

## 'EMPOWER2015'

A 3 day Annual Youth Conference for promoting leadership, service learning and global citizenship



The poster features a green background with a central illustration of a person running, surrounded by various icons representing leadership, service learning, and global citizenship. The text is in Arabic and English, and the website address is at the bottom.

  
**REACH OUT TO ASIA**  
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*Member of Qatar Foundation* عضو مؤسسة قطر

# امباور Empower

المؤتمر الشبابي السنوي لروتا  
ROTA ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE  
LEADERSHIP, SERVICE LEARNING AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP  
تحفيز الشباب على القيادة، الخدمة و تأييد التغيير

[www.reachouttoasia.org](http://www.reachouttoasia.org)

## Introduction

Reach Out to Asia hosted its first annual Youth conference, EMPOWER in 2009 which saw 169 young people and teachers from 23 schools and 6 universities plus 50 adults in 2009 congregate over a period of three days, to learn and actively engage in the promotion of leadership and service learning in Qatar. Since then, ROTA hosted an annual youth conference which grew to over 450 participants.

EMPOWER has developed a reputation for being the first youth led conference to focus on equipping young people in Qatar to take active roles in building their communities and having a voice on global issues.



### ***'EMPOWER 2015: ROTA's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Conference on Personal Leadership, Service Learning and Global Citizenship'***



Every year the conference intends to create a platform for a larger number of students to learn and engage in ROTA's youth development program in Qatar. After the success of previous EMPOWERs, we opened the conference to the Region and youth from international countries. The conference addresses a variety of issues related Sustainable Development and will focus this year on youth development for peaceful societies.

ROTA's core strategy for promoting youth development in Qatar is to develop a network of youth service clubs within schools and universities throughout Qatar that are geared towards equipping and enabling young people as responsible global citizens and empowered young leaders. The Youth Conference, the RYSC leadership Training and the newly developed ROTA Youth Advisory Board are supplementary initiatives that support the RYSC program.

The program will aim to attract up to 450 young people between the ages of 17-26 including international participants. The main aim of the 3 days conference is to raise awareness and knowledge as well as build the capacities required to enable young people to take leadership roles in addressing local and international developmental issues of concern to them especially in the area Peaceful Societies, as the theme for this year's EMPOWER conference.

## Conference Program Summary

The three days event includes a combination of seminar panel discussion, keynote speeches, small group workshops, seminars, off-site activities, exhibition and youth artistic expression.



Power speech and Keynote speeches are intended to inspire, inform and mobilise our young delegates to act on the three learning themes of the conference. Panel discussion will be a platform to inform participants about the EMPOWER theme of that year. The workshops are aimed to be an interactive and discursive exchange between the participants and the facilitator. Seminar aims to provide participants with tools to run their projects and campaigns.

### Day 1

- Opening Ceremony, Key note speeches and Power Speeches
- Key note speeches
- Exhibition

### Day 2

- Panel Discussion
- workshops
- Seminar
- Youth Artistic Performances

### Day 3

- Off-site community service projects
- Reflection activity
- Cultural/talent show and Closing ceremony





## Conference Objectives

Youth Leadership Conferences are known internationally to be an excellent forum for young leaders to benefit from the experiential learning and cross-cultural exchange of ideas with like-minded students.

### The conference objectives are to:

- Promote better understanding of youth leadership, service learning and greater awareness of global issues among 400 youth between the ages of 17-26 in Qatar and the region.
- Provide opportunities for 400 youth to develop their skills, knowledge and attitudes to take on leadership roles which support ROTA strategies.
- Create a platform for 400 youth to discover their voice and realise their ability to make a positive contribution in society to support Qatar 2030 on youth development.
- Facilitate a forum for exchange of ideas, projects and reflections that address local needs and global issues.
- Awareness creation on the EMPOWER theme.



### Program approach: youth involvement – planning committee:

ROTA believes in an asset based approach to youth development and therefore plans to continue working with a committee of around 40 students in the planning and coordination of this conference. These students are trained to act as MCs, facilitators, tour guides and receptionists, advocacy video producer and social media leaders. Prior to the conference they work closely with the Community Development team to advice and give their input on the marketing, conference program content, entertainment and the coordination of the off-site projects.

## Conference Themes

The lectures and workshops during the youth conference aim to address three themes. These include:

1. **Personal leadership:** Promoting personal excellence including setting goals and forward planning, having personal mission statements, marketing one's skills and abilities, positive attitude and healthy self-esteem.
2. **Service Learning:** Promoting civic responsibility: a duty to one's country, community and the world as a whole. The importance of valuing diversity; developing empathy alongside desire to help the vulnerable or to protect one heritage or the environment.
3. **Global Citizenship:** Promoting youth voice on social justice issues like human rights, migrant worker situation, global economy, climate change and war and conflict.



## Tentative Program

Sessions will be a mix of Arabic and English. Translation will be provided for the sessions in the plenary

### 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Thursday

Time	Duration	Activity	Location
16:00	60 mins	Registration	Foyer
17:00	10 mins	Opening Ceremony led by RYAB	Plenary
17:10	10 mins	Welcome Speech	Plenary
17:20	10 mins	Opening Speech	Plenary
17:30	30 mins	Prayer Break	Prayer Room
18:00	40 mins	Youth Power Speeches	Plenary
18:40	20 mins	Break	Foyer
19:00	10 mins	Briefing for Day 2	Plenary
19:10	30 mins	Key note Speech 1	Plenary
19:40	30 mins	Key Note Speech 2	Plenary
20:15		End of Day 1	

### 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Friday

Time	Duration	Activity	Location
8:00	60 mins	Registration	Foyer
9:00	40 mins	Early Morning Briefing and ice breakers	Plenary
9:20	20 mins	Flash Stories from around the world	Plenary
9:40	20 mins	Coffee Break and move to workshops	Foyer
10:00	90 mins	First Concurrent Workshops 7 concurrent workshops 1 seminar	Workshop
11:30	45 mins	Jumaa Prayer break	
12:15	60 mins	Lunch and Performances	Plenary
13:15	40 mins	Panel Discussion on the theme	Plenary
14:00	20 mins	Q&A	Plenary
14:20	10 mins	Move to Workshop	
14:30	90 mins	Second Concurrent workshops 7 concurrent workshops 1 seminar	Workshop
16:00	20 mins	Coffee Break	Foyer
16:20	10 mins	Announcement	Plenary
16:30	10 mins	Flash Stories from around the world	Plenary
16:40	20 mins		
17:00		End of Day 2	

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Saturday**

Time	Duration	Activity	Location
8:00	60 mins	Registration	Foyer
9:00	30 mins	Bus Departs	Entrance
9:30	3.5 hours	Service Learning Activities 4 different activities as listed in page 11 and 12	
13:00	30 mins	Arrival back to Conference Venue	
13:30	30 mins	Reflection	
14:00	80 mins	Lunch/Prayer Flash stories from around the world	Foyer
15:20	30 mins	Feedback from offsite activity	Plenary
15:50	30 mins	International Delegates Performances	Plenary
16:20	30 mins	Cultural Performances	Plenary
16:50	10 mins	Closing Ceremony	Plenary
17:00		End of Conference	

## Target Groups

EMPOWER conference seeks to attract up to 450 delegates from the following categories

- 17-26 year old youths –primary target
- Secondary School Teachers
- Youth Activist from GCC and Arab Region
- Local Youth Groups/organizations
- University Student Affairs Officers



## **Around EMPOWER 2015 theme “Youth Development for Peaceful Societies”**

In 2015, ROTA's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual EMPOWER Youth Conference will adopt the theme “Youth Development for Peaceful Societies”. The conference will focus on the important role that youth around the world can play towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals especially those related to education and peaceful societies.

ROTA believes that the potential of young people to contribute to the global development agenda must be harnessed. The main aim of EMPOWER is to raise awareness and build knowledge and capacity that enables young people to take leadership roles in addressing local and international developmental issues of concern to them with this year's focus being on the role of education and dialogue. Education and dialogue play an important role in safeguarding peace and ensuring harmony among the spectacular diversity of humanity.

EMPOWER 2015 will be guided by two goals in particular, including goal number 4, which is concerned with *inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities..* More specifically, sub-goal 4.7 calls for “*ensuring all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyle, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development by 2030.*”

The other major goal that will inform this year's EMPOWER is goal 16 which is concerned with the promotion of *peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*, and its sub goals related to the reduction of all forms of violence, ending abuse, exploitation and violence against women, youth and children.

The conference will support youth exploration of education for social transformation, global citizenship and peace building while providing participants with the skills, relevant knowledge, values and ethics needed for their active engagement and commitment towards achieving global peace, social justice and gender equity. Conference activities will also highlight the importance of cooperation among relevant stakeholders, including educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and governments in strengthening shared values and standards to support educational reforms for peace and non-violence curricula through innovation and creative methods. The conference will emphasize the important role of dialogue throughout both the formal and informal education systems. ROTA is a strong proponent of the role of intercultural dialogue in post-conflict situations as well as to promote peace, harmony, and social integration locally.

Thank you,  
We look forward to **your** participation