

Tour Report

Duration: 22nd -23rd May, 2016

Place: Doha, Qatar

Key Objective: Initiation of dialogue with Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar and finalization of MoU on Skill Development & Recognition of Qualifications

I. Background

On 21st April, 2016, MSDE was informed by MEA about a proposed VVIP visit to Qatar. MEA requested MSDE to consider signing of a MoU with respective Authority or Ministry in Qatar on skill development and recognition of qualifications in line with the recent MoU concluded on the same subject with National Qualifications Authority in UAE.

Therefore, a draft MoU was shared with the concerned Ministry in Qatar via the Indian embassy for consideration. A delegation visit from India, (*comprising of members of the Ministries in India's who had submitted draft MoUs for consideration to respective Qatar Ministries*) was proposed by the MEA for one on one deliberation with respective counterparts in Qatar and finalization of the MoUs.

- List of delegation members from India is at Annex 1.
- List of proposed MoUs for discussion & finalization is at Annex 2.

II. Key Highlights of Visit

Day 1: 22 May, 2016:

1. Joint Introductory meeting at the office of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Doha, Qatar of representatives from respective ministries from Indian Side and Qatar side
2. Deliberations with representatives from Ministry of Education and Higher Education at the office of Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar

Key areas of discussions:

- a. An overview of the Indian skill ecosystem was provided with an introduction to the working of the Ministry and the key institutions working within it - NSDA, NSDC, Sector Skill Council.
- b. A brief background on evolution of Qatar TVET system was provided by representatives. The Supreme Education Council, Qatar which was responsible for technical education in the country had been nearly a month earlier, subsumed under the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Also, the positions of officials were being revised, example director would thereafter be called assistant under secretary. Qatar is still working to develop its own qualifications framework and has a deadline of developing a national qualification framework by the next four months. ***Hence, the TVET ecosystem of the country and establishment of qualification framework is still at its nascent stage.***
- c. Extensive discussions took place on national skills qualifications framework, the number of qualifications, assignment of levels, process and challenges towards integration of academic as well as skills qualifications within a uniform framework and competency based curriculum. A copy of Indian Qualification Framework (NSQF), few NOS & QPs and National Policy for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, 2015 was also shared.
- d. The articles of the proposed MoU was discussed and there were minor changes pertaining to nature of certification of the existing non certified Indian workers in Qatar and sharing of data on demand (employers) and supply (trained candidates) side. The draft MoU was mutually then agreed subject to further vetting by the respective legal divisions.

Outline of Collaborative Potential for India:

- India could ***provide capacity building support towards development of different components within the qualification framework and its operationalization.*** It could also consider providing sector specific capacity or knowledge transfer support towards developing standards.
- Qatar could provide country specific labor market intelligence in terms of sharing projections of jobs in demand/requirements according to sector or job roles. Also, ***a component or tab on overseas employment opportunities may be created within the LMIS portal where the data on Qatar employees, when shared under the MoU, could be linked.***

- Work towards establishment of **Joint Working Group** that can develop a clear plan of action or implementation framework along with timelines.

Day 2: 23 May, 2016

1. Visit to College of the North Atlantic (CAN-Q), Qatar

Established to provide hands on training to meet the needs of Qatar's national vision 2030 and its growing economy. The College of the North Atlantic was set up in Doha in September 2002 under an agreement between the College of the North Atlantic in Newfoundland, Canada and the State of Qatar. It is one of Qatar's largest post-secondary institutions with more than 4,600 part-time and full-time students and over 2,000 alumni. The curriculum here is a combination of the Canadian curriculum and professional expertise in four areas: Health Sciences, Information Technology, Engineering Technology and Business Studies.

(List of other education institutions in Qatar is at annexure 3)

Meeting with the Dr Ken MacLeod, President, College of the North Atlantic

Key points of the discussions

- a. Most of the students (nearly 80%) are sponsored by business or industry, hence they have a job offer even during their course of study.
- b. Programs (example medical programs) are accredited by professional bodies in Canada
- c. The college of North Atlantic is established by provincial legislation and all the programs have the approval of the academic council, Canada.
- d. The Canadian curriculum is adopted and nearly 400 Canadian trainers have been employed as trainers/instructors
- e. It was also shared that Qatar Military sector has an extensive technical training needs

Prospective areas of collaboration

- As NSDC has been working on community college model of Canada, similar collaborations with CNA and India could be explored considering their programs are accredited by respective professional bodies in Canada.
- Employer sponsored fresh skill training for school drop outs or post secondary qualifications (depending on entry requirements of the program) could be explored as a pilot. This could also be linked with the company's CSR initiative.

Visit to the respective departments of training and interaction with department heads

Key features across departments

- Programs are divided into certificate, diploma and advanced/Post diploma courses
- Certificates are divided across levels 1, 2, & 3
- Every program is followed by real world work exposure with duration depending on the program
- The university has transfer agreements with institutions in US, UK and Canada for continuation of studies or achievement of full degree
- Extensive investment into state of the art latest technology, training tools and classrooms that replicate real life work environment
- Extensive funding by the related industries

1. The School of Business Studies

(Course examples)

Business administration certificate

Business management diploma – HR/marketing /accounting

2. The School of Engineering Technology

(Course examples)

Chemical Lab Technician Certificate

Petroleum technical Assistant diploma

3. Technician Preparatory Program

(Course examples)

Instrumentation technician
Electrical Technician

4. The School of Health Sciences

(Course examples)

Dental Assistant
Medical radiography diploma

5. The School of Information Technology

(Course examples)

Information systems Hardware Diploma
Web developers diploma

2. Debriefing meeting and high tea with the Ambassador of India to Qatar

GLIMPSE OF THE VISIT

DAY 1 : (Ministry of Education and higher Education)



Day 2:

(College of North Atlantic – Qatar)



Annexure 1: List delegation members from India

(a) Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

- (i) Shri Shaktikanta Das, Secretary (DEA)
- (ii) Shri Saurabh Garg, Joint Secretary
- (iii) Shri Pendyala Surya Prakash Rao, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India and OSD NIIF
- (iv) Shri Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar, Chief General Manager, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)

(b) Ministry of Home Affairs

- (i) Ms. Rakhee Gupta Bhandari, Joint Secretary

(c) Ministry of Skill Development

- (i) Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development Entrepreneurship
- (ii) Shri Rajiv Mathur, Head Standards and Quality Assurance, NSDC
- (iii) Ms. Tuhina Chatterjee, Consultant, NSDA

(d) Ministry of External Affairs

- (i) Shri R.V. Prasad, Director (Gulf)
- (ii) Shri Vijay Kumar, Under Secretary, OIA-I
- (iii) Shri Yedla Umasankar, L & T division

Annexure 2 : List of MoUs proposed to be signed with Qatar

- i. MoU between National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), State of Qatar
- ii. Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matter between the Government of Republic of India and the State of Qatar
- iii. MoU between Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND) and the Qatar Financial Information Unit (QFIU) concerning cooperation in the exchange of intelligence related to money Laundering, Terrorism, Finance and related crimes
- iv. MoU between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Government of India and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Government of Qatar for Cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of Qualifications
- v. MoU on cooperation in Tourism between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar
- vi. MOU between India & Qatar for Cooperation in the field of Health the Government of Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar
- vii. The first executive program for MoU in the field of Youth and Sports between the Government of Republic of India and Government of the State of Qatar

Annexure 3 : Overview of the education institutions in Qatar (Incl. Technical education & Training)

Introduction

In the past decade, Qatar has established a number of institutions which offer higher educational programmes. These programmes comprise several majors including art, design, media studies, engineering to science and technology. The aim is to equip students with a range of skills and to develop their existing talents in all areas.

The State of Qatar has set up a number of agreements with some of the best educational institutions from around the world to establish their campuses in Qatar whereby everyone has equal access to premium higher education options within the country.

Qatar Foundation has built the Education City, where many foreign universities and a school offering the International Baccalaureate curriculum, have set up base. These offer the same quality of education and facilities that their home campuses provide.

Qatar University

Qatar University was established in 1973 as the country's first College of Education. It has expanded its programme offerings since then to include both graduate and undergraduate programs in the Arts & Sciences, Business & Economics, Education, Engineering, Law, Pharmacy and Shariah & Islamic Studies.

Phone: 4403 3333 | Website

Location: Al Tarfa, Doha

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)

A member of Qatar Foundation, Hamad Bin Khalifa University delivers a range of research education Master's and Doctoral programmes through its interdisciplinary graduate colleges: College of Science, Engineering and Technology; College of Humanities and Social Sciences; College of Law and Public Policy; College of Public Health; College of Business; and Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies. It also established the Translation and Interpreting Institute (TII), which offers people the opportunity to develop their language skills in languages such as Arabic, Spanish, French and English.

info.hbku@qf.org.qa | Website

Location: Education City, Al Rayyan

Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar (VCU-Q)

Virginia Commonwealth University Qatar is the Qatar campus of the Virginia Commonwealth University of the Arts in Richmond, Virginia, USA. Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation in 1998, VCU-Q offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in fashion design, interior design, graphic design as well as painting and printmaking; a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and a Master of Fine Arts degree in design studies.

The university's campus was the first one to be set up in Education City and has a student body that represents a diverse range of more than 40 nationalities. It is deeply involved with emerging design companies in Qatar. VCU-Q also hosts a biennial International Art & Design conference Tasmeeem that attracts popular designers, artists and academics from around the world.

It has an extensive library, which has a wide range of current books and periodicals on shelves.

Phone: 4402 0555 | Website

Location: Education City, Al Rayyan

Carnegie Mellon University Qatar (CMU-Q)

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar is the Qatar campus of the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the US. The university offers Bachelor's degrees in Biological Sciences, Computational Biology, Business Administration, Computer Science and Information Systems.

The university encourages an all-round development of students in a multicultural environment by organising regular events and activities that help them adapt to the university's culture seamlessly.

Phone: 4454 8400 | Website

Location: Education City, Al Rayyan

Georgetown University Qatar (GU-Q)

Georgetown University's campus in Qatar was established in 2005 at Qatar Foundation's Education City. Its School of Foreign Service (SFS) offers undergraduate degrees and certificate programmes. Its four International Affairs

specialisation tracks include International Politics, Culture and Politics, International Economics, and International History. In addition, it offers certificates in American Studies, Arab & Regional Studies, and Media & Politics.

It also houses a large library, which is open not just to students of GU-Q and the Qatar Foundation community, but also to public patrons for an annual membership fee of QR200.

GU-Q also performs extensive research on various areas in the International Affairs area as well as religion, philosophy and literature.

Apart from these, it ensures that its students have a rich student life by organising regular community building and service activities. In the past these have included international trips to countries focused on disaster management and economic development.

Phone: 4457 8100 | Website

Location: Education City, Al Rayyan

Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q)

The Qatar campus of Northwestern University focuses on providing students in Qatar with a strong liberal arts education through the Bachelor of Science degrees in Journalism and Communication offered through the prestigious Medill School of Journalism. Students may also opt for a minor in media and politics, which is a joint initiative with Georgetown University in Qatar as well as a certificate in Middle East Studies.

Phone: 4454 5000 | Website

Location: Education City, Al Rayyan

Texas A&M University Qatar (TAMU-Q)

Since 2003, Texas A&M University in Qatar has been offering Bachelor of Science degrees in chemical, mechanical and petroleum engineering. In addition, courses in science, mathematics, liberal arts and the humanities are also offered. There are two post-graduate degrees – Master of Engineering and Master of Science, as well as a liberal arts programme for freshmen and sophomore students.

Phone: 4423 0010 | Website

Location: Education City, Al Rayyan

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q)

WCMC-Q is Qatar's first medical school, established in 2001, through a partnership between Weill Cornell Medical College in New York and Qatar Foundation. Its academic offerings comprise an integrated program of pre-medical and medical studies culminating in the Cornell University M.D. (Doctor of Medicine) degree.

The university also places a major emphasis on research. In addition to this, students also have the option to take elective courses in Doha as well as New York City in their fourth year.

Phone: 4492 8000 | Website

Location: Education City, Al Rayyan

University College London in Qatar

In conjunction with University College London and Qatar Museums Authority, University College London in Qatar offers three graduate degrees – MSc in Conservation Studies, an MA in Museum and Gallery Practice, and an MA in the Archaeology of the Arab and Islamic World. A Diploma in Academic Research and Methods and a range of other short courses aimed at mid-level professionals working in the field of cultural heritage are also available.

admissions.qatar@ucl.ac.uk | Website

Location: Education City, Al Rayyan

Community College of Qatar (CCQ)

The Community College of Qatar opened doors in Qatar in September 2010. It offers a wide range of educational options for individuals who are seeking to pursue academic degrees and/or intend to transfer to other colleges or universities. It also offers career and technology programs designed for students who wish to seek specialized degrees and specific skills to enter the workforce or even developmental adult education.

It offers Associate degree tracks in three major disciplines – Arts, Science and Applied Science.

The Associate in Art degree is intended for students who would like to receive a baccalaureate in the following disciplines: business, education, social/behavioural sciences, humanities, and fine arts.

An Associate in Science is suitable for those who wish to pursue degrees in business, computer science, engineering, health and natural sciences or

mathematics.

Those who wish to develop professional skills and knowledge required for employment in a certain field may wish to opt for the Associate in Applied Science degree.

The CCQ has separate campuses in Qatar for boys and girls and operates in conjunction with the Houston Community College in Texas. All of its courses are transferable to accredited four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

The College also has a library for students.

Phone: 4401 1500 | Website

Location: C-Ring Road (Boys Campus), West Bay (Girls Campus)

College of the North Atlantic – Qatar

The College of the North Atlantic was set up in Doha in September 2002 under an agreement between the College of the North Atlantic in Newfoundland, Canada and the State of Qatar. It is one of Qatar's largest post-secondary institutions with more than 4,600 part-time and full-time students and over 2,000 alumni. The curriculum here is a combination of the Canadian curriculum and professional expertise in four areas: Health Sciences, Information Technology, Engineering Technology and Business Studies.

Its large campus consists of state-of-the-art technology and facilities.

Phone: 4495 2222 | Website

Location: Duhail North

Stenden University in Qatar

Stenden University offers a comprehensive four-year Bachelor programme in Business Administration with majors in International Tourism Management and International Hospitality Management. A part of the programme is also spending either part or the entire second or third year at the university's campus in the Netherlands.

Phone: 4488 8116/4488 8126 | Website

Location: Al Jelaiat Street, near Hamad Medical Corporation