

## **Aspire Academy and Qatar Foundation Unite for Sports Training**

*Agreement will see Academy use three of the Foundation's football pitches*

**Doha, 23 June, 2014:** Aspire Academy for Sport Excellence and Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development have entered into a two-year football training agreement following the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday.

Signed by Ivan Bravo, Director General of Aspire Academy, and Ali Abdul Rahman Al Muftah, Executive Director of Support Services at Qatar Foundation, the agreement stipulates that the Academy will now benefit from the use of three of the Foundation's football pitches to train youth talent. The sites are located at Education City, Al Khor and Al Wakra.

Commenting on the MoU, Ivan Bravo said: "This agreement is more than just a contract; it is a symbolic partnership of unity as two key national institutions join forces to benefit the wider community. The Aspire Zone Foundation and Qatar Foundation both play a central role in the realization of the Qatar National Vision 2030, as both entities continue to actively support and contribute to the Human Development Pillar of the national vision, through sports and community development respectively."

Ali Abdul Rahman Al Muftah added: "Community development is one of the three essential elements that underpin Qatar Foundation's mission and, therefore, through this agreement we further demonstrate our commitment to supporting and reinforcing the positive development of Qatari society in any way possible."

"Qatar Foundation believes that the work underway at Aspire Academy, which involves the training of an entire generation of national sports professionals, is an invaluable contribution to the prosperity of Qatari society and the sustainability of future generations, and we are therefore proud to be taking active steps in assisting with this growth," he added.

Since opening its doors in 2004, Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence has become one of the foremost national sports academies in the world. Working as part of the Aspire Zone Foundation – a unique international sport destination, Aspire Academy is at the heart of a sporting revolution currently taking place in Qatar and around the region.

Additionally, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization recognized at the 7th annual Middle East EVENT Awards for its sterling efforts in staging activities that showcase and promote health, fitness and sport.

**ENDS**

## **About Aspire Academy**

Since opening its doors in 2004, Aspire Academy for Sports Excellence has become one of the foremost national sports academies in the world. Working as part of the Aspire Zone Foundation - an international sport destination - Aspire Academy is at the heart of a sporting revolution currently taking place in Qatar and around the region.

The Academy is conceiving, promoting and implementing game-changing excellence in sports training and elite athlete development that is enabling an entire generation of talented, disciplined and committed individuals, both Qataris and internationals to pursue their sports dreams.

In addition to it being one of the world's leading sports institutes, the Aspire Academy seeks to promote an active sporting healthy lifestyle through specific community programs: Aspire Active, Aspire Multisport Skill Development Program, and Aspire Football Dreams. While enriching the lives of people and youth alike, the Aspire Academy has already reached out to over two million young footballers throughout Asia, Latin American and Africa through its programs such as the Aspire Football Dreams.

Together with the other members of the Aspire Zone Foundation (Aspire Logistics and ASPETAR Qatar Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Hospital), the Aspire Academy is developing sports champions, promoting healthy lifestyles and galvanizing the sports economy of today, and the future.

[www.aspire.qa](http://www.aspire.qa)

## **About Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercializing solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

*For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>*

