



Symposium on Qatar's National Curriculum Standards

Doha, Qatar (November 21, 2005) – The SEC's Education Institute is to host a symposium on "Qatar's National Curriculum Standards" at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel on November 30, 2005. This event aims to increase public awareness about the role of the curriculum standards currently being implemented in the new Independent Schools. Parents and teachers will not only get a first hand perspective about the role standards play in reforming the education system, but also have the opportunity to raise their concerns or views on the implementation of the standards implemented in 2004.

"The event will mark the significance of the Curriculum Standards in the Qatari education Reform, disseminate knowledge and raise the public awareness about these Standards and also educate parents about them and how to assist their children at home with homework and other learning activities in relation to the Standards," says Dr. Mohammed Al Ansari, Director, Curriculum Standards Office at the SEC. It will also be used as a source for teachers to broaden their knowledge about the Standards in relation to school curriculum. "Our Curriculum Standards reflect the knowledge, skills, and values that we want to equip our Qatari students with. They support the Qatari national strategic orientation in the political, social, economic, and cultural arenas," he continues.

Notable educators will address the symposium including Dr. Hamed Al Hammami, Director, UNESCO Regional Office in Doha, who will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Hammami has over 20 years of experience in the education field and has held prominent governmental positions in Oman including Director General of Curricular and Training in the Ministry of Education. He has also been a member of a Joint Committee formed to reform education curricular in the GCC countries.

Leading Scholar, Dr. Yasir Suleiman – Director, Centre for the Study of the Arab World and Islam at the University of Edinburgh, and leader of the team that authored Qatar's Arabic Standards, will be the main speaker of the session entitled "Arabic Standards between Authenticity and Modernity". Ms. Anita Straker, OBE, Principal Consultant with the Centre for British Teachers (CfBT), UK and leader of the curriculum standards authoring team, will address the session on School Curricula – Textbooks versus Standards. Over 500 educators, parents and stakeholders from across Qatar are expected to attend the event.

The Supreme Education Council was established by Emiri decree in 2002. It serves as the primary authority on education policy in Qatar and, with its three Institutes, is leading the effort to transform the nation's schools into a modern, world-class education system. More information about Qatar's education reform effort, Education for a New Era, is available at www.education.gov.qa.