

DIFI CONCLUDES ‘FAMILY WELLBEING’ RESEARCH FORUM

QF member aims to ensure family issues are a key priority for policymakers

Doha, Qatar, February 27, 2019: The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), today concluded its two-day research forum ‘Family Wellbeing: Towards Evidence-Based Family Policies,’ which was held at Qatar National Convention Centre.

Over the course of the event, experts, policy makers, service providers, and representatives from leading organizations in Qatar examined contextual challenges facing the development and implementation of related policies, highlighted local, regional, and international best practices, and proposed realistic and effective policy options and program interventions.

In line of DIFI’s efforts to ensure that family issues are a key priority for policymakers in Qatar, the first day of the event focused on ‘The Wellbeing of Families Living with Autism’, while the second day of the event concentrated on ‘Work-Family Balance’.

Dr. Sharifa Al Emadi, Executive Director, DIFI, said: “Our first topic was ‘The Wellbeing of Families living with Autism’ in Qatar, where we discussed the key quantitative and qualitative evidence provided by DIFI’s recent study on the subject that examined various challenges and obstacles. DIFI will continue to support the Qatar National Autism Plan to address the needs of children with autism and their families, and work to improve their lives by addressing their needs in areas such as raising awareness, receiving early diagnosis, and accessing treatment and education.”

“Our second day examined a DIFI study that addressed existing work-family balance policies in Qatar and included a proposal featuring various options that aim to facilitate better reconciliation of work responsibilities and family commitments.”

The first day opened with a session titled ‘Families and National Policies on Autism’, moderated by Dr. Sharifa Al-Emadi, which was followed by two panels – ‘Service Providers and Families Living with Autism’ and ‘Avenues of Support for Families Living with Autism’. The day was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education; the Ministry of Public Health; Kuwait Center for Autism; Primary Health Care Corporation; Rumailah Hospital; Hamad Medical Corporation; QF partner university Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar; QF’s Pre-University Education school, Renad Academy; and Shafallah Center.

The second day of the forum featured discussions titled ‘Research and Policy Debate on Leave Policies’, ‘Contribution of Child Care Arrangements to Work-Family Balance’, and ‘Research and Policy Debate on Flexible Working Arrangements’. The day brought together representatives from Qatar University; the Ministry of Justice; Brookings Doha Center; the Permanent Population Committee; and the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs.



DIFI is a global policy and advocacy institute working to advance knowledge on Arab families through research and promote evidence-based policies at a national, regional, and international level. The institute has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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About Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

The Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), was established in 2006. The Institute works to strengthen the family through the development and dissemination of high-quality research on Arab families, encouraging knowledge exchange on issues relevant to the family and making the family a priority to policy-makers through advocacy and outreach at the national, regional and international levels. Among the Institute's most important initiatives is the Annual Conference on the Family; and the OSRA Research Grant in collaboration with the Qatar National Research Fund, an annual research grant which encourages research related to the Arab family and family policy. The Institute has special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.



For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, please visit: www.qf.org.qa

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