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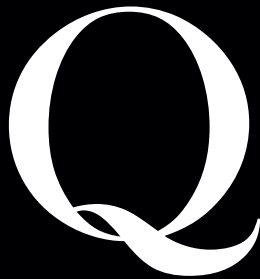
The Changemaking Generation

THE CREATIVE GENERATION

THE ADVOCATE GENERATION

THE EMPOWERED GENERATION





Issue 10

FOREWORD

Page 7



The Creative Generation

PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON
YOUNG CINEMATIC TALENT

Page 10

AN INTERVIEW WITH ACTRESS
AL JORI AL DARWISH

Page 12

QATAR'S FIRST AND ONLY
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Page 16

MUSIC AS A MEANS OF
CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Page 20

A 'FUTURE COMPASS' TO
NAVIGATE CAREERS

Page 22



The Advocate Generation

MAKING AN IMPACT, ONE
PLASTIC BAG AT A TIME

Page 28

INFLUENCING OTHERS FOR
GOOD

Page 30

TARGETING SUSTAINABILITY
AND DEVELOPMENT

Page 32



The Empowered Generation

BRINGING ACADEMIC RESEARCH
TO THE COMMERCIAL MARKET

Page 36

SAVING YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND
THE WORLD FROM POVERTY

Page 40

QATAR FOUNDATION'S FLAGSHIP
EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Page 42

ASPIRE INSPIRES

Page 46



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Foreword

Young people around the world are bringing about change for the causes they care about and the passions they want to pursue, and the youth of Qatar are no exception.

Titled *The Changemaking Generation*, this issue of Q Life Magazine showcases some of the role models and inspirational figures found among Qatar's youth. We are putting a spotlight on the individuals that are making a difference locally and globally, and the support systems Qatar has in place to foster this creativity and drive.

Within these pages, meet the next generation of changemakers that are pushing forward innovation and refusing to accept the status quo.

On behalf of the Government Communications Office of the State of Qatar, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the development of this magazine.

The Government Communications Office of the State of Qatar

1





The Creative Generation

Qatar's youth are empowered and powerful, building networks of innovators, institutions, and government bodies to make their dreams and ambitions a reality. This chapter explores how young Qatari people are making an impact in both their local and global communities, speaking up for the things that matter to them and their generation.

- 10** Putting the spotlight on young cinematic talent
- 12** An interview with actress Al Jori Al Darwish
- 16** Qatar's first and only children's museum
- 20** Music as a means of cultural preservation
- 22** A 'Future Compass' to navigate careers



Putting the spotlight on young cinematic talent

One of the region's most anticipated film festivals, Doha Film Institute's annual 'Ajyal Film Festival' is a celebration of the global film community. All those aged between 8-25 are eligible to apply to be a member of the festival's internationally acclaimed 'youth jury', reflecting the emphasis on developing young talent.

The role of the Ajyal Jury is to watch the films on display at the festival, discussing the work between their fellow jurors, and voting for the winners of the Ajyal Film Festival. In addition, jurors take part in workshops and discussions with directors, actors, and technicians. Every jury is made up of hundreds of young people, from countries around the world.

The 8th edition of the Ajyal Film Festival, held in Doha in 2020, was the event's first hybrid edition. Under the slogan 'the show goes on', its programme featured both online and in-person screenings, with thought-provoking documentaries, captivating drama, light-hearted comedy, and live performances.

The 2020 Ajyal Film Festival included 80 films from 46 countries, including with 22 feature films and 58 shorts, 31 films from the Arab world, 30 films from female filmmakers, and 24 films that received support from the Doha Film Institute. In addition, the festival put on a drive-in cinema for the first time, which proved to be hugely popular.

The Ajyal Film Festival will be returning in November 2021, and following its great success last year, it will once again be held in a hybrid format.

According to Fatma Hassan Alremaihi, Festival Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Doha Film Institute, "the ninth edition of the festival reinforces its founding philosophy: to celebrate the finest cinema from around the world while nurturing the appreciation and engagement of youth in creative and critical thinking".

Participants at the 8th Ajyal Film Festival

An interview with actress Al Jori Al Darwish

Rising star Al Jori Al Darwish spoke to Q Life about her favourite moments on screen and what she hopes to achieve during her career.

Did you always know you wanted to be an actress?

Being an actor was my childhood dream. I was always fascinated by actors in movies and TV shows who got to be so many different people from different walks of life.

I've also always loved watching movie premieres and award shows and imagining making my own speeches.





What project are you most proud to have worked on, and why?

Amal Al-Muftah's 'Sh'hab', my first film. It was hard for me at that age, but my family was so supportive and I am proud of what I accomplished.

'Sh'hab' received a lot of international acclaim, including for your own performance. Why did the film resonate so strongly with people?

I think global audiences were touched by how Amal was able to share our perspectives, with a story so deeply rooted in our culture and traditions.

Can you tell us anything about the projects you are currently working on?

I'm currently collaborating on a 'top secret' high school movie, which I think people are going to love. We've been working really hard on a screenplay, and are hoping to make it with the Doha Film Institute in the next year or two.

Do you have any techniques that help you get into character?

With Amal, we did a great deal of rehearsal with the other actors. We also talked a lot about the themes behind the story and discussed how my character would be feeling at each moment.

Once the cameras are rolling on set, I just knew how to play that character, because we had been preparing for so long. She felt like a real person to me by that point.

What do you think about Qatar's filmmaking scene?

Our local film industry is growing every day, with great new actors, cinematographers, directors, editors and producers telling amazing stories through film.

What advice do you have for young actresses hoping to emulate your success?

Never give up, no matter what. There are ups and downs, and it can be stressful sometimes, but you'll get through it if you just believe in yourself and work hard to learn the craft of acting.

If you want to become an actress, I would also recommend you get in touch with the Doha Film Institute.

What are your favourite films featuring Qatari leads?

There is another amazing young Qatari actress called Fatima Al Nahdi, who starred in the short film 'Gub Gub'.

What is on your 'acting bucket list'?

I've always wanted to win an Oscar. I know I need to work really hard first in order to deserve one. I would also love to be a part of movies that clear up misunderstandings about our region and the role of girls and women in our society.

Stills from the film "Sh'hab"



Qatar's first and only children's museum

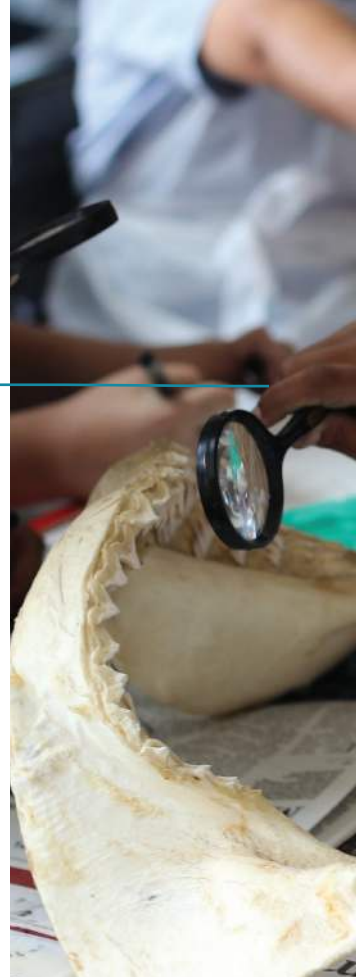
'Dadu' comes from traditional Arabic, referring to the marks of play, from footmarks left behind in sand to carvings on stones. It is the perfect name for Qatar's first children's museum, which is currently under construction and has already built a loyal online following.

Dadu is being built with an ambition to help raise Qatar's future leaders and changemakers, aligning with the wider ambitions of Qatar Museums. The proposal was driven under the leadership of the Chairperson of Qatar Museums Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and is now being led by the museum's Director Essa Al Mannai, offering a third learning space that bridges the gap between school and home.

"The children of Qatar are asking questions about the world they live in and how they can make a difference. This curiosity is what the children's museum wishes to cultivate. We are enabling

children to act on their sense of responsibility and belief in the importance of learning", Al Mannai notes.

The museum is working with child development specialists, teachers, and parents to curate exhibitions that are as interactive as possible for its visitors, with spaces for free play and self-directed exploration. A self-described "oasis of fun", the exhibitions incorporate the latest research into child development in order to spark the curiosity and imagination of young visitors, together with their families, with topics including sustainability, global citizenship, and wellness.





Hands-on learning



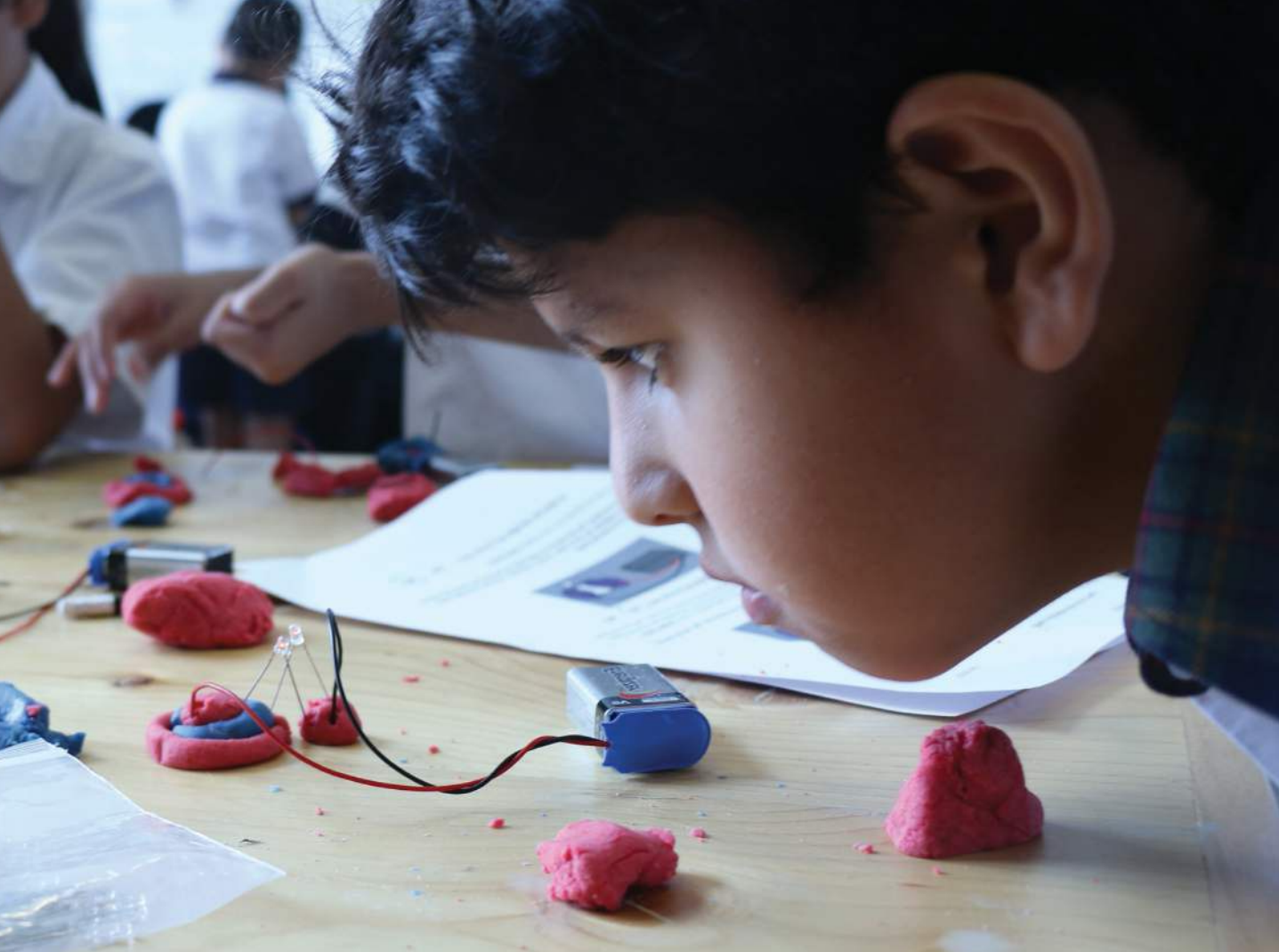


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I want Dadu to be locally loved and internationally respected. We would like to be an integral part of community in Qatar and a favourite destination for children and parents alike. Internationally, I would like to see Dadu regarded as a respected institution, thanks to its contributions to the child development field through its research, workshops, and publications.

Essa Al Mannai,
Director of Dadu





The museum's physical opening has been delayed by COVID-19. This meant that the management team had to get creative, developing an online presence that would build their brand and their fan base. The team collaborated with other local entities to provide children with a strong support system during the home-schooling period, offering online materials which have been well-loved by both students and parents alike.

Dadu has become a key learning tool in many households in the short period of time since its launch. While the launch date for the physical museum is still under wraps, its online initiatives continue to provide children and their families with a variety of stimulating activities that foster a sense of anticipation for the grand opening.



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**Always practice, even
when you're not feeling
motivated.**

Ali Al-Naama,
Student at Qatar Music Academy

Ali Al-Naama, one
of George Oro's
students

Music as a Means of Cultural Preservation

George Oro is a percussion teacher at Qatar Foundation's Qatar Music Academy, working with children from 6- to 16-years-old to nurture their interest and skill in music. One of his students is 13-year-old Ali Al-Naama, who has been studying Arabic percussion for two years.

"I was initially interested in Western percussion, but ended up discovering and deciding to study Arabic percussion. It links me to my culture, and I liked the sound of the darbuka", Ali recalls. "I've been practicing for two years now, and have recently taken on the oud as a second instrument".

Qatar Music Academy opened its doors in January 2011, with an ambition to further musical excellence in Qatar and the wider region. George is proud of the various projects run by the academy – which comes under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education – including the 'Music for All' programme which is open to all ages.

"After ten years, we have had many students that graduated from our academy and went on to complete their music education at leading international universities. I expect Qatar Music Academy will be one of the global music study destinations in the future".

George notes that music has an integral role as a "bridge connecting different generations", and musical heritage is "an integral part of building a society", particularly in a country like Qatar; "the Qatari musical heritage is rich with unique rhythms and melodies".

Ali is equally passionate about the heritage of music in Qatar, and when asked to reflect on his future plans, notes that he hopes to develop both his instrumental skills and his Arabic music history.

Ali's advice for other young aspiring musicians is to "always practice, even when you're not feeling motivated". He fondly notes that, "I find that once I start, I remember how much I enjoy it".

A 'Future Compass' to navigate careers

Q Life spoke to 18-year-old Eman Al Obaide, the CEO and Founder of 'Future Compass', about her initiative supporting Qatar's young people to get more insights into potential careers and make the right educational choices.

Eman's foremost passion in life is to help others. Whether it be through volunteering, starting a non-profit for youth development, using her online platform to inspire others, or being the voice for youth at various initiatives.

As a vocal advocate and campaigner, Eman is passionate about finding ways to best represent youth in the region. This has included being a youth panel member at the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy and trying her hand at television presenting.

"I hope I can be a role model for the people my age and show them that someone in their age can complete many achievements".





Eman Al Obaide



Eman documents this work and her life to her growing online following, showing them both her inspiring achievements and her relatable challenges. This social media fame came with initial resistance, as she was reluctant to open up to a potentially global audience. Nevertheless, Eman is passionate about ensuring her peers are able to see an honest account of the ups and downs of being a teenager.

“Observing the life of an online influencer, we only see one side which is perfect in every way. I saw this as very problematic. I try to show my audience how I work on myself and the challenges that I go through. I try to show them it is normal to cry and to be sad, but to get up again the next day. I have created a great family online loves me and watches me”.

In 2018, Eman founded “Future Compass”, a non-profit initiative dedicated to helping youth better understand their university and career goals, and whether these aims are right for them. She was inspired by her own challenges in choosing the right courses for herself and saw an opportunity to make something that could truly help Qatari youth.

“

I met a youth who was following me on my platform and they told me ‘you are the person who helped me to open my initiative and my business’. Being an inspiration for others is something of which I am very proud.

Eman Al Obaide,
CEO and Founder of ‘Future Compass’

More than 400 students have now gone through the Future Compass programme, which offers vocational training and university experience, with Eman remaining a vital part of the core leadership team.

Future Compass has won several awards for its work, including notably being a finalist in the 2019 Akhlaquna Awards, under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. This was a milestone for Eman; “I remember she held my hand and she told me that she is very proud of me, of what I am doing now and what I am going to do”.

Having just graduated amongst the top of her class, Eman has great ambitions for her future; “I am working on many different initiatives. Currently, I am supporting a few initiatives under the Ministry of Culture and Sport”.

Eman has equally big dreams for the rest of the youth of Qatar; “the new generation is much more aware and conscious. We are not afraid to speak up and we have the potential to become great achievers”.

“I have one piece of advice that I always share with all the youth which is to not complain about the darkness, but rather be a light for yourself and others”.



2





The Advocate Generation

Change is never easy to bring about, even when it could be valuable. It requires persistence and drive, qualities which define the passionate, young individuals in Qatar that are continually pushing boundaries and breaking the status-quo. Read all about these inspirational figures who are shaping a world in which they want to live.

28

Making an impact, one plastic bag at a time

30

Influencing others for good

32

Targeting sustainability and development

Making an impact, one plastic bag at a time

Agency in Action was founded by a group of 45 ambitious and environmentally conscious students at Qatar Academy Doha, one of the schools under Qatar Foundation's Pre-University Education. They have almost reached their goal of collecting 10,000 signatures to support a ban on single-use plastic bags in Qatar, showing that the drive of young Qatari activists is limitless.

Agency in Action has hosted bake sales, organised a plastic bag drive, distributed posters, organised surveys, and produced a 'Sea of Plastic' installation at their school made from gathered plastic bags.

Q Life spoke to Rawda Mansour Al Qassabi and Tayiba Muzaferija, two of the students involved in the campaign, about their experiences as young climate activists.



What was the inspiration to start the campaign to ban the use of plastic bags?

Rawda: Plastic bags are very harmful to the environment and we, as Agency in Action, care a lot for the environment and Mother Nature.

Tayiba: Agency in Action hopes to make the world a better place. We are trying to clean our country and want to inspire more people to do the same.

You are almost at your goal of collecting 10,000 signatures in support of banning single-use plastics in Qatar. How does this accomplishment feel?

Rawda: I feel really happy and excited that we have almost completed our first step in helping the environment.

Tayiba: We are so close, and we are so proud that other people agree that Qatar should ban plastic bags. It gives us such an incentive to chase our goal more than ever.

What are some of the positive outcomes you have seen since starting your campaign?

Rawda: We have reached so many people and been able to talk to them about the environment. If the whole world slowly starts to protect the environment, then there will be more life in the world. A lot of people we have reached out to have started doing clean-ups to collect plastic from the beaches and keep them clean.

Tayiba: We have been able to represent the concerns of so many people, catching the attention of environmental groups, the government, and the media. This has made our campaign even bigger, which is important, but what is even more important is that people are realising what is going on.

How has the support from leaders like His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar, and Her Excellency Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, motivated you to continue pushing forward?

Rawda: Their support means so much to me and it motivates me to keep moving forward because I can see that our messages and work have reached important audiences.

Tayiba: Getting the attention of His Highness the Amir and Her Excellency Sheikha Hind Bint Hamad Al Thani gives us even more motivation to keep moving forward and achieve our efforts. Having these great people stand by our sides will help us to achieve our goal.

Raising awareness

Why is it important to get young people involved in conversations about the environment?

Rawda: It is important to involve young people when talking about the environment because it is their home too. If we don't speak up, people will keep destroying the environment without knowing or realising, and we can't live without it.

Tayiba: Talking to kids about single-use plastic and explaining its harm to them is extremely important so that they can spread the word and increase awareness and concern.

What are the future plans for Activists in Action?

Rawda: We want to ban single-use plastic bags in Qatar, and then we will hopefully ban plastic from the world.

Tayiba: We plan to raise further awareness of our campaign and petition so that we can achieve our goal and continue to make this country and this planet a better place.





Influencing others for good

19-year-old Ghanim Al Muftah is hard to describe in a single word. He is a philanthropist, influencer, public figure, entrepreneur, author, and motivational speaker. He uses his platform of close to 1.7 million followers to inspire people globally, sharing details about his life living with Caudal Regression Syndrome, a rare condition which causes its patients to be born without the lower half of their body.

Ghanim demonstrates
that anything is possible

“

**The experience taught me
how people should never
abandon their dreams and
strive to make them true.**

Ghanim Al Muftah,
Influencer

“I started creating content to show how living a life with a disability can still be fulfilling, and I like to ensure that my content is always meaningful, relevant, and impactful. I aim to deliver a set of messages revolving around the importance of humanitarian work, to spread hope and optimism in society, and to promote ongoing cooperation that can improve our communities”.

When he was born, doctors predicted that he had little chance of survival. However Ghanim, whose name means ‘winner’ in Arabic, has gone on to become a story of hope and determination. He is now a Goodwill Ambassador, speaker, and founder of the Association of Ghanim and Ghanim AlMuftah Foundation.

The national school curriculums in both Qatar and Kuwait included his story, mission, and success; “I am so grateful to the Ministry of Education for making me part of the curriculum, and making me able to bring about positive change in people’s lives”.

Ghanim’s experience as a speaker for the United Nations taught him the power and the impact of his word; “the experience really opened my eyes, teaching me that a person with a real message can reach the entire world”.

Ghanim’s charitable endeavours are in part funded by Gharissa Ice Cream, the ice cream business which he founded when he was nine. Among his many ambitions for the future is the expansion of his business by opening franchises across the Gulf region.

Ghanim is an enthusiastic sportsman, with a particular passion for rock climbing, skateboarding, and scuba diving. In 2008, he started Ghanim’s Sports Club, providing a space for both physically disabled and able-bodied children to get together and play various sports, including karate, skateboarding, and basketball.

“At the age of eight, scuba diving was one of my dreams. But I had doubts about whether my body could handle the pressure. Making this dream come true took a long time. My parents and I travelled the world and met with specialists. After years of work, we were able to design one of the world’s smallest Buoyancy Compensation Devices”.

Ghanim thanks his family for his success and determination; “with my mother’s support and guidance, I have always felt that my life is beautiful. I thank God for all its tiny details, and because I view it as such, I live every detail of my life blissfully. I am at great peace with my disability, with my reality, and with all my daily conditions. Because of this, I love my life”.

Targeting sustainability and development

When they realised that there was minimal awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among young people in their region, 18-year-old Oweis Al Salahi and 20-year-old Ajlan Al-Kaabi were determined to change this by founding the SDGeneration Network.

The SDGeneration Network is a digital platform aimed to help young people become more informed and passionate about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while discussing how to bring about this change with like-minded peers; “we wanted to educate our fellows youths on the importance of giving back to society and becoming anchors in moving the sustainability movement forward”.

The Network’s projects have included working with national and international entities to host workshops and seminars, with the main goal of these events being to “illustrate to young people the importance of our roles as future leaders, and our responsibility to carry on the message of sustainability”.

Oweis and Ajlan note that the COVID-19 pandemic made the Network’s physical outreach difficult. The two founders responded by further embracing “the power of social media”, hosting numerous webinars, live sessions, and virtual conferences.

“Social media has allowed us to send our message about the importance of being an active member of society. Being ‘active’ means engaging with the community and bringing solutions to the table”.

The co-founders recognise the passion and drive of youth in Qatar, noting that it is the innovative ideas and proposals from young people that will be pivotal to ensuring that the SDGs are accomplished.

Ajlan Al-Kaabi





Oweis Al Salahi

“

Our generation is passionate and hard-working. Technological advancements have meant that we are more aware than ever before of our responsibilities and more able to view the world from different perspectives.

Oweis Al Salahi and Ajlan Al-Kaabi,
Co-founders, SDGeneration Network

The two founders focus on bringing about change by encouraging people to make small changes to their daily routines. One of their initiatives involves educating young people in Qatar on plastic management and disposal, showing how reducing their consumption of plastic bottles and straws can support several SDGs.

Oweis and Ajlan have been involved in Education Above All's Youth Advocacy Programme and the Qatari Youth Delegation at the United Nations. These experiences gave them the confidence they needed to appreciate their potential as young people in advocating for change, and allowed them to see the power of partnering and uniting with others towards a common goal.

Oweis and Ajlan have since even gained recognition from the United Nations for their efforts, having been recognised under the SDG Good Practices Initiative as the only youth-led initiative in the region focused on achieving all 17 SDGs.

Heading into the future, Oweis and Ajlan hope to further expand the SDGeneration Network by continuing to integrate and collaborate with like-minded individuals. The pair also want to have the global sustainability agenda introduced in schools' curriculums, to further encourage young people to see both their responsibility and their ability to bring about change.





The Empowered Generation

Investment in youth is investment in the future, an investment in the next set of leaders, entrepreneurs, and pioneers. Learn more about the tools and initiatives in Qatar that are nurturing this next generation of role models, and those to follow.

- 36 Bringing academic research to the commercial market
- 40 Saving young people around the world from poverty
- 42 Qatar Foundation's flagship education initiative
- 46 Aspire Inspires



Bringing research to the commercial market

Q Life interviewed the Executive Director of Qatar Science & Technology Park, Yosouf Al-Salehi, to learn more about how QSTP, part of Qatar Foundation Research, Development, and Innovation, has propelled innovation in Qatar's science scene.

Why was Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) established?

QSTP was established by Qatar Foundation and given Free Zone status by the government due to the importance of its mission to support the nation's research, development, and innovation (RDI) ecosystem. QSTP has attracted global industry leaders to invest in Qatar; not just in terms of money but through RDI centres and technology development activities that have a cascading impact on Qatar's human capacity pipeline development in high technology, facilitate knowledge transfer, and develop collaborative projects that address national priorities while also having global impact. It also provides a bridge between applied research and the commercial market.

Why do you think organisations like QSTP are important?

QSTP plays an important role in attracting foreign direct investment, and positioning Qatar as an international destination for technology development. It fosters the most comprehensive value chain of research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and commercialisation in Qatar that supports our youth and tech entrepreneurs by helping them take their innovative concepts and exciting ideas to market. It is also enriching the RDI ecosystem by establishing bridges with national stakeholders and the public and private sectors - all of which contributes to strengthening the sustainability and diversification of Qatar's economy.



What made you want to be a part of QSTP?

I wanted to play a role in taking Qatar's RDI offering to the world stage. I have always believed in the vision and mission of QSTP, as well as in the long-term benefits that technology and investment in RDI can bring to Qatar.

What is the biggest mistake that you think start-ups make?

The most common mistake I see is that entrepreneurs pour so much time and energy into the development of their product that they neglect the other vital elements of running a successful business – understanding the commercial aspect and having a go-to-market strategy.

The most exciting innovation in the world will mean nothing if you don't take it to market effectively – that means understanding customer or end-user needs, analysing competition, addressing legal and Intellectual Property issues, undertaking marketing activities, and so on.

What does it take to be a successful entrepreneur in Qatar?

Entrepreneurs underestimate the power of networking and leadership – they must build solid relationships with investors and be able to inspire and lead a team. They also need to have close connections with their customers from an early stage, in order to collect feedback and optimize their products or services accordingly.

What motivated you to write a book about management?

I've been fortunate enough to have learnt about running a business from many reputable coaches and through a wide range of experiences throughout my career. Ultimately, you need the right leadership and management skills to run a successful business, and so I wanted to pass on the knowledge I have in these areas to others, in the hope that they too can use it for the benefit of their careers.

Do you think QSTP is effective in achieving its aims?

QSTP and its Free Zone continue to play a central role in enhancing Qatar's profile as an international destination for technology development. We are home to top global technology companies who have invested in Qatar through QSTP. There are 73 companies at QSTP, including 26 startups in our incubator. We've seen 14 seed and startup funding deals take place since 2019. Programs like our Arab Innovation Academy (AIA), Accelerator programme (XLR8), and Stars of Science – QF's innovation TV show – provide the right support tailored to the specific needs of innovators and entrepreneurs, advancing Qatar's thriving startup ecosystem. Over 1,000 people have benefited from our innovation programmes since 2017. By training and mentoring Qatar's innovators and entrepreneurs to develop their business skills and create exciting new ventures, we are facilitating the development and commercialisation of new technology products and services as well as helping bring quality job opportunities into the Qatari market.



Yosouf Al-Salehi

How does QSTP encourage young people in Qatar to innovate?

We aim to equip Qatar's youth and tech entrepreneurs with the tools and skills that they need to create successful careers for themselves. For instance, our new Meshkat programme is aimed at high school students, demonstrating the importance of innovation and showcasing the various career options that technology and entrepreneurship offer. The AIA attracts university students and young entrepreneurs from across Qatar and the region, providing them an authentic experience of developing and launching new technology ventures, with guidance from global startup leaders and experts.

Following this experience, our accelerator programme, incubation centre, as well as our funding and investment programmes, support promising innovators and entrepreneurs to bring their innovations to the market and grow their businesses. Additionally, larger companies based at QSTP actively collaborate with the wider QF ecosystem to stimulate the minds of our students and youth towards a career in RDI and tech entrepreneurship through their various educational, internship, and awareness activities. All of this highlights the highly collaborative and vibrant nature of the environment at QSTP.

What does the future of QSTP look like?

Our vision is guided by the pursuit of growth and continuous improvement. We want to continue to support established companies operating in Qatar to take advantage of the benefits that our market offers, including the rich RDI ecosystem. We also want to support the next generation of Qatari entrepreneurs.

Saving young people around the world from poverty

“Access to financial services has been recognised as one of the most critical factors in eradicating global poverty”, Silatech CEO Hassan Al Mulla notes, as he reflects on the achievements and ambitions of the international development non-governmental organisation.



Silatech was founded to connect young people to economic services, employment opportunities, and hope for a better future, and has developed into a leading pioneer of global youth empowerment.

“These structures, when in place, provide thousands of jobs to marginalised young people, those who otherwise would be left susceptible to radicalisation, extremism, and violence. Organisations like Silatech create hope from despair, fostering entrepreneurial environments that are conducive to youth empowerment and enable young people to become agents of change”.

This is how CEO Hassan Al Mulla summarises the work of Silatech when asked, further noting that the organisation is there to provide the “resources, skills, and guidance” that young people need to succeed.

“My personal favourite moments of success all emerge from seeing the impactful results of our life-changing and inclusionary initiatives. Our motivated teams and strategic partners are all unwavering in our commitment to the core vision of our founder, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. Every success we have seen is a testament to our partners and our broad alliances of government leaders, global experts, community organisers, and youth advocates”.



Silatech supports real people and real businesses, inspiring entrepreneurs and innovation

Hassan notes that the biggest challenge he has faced as CEO has been maintaining the momentum and impact of Silatech throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The pandemic is increasing the need for our work and causing it to be more difficult at the same time.

Hassan Al Mulla,
Silatech CEO

“We are continuing to work diligently alongside our strategic partners to find new directions aimed at transforming the lives of unemployed youths. Digital technology has undoubtedly revolutionised the way we do business, with Silatech adopting advanced remote work solutions and learning tools that allow us to continue reaching as many young people as possible”.

Looking ahead to what he hopes to achieve at Silatech, Hassan notes that he wants to “reach and impact as many young lives as possible”.

“I want Silatech to become a leading global organisation for youth empowerment, supporting marginalised and ambitious young people who can drive development to the point that our services are no longer needed. It is often said that small acts, as small as they may be to some people, can often make a world of difference to someone else”.

Qatar Foundation's flagship education initiative

Education City was established by Qatar Foundation to be a hub of research and education, nurturing inquisitive and empowered students. Student-turned-researcher Fatema Al Malki reflects on the impact that Education City has had on her generation, and will have on those to come.

Fatema Al Malki at
Georgetown University
in Qatar







“

I remember Qatar Academy Doha [one of the many Qatar Foundation schools and universities located within Education City] as a place of exploration, engagement, challenge, community, and responsibility. Without having so many opportunities, it would have been impossible for me to choose a path for my future. I am so thankful to have been a Qatar Academy Doha student.

Fatema Al Malki,
Qatar Foundation student-turned-researcher

Alongside Qatar Academy Doha, Education City is home to institutions that provide education for over 8,000 students from primary schooling to postdoctoral degrees, offering a Western education in a Middle Eastern setting. This includes branch campuses of Georgetown, Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern, Virginia Commonwealth, and Texas A&M Universities, and Weill Cornell Medicine. These globally-respected institutions sit alongside Qatar Foundation's homegrown research university Hamad Bin Khalifa University, a science and technology park with a start-up incubator, three research institutes, community facilities, heritage sites, and cultural establishments.

"I often joke that Qatar Foundation has a giant U-turn sign whenever people graduate or leave – we'll always keep coming back. From 1996 to 2021, I've been a part of the Qatar Foundation community. I have noticed that there is the same emphasis on multiculturalism at every stage, the same shared excitement for causes, and the same eagerness for progress. That's what has kept me coming back; the camaraderie found here".

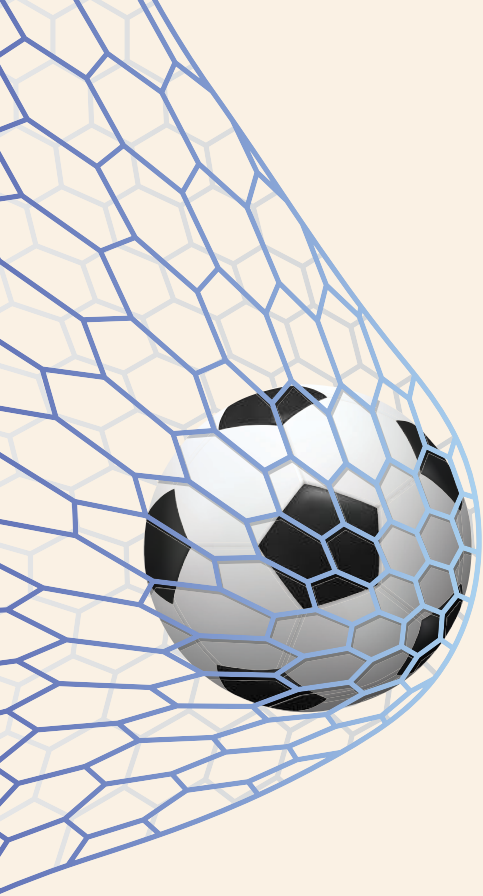
Students at Education City are encouraged to integrate with all of the peers with whom they share the 12sq km campus. They are able to cross-register for classes at other universities and pursue joint minors, as well as benefit from collaborative initiatives, combined events, and shared amenities that are all designed to make students feel as much of an attachment to Education City and Qatar Foundation as they do to their specific institution.

"I know that if I walk into any room in Education City, I'm going to meet people who care about recycling, sustainability, making education accessible for all, and furthering innovation. Being in Education City means we're all committed to the same goals. It generates faster ideas, and I know that everyone will be on board to bring about change".



Young people are nurtured to make their own decisions and contribute to the advancement of Qatar. We nurture insightful, active, and productive change-makers. I think that mindset is extremely valuable. If here for a year or a decade, this place sparks passion.

Fatema Al Malki,
Qatar Foundation student-turned-researcher



Aspire Inspires

Qatar is home to Aspire Academy, a sports academy with ambitions to be one of the world's leading institutes in the development of youth athletes. It is managed by leading talent coaches, sports scientists, and academics to ensure that those who graduate from the academy are well-educated, well-rounded, and high-achieving sportspeople.

ASPIRE IN NUMBERS



70% of the Qatar Football National Team squad that **won the 2019 AFC Asian Cup** studied at Aspire Academy.



Aspire Academy graduate Al Moez Ali broke a 23-year-old record by scoring **nine goals** at the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, making him the tournament's top scorer and MVP.



Aspire Academy student Hashim Ali was the **youngest player** to have ever scored at an AFC U23 Championship, at just 17 years old.



Aspire Academy's U17 team finished as **runner-up** to Real Madrid in the 2017 ALKASS International Cup.





Aspire Academy

Founded in 2004, the Academy looks to identify and attract Qatar's most promising football and sporting talent. The team works to foster this talent, alongside cultivating a nurturing environment that supports the physical and mental health of players.

Aspire Academy brings innovative approaches to education and sport. Sports science, technology, research, and innovation work hand-in-hand with schooling to develop its students into the future's leading athletes and global figures. The Academy

works with domestic sports federations, Olympic committees, and European club networks to bring a global mind-set and perspective to its curriculum.

The Academy's campus contains architecturally-acclaimed facilities, state-of-the-art science and IT labs, and engaging activity rooms. With access to world-class resources for both academia and sports, Aspire Academy provides its talented young athletes with an unparalleled experience.

About the Government Communications Office

The Government Communications Office (GCO) was established in June 2015 to effectively communicate the priorities of the Government of the State of Qatar.

The GCO works with Qatar's ministries and embassies across the world to tell the country's story and showcase its vision for the future.

The GCO falls under the jurisdiction of His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

The GCO is committed to transparent engagement with the international community as Qatar continues on its journey of development.

As part of its work, the GCO publishes Q Life Magazine twice a year. Its purpose is to educate a global audience about the State of Qatar and highlight the country's achievements and initiatives in various fields – locally and internationally.

To read this version of Q Life Magazine online, visit Q Life, the GCO's platform celebrating the people and ideas powering Qatar's development. Visit Q Life online at [www.qlife.com](http://www qlife.com) or on Instagram at [@qlife_com](https://www.instagram.com/qlife_com).

To find out the latest news from the GCO, please visit our website at www.gco.gov.qa or Twitter at [@GCOQatar](https://twitter.com/GCOQatar).



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Government Communications Office

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Issue 10

Q | LIFE

Issue 10

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