

BUSINESS CARD

مؤسسة قطر  
Qatar Foundation

**Hassan Zeidan**  
Co-ordinator of Admissions and Records  
Academic Bridge Program

**What does your role as an Admissions and Records Co-ordinator involve?**

As an Admissions and Records Co-ordinator, my role involves managing the applications of students applying to the Academic Bridge Program (ABP) and generating the schedules, transcripts and records for the university.

**What has been your greatest achievement so far at this job?**

My greatest achievement is having the ability to network in this institution. Since this job role involves working with many branches, I get to deal with a lot of my peers in and around Education City.

**What motivates you?**

I like the fact that I get to deal with different kinds of challenges as an Admissions and Records Co-ordinator. What motivates me is the ability to find the best way to solve these challenges in the most efficient manner.

**What has been the most satisfying aspect of your job?**

The most satisfying aspect of my job is the work atmosphere here at ABP, which is very comforting and supportive. The opportunity to have your voice heard and your input asked for is extremely satisfying.

**What is the greatest challenge in your role?**

This role comes with a lot of pressure, and can get challenging when too many

things happen at once, especially at the beginning of the academic year, where I would need to handle many responsibilities at once. However, I enjoy these challenges that come with my role as a co-ordinator, as it is a part of what motivates and satisfies me.

**How does your role contribute to Qatar's transition toward a knowledge and research-based economy?**

I deal with students from Education City universities, so I believe I'm responsible for making sure our students' results are reflected properly with universities, and making sure we work very hard on getting the students accepted outside in any university. My role is to ensure that the efforts of our students, who are mostly Qataris, are reflected and that their achievements are shared with universities, in order for them to be accepted onto programs.

**What does being part of Qatar Foundation (QF) mean to you?**

QF has many different and diverse entities, but I believe it also plays a key role is education. At ABP, I was a math teacher, a tutor, a co-ordinator, and now I am working in admissions. For me, my role is mainly to promote education and be part of QF's educational mission. I feel we must make this education system work in a way that ensures we all have a part in it.

# Qatari Voices book discussion evokes enlightened debate

21 emerging literary talents pen anthology of essays



Participants at the *Qatari Voices* book discussion organized by Qatar National Library

**IT WAS** a full house at the Qatar National Library's (QNL's) monthly book discussion, which featured *Qatari Voices*, an anthology of essays written by 21 young Qatari authors, and brought together avid readers, writers, students, teachers and entrepreneurs to discuss their thoughts, experiences, and opinions on the book. The event took place at the TV Room, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) Student Center on 10 September 2014. The discussion began with a personal introduction from the participants.

The collection, edited by Carol Henderson and Dr Mohanalakshmi Rajakumar, reflects concerns and aspirations of the young Qatari generation, which are depicted in essays and short stories. Dr Rajakumar, who was present at the discussion, explained that this compilation of essays re-

flected the thoughts and experiences of young Qataris, as writing has become their way of capturing the past and looking forward to the future. The book also showcases cherished glimpses of old reminiscence and photos that showcase their views and opinions of a challenging present and aspirations to the future. *Qatari Voices* is the first anthology book featuring Qatari authors to be published internationally.

Sebastian Wilke, Information Services Librarian, Music, QNL moderated the discussion. He told *QF Telegraph* that he was extremely happy with the impact of the book discussion on all who were present and its outcome. "We had a good attendance by both Qataris and expats alike, and everyone showed a keen interest in sharing their experiences on the topics

mentioned in the essays and in learning from each other about Qatari culture and current societal challenges."

He added: "It became clear that we need more public spaces and opportunities for people to express their opinions and concerns, so I hope that this book discussion serves as an inspiration to continue such important conversations."

Abed Shirzai, a participant at the book discussion, stressed how important book clubs and discussions like these are to promote a book-reading culture in Qatar. "These discussions also bring people together, and encourage meaningful conversations out of the ordinary. I was really impressed with the stories in *Qatari Voices*, a collection that shows the country's youth voicing experiences that matter to them."

**Maryam Al Subaiey, Contributor, Qatari Voices**

"This book discussion was not only a platform for our voices, but it also showcased the current generation having a strong sense of direction toward independence and achievement, while having a strong connection with their roots at the same time."



**Habes Howail, Participant**

"Book discussions are great opportunities for us to share our thoughts outside of our ordinary, mundane lives, in a mixed environment. I work with the education industry and it's especially exciting to see women step out of their comfort zone to talk about their thoughts and how they view life."



**Nouran Allam, Participant**

"I thought the discussion was brilliant and it's a great way to encourage young people to read and have conversations on important topics. It's also empowering for me to see women engaging in discussions, and writing books on their experiences."



## DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 250 new students attended ABP's New Student Orientation for the 2014-2015 academic year.