



A Qatar Academy student recites a Qatari poem at the event.



Students from QF schools perform a traditional song.

Sheikha Moza, Sheikha Hind participate in QF Schools' National Day celebrations

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) chairperson HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and vice chairperson and CEO HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani participated in a Qatar National Day ceremony yesterday at Awsaj Academy.

The festivities, hosted by QF schools, were also attended by Qatar Leadership Academy (QLA) chairman HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, and included a variety of local heritage and literary activities staged by more than 100 young students.

The students' performances commemorated Qatar's unification and also showcased QF's commitment to preserving the country's rich culture and heritage.

Buthaina al-Nuaimi, president of Pre-University Education, QF, said: "We are honoured to welcome HH Sheikha Moza and HE Sheikha Hind to our schools' National Day celebration. This collaborative event is a great opportunity to bring together students from all of the QF schools and to celebrate our local heritage and the many accomplishments and challenges we have overcome together."

As part of the celebration, a Qatar Academy Sidra student sang a patriotic song about Qatar, while sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students at Qatar



HH Sheikha Moza greets one of the students who participated in the performances.

PICTURES: AR Al-Baker / HHOPL

Academy Doha presented a play entitled *Aladdin and Heritage Scenes from Qatar*, with fourth and fifth grade girls school students singing an arrangement of traditional songs.

Students from QLA performed an 'Ardha', a national sword dance, while a third-grade student performed a poem by Hamad bin Khazeena, entitled *The Unity of the People*.

Additionally, first-grade students at Qatar Academy Al Wakrah sang a song entitled, *My Country, My Country*, while primary stage students at QA-Doha sang *Qatar: House*

of Love. Children from Awsaj Academy presented a story about Qatar's past, present and future, while Qatar Academy Al Khor students told a story of local fishermen.



QF schools students perform the traditional sword dance.

Al Jazeera wins prestigious prizes at Asian TV Awards

Al Jazeera English has been recognised as Cable & Satellite Channel of the Year as well as Network of the Year at the Asian TV Awards.

Besides the double accolade, the channel won five awards in various categories at a ceremony in Singapore recently, according to a report on the Al Jazeera website.

The programme *101 East* picked up two awards as cameraman Matt Allard won Best Cinematography for his work for *On Thin Ice: India's National Ice Hockey Team*.

For the second consecutive year, *101 East's* Steve Chao picked up the Best Current Affairs Presenter, while Al Jazeera's Nagieb Khajja received a commendation for the same category.

The programme also picked up another commendation for *Too Young to Wed* in the Social Awareness category.

Al Jazeera's *Witness* picked up two awards for *China Fake Boyfriends* for Best Social Awareness Programme and Best Direction by Daniel Holmes.

China's Fake Boyfriends tells

the story of Li Chenxi, a single woman who is under pressure to find a partner and settle down. The programme documents her decision to commit the ultimate deception by hiring a handsome boyfriend in Beijing to take home to meet her family and friends.

"Al Jazeera English is an important player in the international news and current affairs market - and our remit includes bold journalism and covering compelling stories in the Asia region through our news coverage, documentaries and digital content"

Meanwhile, *India Menstruation Man*, which was directed by Dirk Gilson and the AJE Digital Video Team, won the prize for Best Digital Non Fiction.

The AJE Short digital film told the story of Arunachalam Muruganatham, who was obsessed with making the perfect sanitary pad for his wife. After years of work, his invention has changed

the lives of millions of women in India.

Giles Trendle, acting managing director of Al Jazeera English, said: "We are delighted and honoured to win the Cable & Satellite Channel of the Year as well as Network of the Year awards at what is the most significant and celebrated event in the Asian TV industry - especially as this is the first time any news channel has won both awards on the same night."

"Al Jazeera English is an important player in the international news and current affairs market - and our remit includes bold journalism and covering compelling stories in the Asia region through our news coverage, documentaries and digital content."

"We are thrilled to get such recognition for the important work we do."

Launched in 1996, the Asian Television Awards is the Asian TV industry's most significant and celebrated event, recognising excellence in programming, production and performance.

Food security experts attend global conference in Doha

The Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD) at Qatar University College of Arts and Sciences has organised the first international conference on "Sustainable Development: Achieving Food Security in Arid Environments".

The event aimed to raise community awareness on the importance of investing in the area of food security in the State of Qatar. It brought together experts from all disciplines in the field of food security to showcase their research outcomes, share their experiences, and provide sustainable solutions to overcome the challenges that are facing food and water security in the region.

At the inaugural ceremony, QU vice-president for Research and Graduate Studies professor

Mariam al-Maadeed said the initiative comes in line with Qatar's ongoing efforts to overcome the barriers that are facing the achievement of sustainable food security.

"It also aims to provide efficient solutions to tackle the challenges of desertification, and land degradation and drought, and their negative impact on food security and agricultural development in Qatar."

"We, at Qatar University, are always seeking to support and promote research in several fields, including the field of food security. It is one of the priority areas within the institution's research roadmap 2014-2019. The university's strategy for research and development focuses on the creation of specialised

programmes in food security and the establishment of an infrastructure to support applied and cognitive research. This will contribute to provide sustainable solutions for issues related to food security challenges in line with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030."

Ministry of Municipality and Environment's assistant under-secretary for Agriculture Affairs, Livestock and Fisheries Resources Sheikh Dr Faleh bin Naser al-Thani said the conference sheds light on how to achieve food security in arid environments, and underlines the significant role of the agricultural sector in reducing the negative effects of arid environments and climate change.

"It also aims to drive forward

the process of sustainable development for the welfare of the community. There are several aspects to take into consideration in food and agriculture in order to achieve food security. They include sustainable agriculture, livestock management, maintaining fisheries, reducing food waste, and preserving natural resources."

CSD director Dr Hamad al-Saad al-Kuwari recalled that the centre was established to search for and develop new ways to cope with the emerging changes in the Qatari environment in light of the fast-growing development in all sectors of the society. This is achieved by conducting studies and research related to food and water security, and by maintaining the fungal biotechnology life."



Officials and resource persons at the conference.