

QNL Snapshots - Issue (5) - April, May & June 2014

Kindly note that the Arabic and English versions may not be identical and this is due to the media coverage differences during this period.



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Qatar National Library Wins Top Design Award for Exhibition Stand at QITCOM Conference and Exhibition 2014



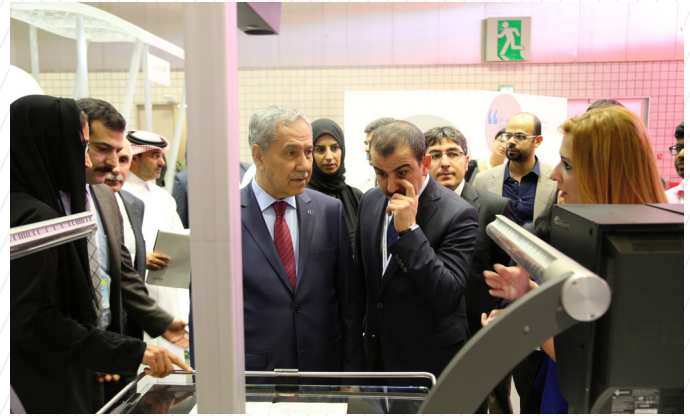
Qatar National Library capped off a successful week at QITCOM by capturing a prize for best stand at the conference.

On the final night of the prestigious event, the library won the award for best booth below 90 metres with the prize awarded at QITCOM's gala dinner.

The award-winning stand welcomed hundreds of visitors to the QITCOM 2014 Conference and Exhibition which brought together leading innovators and suppliers of information and communications technology from around the region and the world. Visitors enjoyed a

demonstration of the state-of-the-art technology QNL has adopted to preserve and transform its treasured Qatari, Arab and Islamic heritage materials for future generations. As a result of the live demonstration of the library's highly advanced and technical

digitization process, QNL also welcomed hundreds of new registered members, who now have access to its growing array of online resources ranging from the latest best-sellers, classical works and concerts to leading academic journals and documentaries.



The unique design, in addition to these features, helped win the award, said organizers. QNL's exhibition stand design was inspired by the architecture of its new building which symbolises knowledge and offers a window to the world that can inspire the community's imagination.

The spacious, open and modern design also featured the library's new logo that reflects QNL's work to change current perceptions about libraries worldwide by presenting QNL as a hub of information for the young and old alike.

Distinguished guests of the ictQatar-backed QITCOM conference included Prime Minister and Interior Minister HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, as well as Minister for Information, Communications and

Technology Dr Hessa Al-Jaber, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Başbakan Yardımcıları. They visited QNL's stand and heard from the library's experts about the process involved in preserving books and manuscripts into online records. Commenting about the exposure gained by QNL at the conference, Project Director Dr Claudia Lux, said: "We are absolutely thrilled that QNL won this award, and with the exposure the library gained from partnering with QITCOM this year that has led to increased uptake of its unique resources," She added; "We are also pleased about the positive response from the public concerning QNL's vital work in conserving the nation's heritage".

Echoing these comments, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning

Saadi Al-Said remarked: "Many people were left simply stunned by the way in which the library experts and technology are enhancing and standardizing images and text, making them ready to join the digital catalogue. Over time, we believe that more and more people will realize that the modern library has something for everyone to explore, enjoy and help unlock their potential".

As a gold sponsor of the event, QNL also had the opportunity to address delegates about the library's plans. Speaking to delegates, QNL's Project Director Dr Claudia Lux presented QNL's insight into the theme of 'Social media, broadband, smart cities – what do we need to build the information society of Qatar?' As part of her presentation, Dr Lux discussed the role technology plays in relationship to the access and the creation of content and the use of this technology to overcome the digital divide in society, as well as the other requirements in developing an information society.

The QITCOM 2014 Conference took place between 26-28 May at the Qatar National Convention Centre, within Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's Education City.

QNL Participates in the Digitization Pilot Project Launched by ICT Ministry with the Ministry of Culture

The Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ictQATAR) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage (MoCAH) and Qatar National Library (QNL) initiated a pilot project for the digitization of heritage material at the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage.

ictQATAR has taken the lead to facilitate and launch that pilot project, which came in the form of a tripartite memo of understanding signed on 28th May 2014 by the two ministries and QNL, on the sidelines of the third edition of Qatar ICT Conference and Exhibition (QITCOM 2014), which took place at the Qatar National Convention Centre from 26 to 28 May, 2014.

The project came as part of ICT Ministry's efforts to digitize the Qatari heritage and culture and make them available in a digital format to the local and international audiences and make Qatar's rich heritage more accessible to the nation's increasingly digital savvy youth. The project involves the digitization of audiovisual material and pictures related to the culture and heritage of Qatar that could otherwise be lost due to natural deterioration or technological obsolescence. The MOU was signed by Reem Al-Mansoori, Executive Director of Internet and Society at the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, Mr Hamad Al Muhanadi, Head of Heritage Department at the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, and Dr Claudia Lux, QNL Project Director.

Qatar National Library was selected to play the role of a national digital conversion centre. The library is already a



centre of excellence having used its experience to digitize historic items from its extensive Heritage Collection for publication on websites including the World Digital Library.

Following the MOU, QNL will use its state-of-the-art resources and expert technical staff to implement the pilot project which will see a selection of the digitized audiovisual and picture content published online through a public portal to be managed by the library.

Throughout the project, the ICT Ministry will be overseeing the digitization process to observe compliance with the policies and standards of digitization of Qatar's culture, heritage and media.

"The Ministry of Information and Communications Technology realizes the importance of preserving Qatar's heritage. Together with partner organizations in the media, culture and heritage sectors, the Ministry can develop new ways of using technology to preserve

and disseminate Qatar's national heritage," said Al-Mansoori Commenting on the MOU.

"The pilot project is an important first step in the Ministry's national plan to digitize, preserve and share Qatar's rich Arab and Islamic heritage online. By making Qatar's heritage accessible on the Internet, we not only connect our youth with their heritage and traditions, but also enable them to express their identity in new and innovative ways. In the new digital age, technology provides new opportunities for preserving our shared national memory." She added.

Al Muhanadi said; "The MOU comes within the framework of enhancing Qatar's rank in the cyberspace in Arabic in accordance with the main pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the objectives of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, which pays great attention to preserving the national heritage of Qatar.

It also meets the objectives of the national digitization plan for the preservation and digitization of heritage, culture and intellectual capital and for boosting the Arabic digital content”.

On behalf of Qatar National Library, Dr Lux praised the project saying: “In line with the library’s commitment to spreading knowledge, QNL is fully behind digitization to promote greater understanding of Arab and Islamic cultural heritage and history of the Gulf region,” she also added “The library’s experienced teams and

latest technology are already integral to sharing resources from Qatar and beyond with the general public. This new project is exciting because it reaches even further which is why Qatar National Library is proud to become the first Conversion Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage”.

Noteworthy, the ICT Ministry published a national policy and standards on digitization in the media, culture and heritage sector in July 2013.

The Ministry is committed to facilitating these efforts through a national digitization plan and a national work group that can pull together the resources and expertise of different organizations in the media, culture and heritage sector. Central to that national effort is a national digitization strategy that leverage the competencies of national key cultural, heritage and media institutions in Qatar. The model identifies three key national functional areas: Digitization facilitation, Digital conversion centres and Unified access platform.

Lecture on ‘Best Practices for Collection Evaluation and Conservation’



Qatar National Library organized an expert lecture that raised awareness and understanding of the best practices for preservation and conservation after collection evaluations of old and often fragile items such as rare books, manuscripts, maps, and globes. The lecture was held at

Hamad bin Khalifa University Student Centre within Qatar Foundation’s Education City on 13th April 2014.

The lecture was delivered by Ms Yasmeen Khan, Senior Book Conservator for Digital Projects at the Library of Congress. Ms Khan has over twenty years of experience as a conservator

that includes conservation work for books, paper, art, photographs, and more. Her work at the Library of Congress ranges from strategic planning to managing the Conservation Division’s work-flow for digitization including collection assessment and treatment.

Opinion - Dr Claudia Lux

Embracing Technology For Libraries of the Future

LET ME make a statement that might surprise you: a library does not require books to be a library. It is a statement that many people find difficult to understand, especially when it comes from a librarian with over three decades of experience; the same librarian who loves reading books and who is also responsible for overseeing the hugely important Qatar National Library (QNL) project.

It is a concept that my team and I have been discussing with visitors to Qatar National Library's exhibition stand at QITCOM 2014. Books are important and essential, of course, and QNL will have over 1.2 million available to the public in our stunning new building that is currently under construction in Education City. However, shelves of paper and parchment, in and of themselves, are not alone what give a library its purpose. Rather, the fundamental function of a library is to curate and share knowledge, both to preserve the wisdom and cultural heritage of the past and to provide a platform for the new discoveries of the future.

The traditional way to do this has been confined to reading books, but today we have a whole new opportunity. This is what QNL is seeking through its investment in state-of-the-art facilities and deployment of the latest technology.

At QITCOM, QNL has showcased the work of experts from the library's Information Technology team, who presented a live demonstration of how they use state-of-the-art technology to

preserve precious, valuable and old print books and documents, aiming to preserve the nation's cultural heritage for future generations.

Visitors witnessed how the library's team uses technology to conserve delicate documents and manuscripts. Technicians then showed how the library is making enhancements to difficult-to-read text and images. Both younger and older people were fascinated by how the library team performs an almost magical transformation.

Writings that are hundreds of years old, scratched out on fading paper, are transformed into an electronic document that can now be read or studied like any other. This process of promoting the opportunities of new digital content is why QNL challenges the common notion that libraries can only be centered on books.

It is the content that is the priority, and our commitment is to make knowledge available to the Qatari people, whether recorded in a book, on parchment, in a sound recording or, increasingly, online.

This approach enables us to share a wealth of content and makes an unprecedented variety



Dr Claudia Lux

of material available at the touch of a button.

This is the revolutionary approach that drove QNL's decision, following the announcement of its founding by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, in 2012, that the library would not wait for its new building to be complete before it became a living and relevant institution.

This approach enables us to share a wealth of content and makes an unprecedented variety of material available at the touch of a button at any time of day or night, no matter where you live. Digital technology is the way ahead into the 21st century, and QNL is fully prepared to make the most of the opportunity.

Hundreds Gather for Glimpse of Qatar National Library's Remarkable Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection



Qatar National Library (QNL) hosted a second successful Open Day on 17th April 2014, for members of the public to explore its magnificent Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection.

Held to celebrate UNESCO's International Day for Monuments and Sites, hundreds of visitors flocked to its Heritage Collection's building to view the library's most prized and historic items. QNL's collection of globes, maps and documents relating to the archaeological site Al Zubarah were especially popular among the participants at this special event. Speaking about the historic city in the north of the country, Saadi A. Al Said, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning said: "This year's Heritage Collection Open Day specially recognized Al Zubarah

archaeological site, which UNESCO declared as Qatar's first entry on to the World Heritage list in June 2013. The array of QNL's Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection maps and beautiful globes relating to Al Zubarah made a real impact on the public during the Open Day". QNL's Arab and Islamic Heritage Collection regularly attracts diplomats and intellectuals from all over the world, and was visited by His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, during his visit to Qatar in February. Nine ambassadors from Argentina,

Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Japan, Libya, Morocco, Peru, Switzerland and Turkey, plus representatives from the embassies of Greece and Yemen enjoyed tours at the Open Day. His Excellency Ambassador Julio Florian of Peru applauded QNL and encouraged international communities to visit: "It's a wonder. Peru and Qatar may be 20 hours by plane and geographically far apart, but through cultural events you can build bridges and that is why this place is so important for every society. It's the way to get closer". Praising QNL's vision in bridging



Qatar's heritage and its future through knowledge, Dr Abdulla Mohamed Al Sulaiti, member of QNL's Board of Trustees and Deputy Director of Research and Collections at Qatar National Museum, said: "QNL's Arab and Islamic Heritage collection is one of the most important ones in the Gulf region because it presents so much information about the Arabian Peninsula and Arab world. It is open for everybody, allowing them to view rare and valuable manuscripts, maps and books". Speaking further, Saadi A. Al Said remarked: "QNL is delighted to have welcomed so many families, students, educators and VIPs to the second Heritage Collection Open Day. This is a special place that truly expresses the depth and richness of Arab-Islamic civilization. Sharing these cultural treasures with the community is what drives the mission of QNL". Before the new building opens, the public is able

to access the library's wealth of online collections by registering their details with QNL. During the Open Day, visitors took the opportunity to do this using a special online booth, and are now eligible to use the wealth of information for study, research or simple relaxation. Speaking of the popularity of this registration process, Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of QNL, said: "We are delighted that so many visitors to the Open Day immediately registered to QNL's online collections. Anyone with a valid Qatari ID or residence permit is eligible to sign up and access these free online resources. Even before the library's stunning new home is complete, the wealth of content, ranging from modern and classic literature, to online concerts and academic periodicals is a treasure trove for everyone in Qatar to explore, enjoy and benefit from".

QNL Hosts Top Regional Libraries for a Heritage Preservation and Awareness Event

Qatar National Library (QNL), teamed up with the World Digital Library (WDL) and organized the 2014 WDL Arab Peninsula Regional Group Symposium which focused on heritage preservation and awareness.

The two-day symposium, entitled 'Preserving Cultural Heritage Content Training – A legacy for the future', took place at the Qatar National Convention Centre and attracted more than 40 attendees.

Delegates included senior representatives, professors and librarians from a number of libraries and universities including QNL, Qatar University, Kuwait University, King Hamad Digital Library in Bahrain, the California State University in San Francisco and the Library of Congress.

Following the great success of the hands-on training workshop last year, QNL and WDL embarked on continuing activities within the region and dedicated the discussion to the value of preserving heritage and culture, the means to ensure preservation of cultural items, and the 'themes approach' to presenting them.

WDL was created by the Library of Congress, and reinforced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Libraries and cultural institutions from around the world contribute to WDL, led by the Library of Congress, by sharing their cultural treasures to create a digital fountain of knowledge. Information presented through the WDL is available in seven languages, including Arabic. Saadi A. Al Said, QNL's Associate Director for Administration and Planning,



who participated as a panellist at the event, said: "QNL was so thrilled to once again collaborate with WDL to organize a highly informative symposium on the preservation of our heritage. This area is particularly relevant to QNL as we have adopted state-of-the-art technology to preserve and transform our treasured Qatari Arab and Islamic historical records for future generations". Commenting about the symposium, John Van Oudenaren, Director of WDL, said: "This has been another great opportunity to work with QNL and other partners from across the region on capacity building and strengthening the profile of the Arabian Gulf region for WDL. In previous workshops, we focused on technical training with regard to digitization and metadata standards. In this symposium, we stepped back and took a broader view. We discussed heritage awareness and the role

of digital libraries in helping to preserve and increase awareness of heritage content, we covered such issues as promoting and preserving Arabic and Islamic identity using digital media, approaches to increasing user engagement with online cultural content, and how to identify and select content for digitization and inclusion in WDL and other digital libraries. It was a very useful discussion from WDL's perspective, as well as from the point of view, I believe, of our partners at QNL and elsewhere in the region".

QNL was announced in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development. Under the guidance of Qatar Foundation, the library provides free access to a diversified collection of online databases for students, educators, researchers, and the wider community in Qatar.

Families Enjoy Rich Cultural Arabic Heritage During QNL's Children Book Launch



Qatar National Library, (QNL) in collaboration with Occidental Petroleum of Qatar Ltd. (OXY Qatar) recently welcomed more than 150 children and their families to 'The Blue Jackal' book launch. The event, which took place on Monday 23 June, 2014, reflects QNL's commitment to keeping local traditions alive and encouraging young people to preserve Qatar's heritage.

Appealing to children, the story of 'The Blue Jackal' and the 17 other fables written by Qatar-based author Frances Gillespie have been inspired by the rich cultural heritage from all over the Muslim world.

The book launch featured a variety of activities including recitals of selected stories from the book, colouring activities and distributing free autographed copies of the book to the participating audience. Parents attending the event expressed their deep admiration for QNL in organizing such useful and entertaining activities for children.

The event was held at Hamad bin Khalifa University Student Centre within Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's Education City. It was organized to promote local culture among Qatar's youth, encouraging them to read and share knowledge in order to preserve Qatar's heritage for future generations.

Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of QNL, said, "Participants were extremely impressed with our fun-filled book launch of 'The Blue Jackal'. Many also expressed the joy of bringing young people and adults together through the cultural works. As a result of this positive response, QNL is certainly planning to host similar educational and entertaining events in the future".

Stephen Kelly, President and General Manager of OXY Qatar, commented in his opening speech: "We are very pleased to collaborate with Qatar National Library in organizing this event and the launching of 'The Blue Jackal and Other Tales from Islamic Lands'. OXY proudly dedicates this book to the children of Qatar. We hope the re-told fables and original illustrations in 'The Blue Jackal and Other Tales From Islamic Lands' will encourage reading and learning. All of us at OXY believe this beautiful book will

be enjoyable and inspiring to everyone who reads it".

In this context, Frances Gillespie, author of the book, said: "I would like to express my appreciation to OXY Qatar for sponsoring this publication and to both OXY and Qatar National Library for their efforts in planning and organizing the event. I am delighted to see so many children and their families present".

Gillespie has worked in Qatar as a teacher, environmental consultant and freelance journalist. She began authoring books about Qatar in 2000. In recent years, she concentrated on publications for young readers about Qatar and the Arabian Gulf including 'Qatar Nature Explorer'; a series of six colourful hardback books about Qatar. She is also the author of the best-selling book 'Discovering Qatar', which has been re-printed three times since its launch in 2006.

QNL Participates in Warsaw's Book Fair and INFORUM 2014 Conference



A team from Qatar National Library (QNL) participated in the Warsaw Book Fair in Poland from 22 to 25 May 2014 and the INFORUM 2014 Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, from 27 to 28 May 2014. QNL had its own booth in both events.

The Warsaw Book Fair is an annual event in Poland and is well-attended by exhibitors, visitors, and authors. In 2014, 63000 visitors, 700 exhibitors, 700 authors from around the World visited and participated in the fair.



The INFORUM 2014 Conference covered many areas highlighting the non-traditional Electronic Information Resources and including them in the curriculum for students, teachers, librarians, and researchers.

The INFORUM 2014 conference was also accompanied by an exhibition in which well-known special and public libraries, private corporations, publishing houses, and state agencies participated, and QNL was among the exhibitors.

QNL Participates in a Prestigious Libraries Conference in the UK

Qatar National Library (QNL) continued to raise its global profile during the 'Academic and Research Libraries Group (ARLG) Conference' in the United Kingdom. The event, held at the University of Sussex, the UK, from 23rd to 25th June 2014, presented another opportunity for QNL staff members to keep abreast of the latest advancements in libraries and information practices. The conference also provided the library with international exposure, publicity and valuable networking opportunities. The 'ARLG Conference' aims to provide a focus and forum for the professional concerns and interests of everyone working in academic or research libraries and linking those with current and emerging issues and developments. It also provided a focus and forum for the professional concerns and interests of everyone working in this area, and covered topics



including new space, value added services and innovation in services.

Accompanying the conference was an exhibition featuring a number of libraries, organizations and institutions from around the world, including QNL as proud silver sponsors of the event.

Qatar National Library Organizes a Workshop on Reference Services



Qatar National Library organized on 28 April 2014 a workshop titled 'The Face of Reference: Meeting Expectations, Strengthening Skills, and Preparing for Tomorrow' by Ross LaBaugh. The one-day workshop re-established the critical role

reference service has in the library and information service. Participants learned how the basic tenets of traditional reference are essential to excellent customer service and discovered why a client centered approach improves success for both the library user and the librarian.

The session held in Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Student Centre within Education City, was directive and interactive, giving all attendees an opportunity to experience both the theoretical and practical applications of the sound reference service.

Qatar National Library Book Discussions in April and May



Qatar National Library (QNL) organized two book discussions in April and May 2014. The two book discussions were over Ali Izetbegović's 'Islam between East and West' book, translated into Arabic by Mohammed Yousef Adas, and 'Married to Bedouin' by Marguerite van Geldermalsen.

Participants in 'Islam between East and West' book discussion discussed the way the author raises Islam, and how he tackles the issues of religion, philosophy, culture, ethics, art, and drama. They also examined the approach adopted by the author, and how consistent it is with the objective at the beginning of the book; "To have a true understanding of the World, we must know the

real sources of the ideas that govern this World and know their meanings". Furthermore, the 'Married to Bedouin' book documents New Zealand born Marguerite van Geldermalsen's first visit to the lost city of Petra in 1978, during a sightseeing tour of the ancient world. Already looking forward to her beach holiday at the end of the trip, little does Marguerite

know that she is about to meet the man she will marry, a bedouin craftsman of the Mnajah tribe. The book is a light-hearted look at a New Zealand woman's life residing in a cave in Petra, Jordan. The general public, QNL-registered members, students and Qatari reading-lovers attended these two book discussions.

Training sessions on online databases

Qatar National Library (QNL) organized a number of training sessions during the period April-May 2014, the practical training sessions were organized to help residents familiarize themselves with Oxford University Press (OUP) online databases and

'SpringerLink' online database. Oxford University Press (OUP) online databases include 'Oxford Art Online', 'Oxford Music Online', and 'Oxford Bibliographies Online: Islamic Studies', 'Oxford Reference Library', and OUP Journals. Moreover, 'SpringerLink' online

database is an eBook and journal database with titles in many subjects, but specializes in science, technology, and medicine. This goes in line with QNL's mission to spread knowledge, nurture imagination, cultivate creativity, and preserve the nation's heritage for the future.

THE THANAA AWARD 2014



The Thanaa Award is given to employees of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and its centres to reward and recognize praiseworthy performance. The Qatar National Library, a member of Qatar Foundation, honored a group of its dedicated employees for their exemplary performance throughout the last year.

'Thanaa' is an Arabic word which means praise and Dr Claudia Lux, Project Director of Qatar National Library, awarded certificates of appreciation to Carol L. Mitchell - Head of Childrens Services, Gihan Mohsen Baraka - Head of Library Relations and Communications, Vivek K. yadava - Head of Library Systems, Henry Owino - Head of Library Acquisitions, Princess Pinlac Saucedo - Acquisitions Officer, Fatma Ibrahim Al-Mannai - Events Specialist, Sreenivasulu Dugginaboyina - Digitization Support Technician and Babu P.J - Business Support Officer, praising them for their contributions to the development of Qatar National Library.

MEET THE TEAM



Fatma Ibrahim Al Mannai

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am Qatari holding a bachelor degree in Libraries and Information Sciences. Previously, I worked at the National Human Rights Committee as an Information Specialist and then as an Events Specialist. I joined the QNL family on January, 2014 as an Events Specialist with the Communications team.

What do you do as an Events Specialist?

As an events specialist, my work covers planning, preparing and executing internal and external events and activities, as well as advising on local, regional and international exhibitions. My work is fully supported by the Communications team and I am glad to be a member of such cooperative and helpful team.

Describe your experience working within the QNL Communications team?

At QNL, the experience I am getting is not like any other because I tend to work not only in the events field but rather in the field of Public Relations in general. Given the team work spirit that we have in our department, I have learnt a lot about PR and Marketing matters and how they can assist in the publicity of any event. Moreover, with QNL involved in many events, I feel that I am learning something new in every event or activity held.

What's the most important thing you've learned through working in the Communications field at QNL?

The most important thing that I have learned working in the Communications team is that the work of each one of us complements the other and that it is all about team work and spirit.

What inspires you? And why?

The QNL project inspires me as it supports the Qatar Vision 2030 aiming for human and social development. The QNL project has an important role to play in realizing the Qatar Vision 2030 of building a knowledge-based society, which will result in changing people's lives and unlocking their potentials. My family as well has a great role in inspiring me in my career life.

What is your favorite book?

The Secret is my favorite book as it encourages positive thinking. This book, talks with examples, about the law of attraction and how negative thoughts can result in negative actions and how positive thoughts can come back with positive things you didn't expect. The book also tells us that good things in life like health and wealth can be "attracted" by changing our way of thinking and feeling.