tutors received from Qatar University and Sheikh Abdullah bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre (FANAR). The program gave 16 migrant workers from Nepal, India, and the Philippines the opportunity to gain an understanding of basic level Arabic for use in their daily activities.