

QU completes Guest Worker Welfare Index

The Social and Economic Survey Research Institute (Sesri) at Qatar University (QU) recently completed the first-ever effort to measure and track the welfare of blue-collar guest workers in Qatar.

The Guest Worker Welfare Index (GWWI) was initiated with a closed expert workshop convened at Sesri in January 2016 that brought together local and international scholars, stakeholders and policymakers.

"The welfare of migrant labourers around the world has received significant attention from the global media and scholarly community. In the Gulf, much of this attention has been directed towards Qatar, especially since the announcement of the FIFA 2022 World Cup. However, much of the public discussion of the problems has not been based on unbiased, quantitative and qualitative measurements that can be generalised to the overall migrant labour population," QU said in a statement.

The first survey identified many important areas of strength, as well as those in need of improvement, but additional data are needed to measure trends.

Reliable data are needed to properly assess the issues surround-



Local and international scholars, stakeholders and policymakers at the workshop.

ing worker welfare in aggregate to identify domains where welfare is lower or higher, and ultimately, to address those issues in most need of improvement, the statement notes.

The GWWI is based on results from a nationally-representative survey conducted with 1,015 blue-collar guest workers in Qatar, and which will be continued annually.

The largest group of respondents came from Nepal (34%), followed by India (26%), Bangladesh (19%), Pakistan (7%), Sri Lanka (5%), Egypt (4%), Philippines (1%), and other countries (4%). In terms of occupation, more than three quarters of respondents (82%) were employed as

construction workers (15%), drivers (11%), cleaners (11%), electricians (9%), masons (8%), security guards (8%), carpenters (8%) foremen (6%) and craftsmen (6%).

With this number of completed interviews, the maximum sampling error is +/- 3.4 percentage points. The survey was conducted during April 2017 and evaluated several aspects of working and living conditions of these workers, including safety and security at working sites and living compounds, human rights and labour rights, finance and remittances, as well as their treatment by employers.

By examining the responses from

the workers themselves, the goal is to have an objective and reliable index that reflects the actual conditions of workers in Qatar and which can measure changes in these conditions over time.

While the term 'guest workers' covers all foreign workers in Qatar, the GWWI focuses specifically on the welfare of blue-collar workers, defined as low-skilled individuals living in labour camps and collective housing.

From the 2016 expert workshop, Sesri developed the questionnaire that served as the basis for the selection of the variables used in the index. Then Sesri researchers utilised factor analysis to identify the most relevant variables from the observed data points which became the core dimensions of the index. This is the same method used to construct other notable indices such as consumer confidence indices.

One of the main policy recommendations is to develop programmes for workers so that they are more aware of their rights and have a fuller understanding of the information in their contracts. Going forward, Sesri will conduct the GWWI survey annually, with the second wave scheduled this month.

Community College and Teach for Qatar sign MoU

The Community College of Qatar (CCQ) and Teach for Qatar (TFQ) signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a long-standing strategic partnership and collaboration on areas related to education, research, and social development.

The MoU was signed by CCQ president Dr Ibrahim al-Naimi, and TFQ chief executive officer Nasser al-Jaber.

Dr al-Naimi said that the purpose of the MoU was to collaborate in areas related to teaching, research, and social development which are very important in achieving the goals of developing future generations and will pave the way for Qatar National Vision 2030.

Al-Jaber, noted that the MoU will provide the alumni of CCQ with an avenue to continue impacting students, now at a college level, through tutoring opportunities. "As organisations committed to quality education in Qatar, I also strongly believe there are many areas of collaboration that we are excited to explore in the coming



Dr Ibrahim al-Naimi and Nasser al-Jaber exchanging the MoU.

period," added al-Jaber.

The MoU, which will be valid for a period of three years, includes setting a framework of co-operation between the two institutions by using each other's experiences and resources to develop and support the educational process and to shed the light on their roles and existing opportunities and challenges.

According to the MoU, TFQ will have access to CCQ facilities for training purposes, including the use of meeting rooms, theatres, classrooms and conference halls.

The MoU also enables CCQ faculty and staff to participate in events organised by TFQ to provide insights to the challenges

and opportunities in the tertiary education system and the history, purpose, and role of the community college for Qatari students current and future life outcomes.

For Qatari TFQ fellows/alumni who have completed a master's degree from a recognised university, CCQ shall provide them with the opportunity to serve as guest lecturers in their field of studies provided they receive an approval from the academic chair of the department. CCQ shall also provide opportunities for employment to qualified Qatari TFQ alumni who express interest in teaching or working at CCQ, if positions are available.

Activity toy Jungle Fun Ball Run recalled

The Ministry of Economy and Commerce (MEC), in collaboration with the Early Learning Center, has announced the recall of the activity toy, Jungle Fun Ball Run, because it can suddenly collapse during use.

The MEC said the recall campaign comes within the framework of its ongoing efforts to ensure that suppliers follow up on product defects and recall defective items in a bid to protect consumers.

The MEC has urged all customers to stop using the toy and to return it to the outlet. The MEC has also urged all customers to report any violations to its Consumer Protection and Anti-Commercial Fraud

Department through the following channels: Call centre: 16001, e-mail: info@mec.gov.qa, Twitter: @MEC_Qatar, Instagram: MEC_Qatar, MEC mobile app for Android and IOS: MEC_Qatar

KidZania Doha to have QNL area

Qatar National Library (QNL) and KidZania Doha, the multi-award-winning edutainment concept, have announced that a QNL area will be established inside KidZania Doha in which children can practice working as librarians, borrow books and read as patrons, and even make short stop-motion animations.

QNL's decision to establish an area inside KidZania Doha aligns with the Library's mission to create and sustain trusted educational environments and to develop innovative programmes for children using technology and culture as key learning tools.

The establishment of a QNL area complements KidZania's goal to benefit from the expertise and skills of international and local institutions to realise its vision of providing a realistic and unique edutainment environment where children are inspired to learn through role-playing activities.

Dr Sohair Wastawy, executive director, QNL, said: "QNL's efforts to strengthen the culture of reading and learning in Qatar go beyond the walls of the Library, and this project is an example of how we work with other organisations to achieve this goal. We also want to inspire the next generation of librarians, and learning through play is an effective way of showing children what it means to be a librarian in today's digital age."

Ric Fearnett, governor of KidZania Doha, said: "The creation of the new QNL area demonstrates our ability to provide and share state-of-the-art digital resources of the rich history, heritage, and culture of Qatar, as well as reaching out to the younger generation to promote reading in a fun environment."

KidZania Doha, expected to open its doors in the last quarter of 2018, is located at Aspire Zone in Doha, with a footprint size of over 5,500sqm. It will provide a unique educational and entertainment experience, offering 42 establishments where children aged between 4-14 years will be able to role play 'adult jobs' in up to 60 pretend roles, learning a variety of values including self-reliance, teamwork, honesty, integrity, and giving back to society. The establishment will be able to accommodate up to 1,000 children and approximately 250 employees at any one time.



QNL's Dr Wastawy and KidZania's Fearnett announce the partnership between the organisations.



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Barwa Building, Abu Hamour: 40061777, Al Duhail: 44414425
Wakra: 44325538, Old Salata: 44447434, Al Rayan Al Shafi St. 44218321
Salwa Rd. Al Saif condition 44357711
Al Emadi Import & Export (York) Barwa Building, Abu Hamour: 40061775
info@alemadigroup.qa www.alemadigroup.qa





QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER COLLECTION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFQ-350821	Laundry Services – Frame Contract for period of 4 Years	500/- (non-refundable)	QAR 30,000/- (Qatari Riyal Thirty Thousand Only)	09.05.18 10.05.18 13.05.18 14.05.18 15.05.18 16.05.18 17.05.18	06.06.18
S/O-412	Sale of various used materials (Carpentry workshop equipment's, School old furniture, Household used items)	500/- (non-refundable)	10% of the Bid Value	09.05.18 10.05.18 13.05.18 14.05.18 15.05.18 16.05.18 17.05.18	27.05.18

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures are specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Tender Documents may be collected between 0930 – 1130 hours & 1230 – 1400 hours during regular days and 0900 – 1100 hours during Ramadan on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (non-refundable), from the QAFCO Housing Section, relocated to Training Center Building (near Al Banush Club) at Mesaieed Residential Area, Tel. 44760093 / 44770330.
- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
 - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
 - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
 - IBAN : **QA51QNBAA000000000013025828058**
 - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their companies' name and Tender number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and produces it during tender collection as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also bring a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from his company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the focal point for this tender, while collecting the Tender Document.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Housing Section, between 0900 – 1100 hours during Ramadan, of any working day of the Company, on/before the "Tender Closing Date".