

A Decade of Design 1998–2008

Immediate Release:

VCUQatar Invites Secondary School Students to Design for Better Living

Doha, Qatar – The Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar invited high school students in Qatar to present their ideas for better designed solutions for the problems they face and products they see that could be improved.

This year's theme of "Better Living through Better Design" encourages students in the 14 countries to express their creative solutions to problems they see in their surroundings. Along with cash prizes ranging from \$1000 for first place to \$200 for fifth place, two qualified students will win the full four-year Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned Scholarship for Creativity to attend VCUQatar. Thanks to Regency Group Holding is offering 70 awards in 14 countries of the competition.

At the launch press conference Dean Allyson Vanstone thanked Regency Group Holding and invited students to participate. "We are grateful to Mr. Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Asmakh, Chairman of Regency Group Holding Company, for his generous support of the Design Competition. I'd like to take this opportunity to invite young designers to look at their community and think creatively about how they can improve the lives of people they know," declared Dean Vanstone. She challenged students to think about how things that we use everyday today such as elevators and mobile phones had to begin as great ideas in someone's mind to solve transportation and communication problems.

Mr. Ehab Selim, General Manger of Al Asmakh Development and Al Asmakh Facilities management companies represented Regency Group Holding at the event. He proclaimed, "Regency Group Holding is proud to support the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, by supporting education and design at VCUQatar and the Qatar Foundation. Design is a field of critical importance for the growth of a developing country such as Qatar. Especially since Qatar is a country rich in history and culture it is critical to portray the modern picture of Qatar while paying tribute to its history and culture. A good design means comfortable life and a peaceful mind. We at Regency Group Holding are interested in developing the design capability to be able to develop our country as the anchor for our roots and foundation for our future. We hope that many students in Qatar will submit their ideas and apply for this scholarship."

Students interested in the competition should visit Design Competition Scholarship section at www.qatar.vcu.edu to obtain the competition rules. The deadline to submit the entry online is January 8, 2009. Questions can be answered by email VCUQADMISSIONS@qatar.vcu.edu or phone at +974 492 7238. This is the first time VCUQatar is accepting all entries online.

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Regency Group Holding is sponsoring the five cash prize winners in each country that receive \$1,000, \$800, \$600, \$400, \$200. The five country winners from all the countries can compete for a chance to win one of the two full Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned Scholarships for Creativity. The scholarship pays for tuition, housing and academic expenses for four years of study at VCUQatar.

The competition is open to senior secondary school students in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

About Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar:

Established in the US in 1838 and in Qatar in 1998 Virginia Commonwealth University offers students from all over the world the opportunity to earn Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in fashion, graphic and interior design. A team of highly skilled professors provide rigorous curricula that prepare students to assume leadership roles in the professional design field of their choice. VCUQatar regularly organizes and hosts exhibitions, gallery events, world-class conferences and holds an annual fashion show. VCUQatar is supported and funded by the Qatar Foundation. For more information please visit www.qatar.vcu.edu or call +974 492 7245.

About Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people. The headquarters of Qatar Foundation are located within its flagship project, Education City, a fourteen million square-meter campus which hosts numerous progressive learning institutions and centers of research, including branch campuses of six of the world's leading universities, plus a cutting-edge research and development center. Qatar Foundation also works to enhance the quality of life in Qatar by investing in community health and development. For more information please visit: <http://www.qf.org.qa>

About Regency Group Holding

Regency Group Holding cannot only be described as a merely group of well-known companies excelling in the fields of properties development and real estate marketing, facilities management, tourism, travel and hospitality, nor can it be solely depicted as an ensemble of high caliber professional and technical experts committed to quality services and well grounded work regulations, ensuring the long-term trust and confidence of all clients. It is above all founded on a set of values and principles which give priority to community servicing and development and aim at securing its continuous progress in line with the State of Qatar's policies and in compliance with the vision of His Highness the Emir of Qatar in the development of community and economy.

Regency Group was founded by Mr. Ibrahim Hassan Al-Asmakh, a faithful son of Qatar, who graduated from the University of Arizona, USA, in 1987 majoring in Finance. Full of hope in the future and loyalty to the heritage and history of his ancestors, he returned home and built a national enterprise at the highest international standards, in tune with the honorable present of

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Qatar and the aspirations for a prosperous future. The Enterprise evolved and achieved multiple successes until it encompassed eighteen companies.