

‘EMPOWER 2019’

A 3 day Annual Youth Conference for promoting Leadership, Service learning and Global citizenship



Empower: Brief

ROTA's Annual International Youth Conference on Leadership Service Learning and Global Citizenship.



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 2019: ROTA's Annual Youth Conference on 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.

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 16-32 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 related to the theme of each year's conference.

Event Schedule: 14-16 March 2019
(Thursday- Saturday)
Location: Student Center HBKU-
Educational City



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 mobilize 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

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

Day 2

- Panel Discussion
- workshops
- Seminar
- Youth Artistic Performances

Day 3

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



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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 450 youth between the ages of 16-32 in Qatar and the region.
- Provide opportunities for 450 youth to develop their skills, knowledge and attitudes to take on leadership roles which support ROTA strategies.
- Create a platform for 450 youth to discover their voice and realize 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.



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Target Groups

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

- 16-30 year old youths –primary target
- Secondary School Teachers
- Youth Activist from GCC and Arab Region
- Local Youth Groups/organizations
- University Student Affairs Officers



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

