

Years of Culture and the Education Above All Foundation Promote Cross-Cultural Learning and Collaboration During a Reach Out To Asia Program Volunteer Trip to Indonesia

3 June 2023 – Doha, Qatar – [The Years of Culture \(YoC\)](#) initiative teamed up with Education Above All Foundation (EAA) through its Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) program to promote cross-cultural collaboration with this year's YoC partner Indonesia. The volunteer trip supports one of the EAA Foundation's projects in the West Kalimantan Province in Indonesia. This initiative brings together a group of dedicated student volunteers from the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) and the Qatar Academy for Science and Technology (QAST) and Indonesian students from Sui Ambawang High School to learn from and inspire each other through mutual learning and cultural discovery.

Student volunteers shared what they are most excited about ahead of their departure to Indonesia this week:

Nafeel Ahmed, student volunteer from the University of Doha for Science and Technology, said: "I love volunteering and I felt like this is one of the best opportunities to share my knowledge and expertise with students in Indonesia. Even if I'm able to get one student interested in the educational field, it means I've excelled in my field and given back to the community."

Ward Shaker, student volunteer from Qatar Academy for Science and Technology, said, "Throughout this experience, I hope to facilitate cultural exchange and provide Indonesian students with a glimpse of what life in Qatar looks like to help build connections. I hope that throughout this experience, I will help facilitate the exchange of cultures and ideas with Indonesian students. It is also a great opportunity to raise awareness about climate change and its impact."

Kyra Zee Sales, student volunteer from the University of Doha for Science and Technology, said, "I am most interested in learning about Indonesian music, arts, living, and, of course, Indonesian cuisine! This trip offers us a remarkable chance to educate ourselves and indulge in the rich Indonesian culture."

Mohammed Al-Khaja, another student volunteer from Qatar Academy for Science and Technology, shared, "Through this trip, I hope to make a lasting impact with the work we are doing in Indonesia, and to continue to grow and learn from different cultures all around the world."

Eman Al Shatshani, another student volunteer from the University of Doha for Science and Technology, said, "During the trip, students from Qatar and Indonesia will have the opportunity to exchange and learn from each other. It will be a chance to understand different perspectives, appreciate diverse cultures, and build strong connections between our communities."

Another University of Doha for Science and Technology student volunteer Aisha Shahzad said, "The cultural exchange between students from Qatar and Indonesia during this trip holds great potential for mutual understanding. By sharing cultural activities, we can showcase our traditions and values allowing for a deeper appreciation of each other's cultures."

Follow along with the students on their journey through these social media platforms: @educationaboveall_eaa; @reachouttoasia; @yearsofculture

Read what Years of Culture team members encouraged student volunteers to take away from this experience in ["Five life lessons for students embarking on Years of Culture–EAA Foundation's volunteer trip to Indonesia."](#)

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About Years of Culture

Culture is one of the most effective tools to bring people closer together, encourage dialogue, and deepen understanding between nations.

Under the leadership of its Chairperson Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Qatar Museums (QM) developed the annual "Years of Culture" initiative — an international cultural exchange that deepens understanding between nations and their people. Though formal programming lasts only one year, the ties of friendship that are strengthened and formed are long-lasting.

Qatar-Indonesia 2023 Year of Culture has been developed in collaboration with leading organizations in Qatar, including Doha Film Institute, Education Above All, Katara Cultural Village, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar Charity, Qatar Cycling Federation, Qatar Foundation, Qatar Museums, Qatar National Library, Qatar Tourism, with assistance from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Qatar and the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Indonesia.

Previous Years of Culture have included: Qatar-Japan 2012, Qatar-UK 2013, Qatar-Brazil 2014, Qatar-Türkiye 2015, Qatar-China 2016, Qatar-Germany 2017, Qatar-Russia 2018, Qatar-India 2019, Qatar-France 2020, and Qatar-USA 2021. In celebration of its 10th anniversary, the 2022 Year of Culture celebrated the entire Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region as Qatar welcomed the world for the Arab region's first FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™.

Past sponsors include Qatar Airways, Vodafone, Qatar Gas, Shell, Ooredoo, Shangri-La Hotel and Resorts, Lulu Group International, Qatar Financial Centre, Qatar Petroleum, and ExxonMobil.

About Qatar Museums

Qatar Museums (QM), the nation's preeminent institution for art and culture, provides authentic and inspiring cultural experiences through a growing network of museums, heritage sites, festivals, public art installations, and programs. QM preserves, restores, and expands the nation's cultural offerings and historical sites, sharing art and culture from Qatar, the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia (MENASA) region with the world and enriching the lives of citizens, residents, and visitors.

Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM has made Qatar a vibrant centre for the arts, culture, and education in the Middle East and beyond. QM is integral to the goal of developing an innovative, diverse, and progressive nation,

bringing people together to ignite new thinking, spark critical cultural conversations, educate and encourage environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, and amplify the voices of Qatar's people. Since its founding in 2005, QM has overseen the Museum of Islamic Art and MIA Park, Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, the National Museum of Qatar, QM Gallery Al Riwaq, QM Gallery Katara, and 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum. Museums under development include Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar; Qatar Auto Museum; Art Mill Museum, and the Lusail Museum.

Through its newly created Creative Hub, QM also initiates and supports projects—such as the Fire Station Artist in Residence, the Tasweer Qatar Photo Festival and the creative hub for innovation, fashion and design M7— that nurture artistic talent and create opportunities to build a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure.

Animating everything that Qatar Museums does is an authentic connection to Qatar and its heritage, a steadfast commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, and a belief in creating value through invention.

About the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation

The Education Above All (EAA) Foundation is a global foundation established in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. EAA aims to transform lives through education. We believe that education is the single most effective means of reducing poverty, creating peaceful and just societies, unlocking the full potential of every child and youth, and creating the right conditions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through our multi-sectoral approach, unique financing models, focus on innovation as a tool for social good, and partnerships, we aim to bringing hope and real opportunities to the lives of impoverished and marginalised boys and girls.

EAA is comprised of four programmes and sections: Educate A Child (EAC), Al Fakhoora, Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), Protect Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC), and Innovation Development (ID).

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