CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT ON EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR

The Government of the Republic of Italy, represented by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research and the Government of the State of Qatar, represented by the Supreme Education Council, and, hereafter referred to as the Parties;

Desiring to strengthen the existing friendship relations between the two Countries and promote the development of education and scientific relations based on mutual respect and common interests;

Have agreed as follows:

Education

Article 1

Both Parties encourage the exchange and visits of experts in all educational fields in order to share the educational developments and accomplishments of both Countries.

Both Parties encourage exchanges of student delegations and school sport teams as well as the organization of educational, scientific and technical school exhibitions in both Countries.

Both Parties encourage the exchange of documents and curricula developed by the educational authorities of both Countries with reservation over the intellectual property rights for both of them.

Article 2

Both Parties encourage participation in joint training courses in the field of education. They shall agree on programs, training material, timetables and the number of trainees four (4) months prior to the actual training. Each Party shall inform its counterpart about the scheduled annual training courses in order for the other Party to be able to benefit from the courses.

Article 3

Both Parties encourage the study of the language of the other Party.

Article 4

Both Parties encourage the exchange of expertise and information in the following areas:

- a) Early Childhood Education
- b) Technical and Vocational Education
- c) School Administration
- d) Learning Resources
- e) Special-needs students
- f) Gifted students
- g) Student Assessment
- h) Information and Communication Technologies, especially in the field of foreign language teaching.

Article 5

Both Parties encourage the exchange of information regarding certificates and diplomas awarded by the educational institutes of the two Countries.

Higher Education and Scientific Research

Article 6

Both Parties encourage the promotion of academic cooperation between the two Countries and the increase in the number of agreements between universities.

Both Parties encourage exchanges and visits of university professors, lecturers and scientific researchers.

Both Parties encourage the development of scientific and applied research as well as studies, publications, documents and data between the universities of the two Countries.

Article 7

Both Parties encourage the exchange of information regarding the activities and functioning of the academic systems as well as the academic degrees in the two Countries.

Regarding the mutual recognition of academic degrees for the purpose of continuing studies in the universities of both Countries, the Parties shall consider the establishment of an ad hoc group of experts with the task of drafting a bilateral agreement.

Article 8

Both Parties encourage the allocation of grants for students and university graduates wishing to study abroad to earn a higher education degree and carry out research activities.

Article 9

Both Parties shall meet periodically for the purpose of reinforcing cooperation and facilitating the achievement of common scientific objectives.

Both Parties shall agree periodically on a set of priority fields in which they can pursue common scientific objectives.

In order to pursue the abovementioned objectives, both Parties shall encourage the following:

- a) Organize scientific and technological exchanges;
- b) Plan mutual visits of experts to support studies and exchange expertise:
- c) Schedule organization of scientific and technological conferences and seminars;
- d) Develop joint plans, studies and research.

General Provisions

Article 10

Any decision regarding the members of delegations participating in seminars and courses and all matters concerning mutual visits between the Parties, as well as the scheduling and duration of such meetings and seminars, shall be taken through mutual correspondence and the other Party shall be informed at least four (4) months in advance.

Article 11

Each Party will be responsible for its own costs and expenses arising from cooperative activities carried out under this Agreement, including expenses for travel and accommodation.

Article 12

The provisions of this Agreement or any of its articles may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties. The amendment will take effect according to the same procedures mentioned in article 13.

Article 13

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the last of the two notifications by which the two Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other that their respective ratification procedures have been completed. This agreement will remain in effect for a period of three (3) years and will be automatically renewed for a similar period or periods, unless either Party terminates it in writing at least six (6) months prior to the expiry.

The termination of this Agreement shall not affect the validity or duration of any ongoing projects and programs, unless otherwise jointly decided upon, in writing, by the Parties.

This Agreement is signed at Rome on april, 16th 2012 AD, corresponding to/1433AD, in two original copies, equally authentic, in the Italian, Arabic and English languages. In case of discrepancy in the interpretation of any of the provisions, the English version shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR