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Texas A&M University at Qatar Hosts Technology in Higher Education Conference

University welcomes experts at summit to discuss how technology can enrich teaching and learning.

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DOHA, QATAR — Texas A&M University at Qatar hosted the 2010 Technology in Higher Education (THE) Conference Monday at its Engineering Building at Education City. Designed to explore ways in which technology can enrich teaching and learning, the day-long event sought to begin building a network that will assist Qatar in its efforts to become a global center of activity for creative and effective use of technology in higher education. The conference was co-sponsored by TechnoQ, Microsoft Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar and Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar.

The conference was an opportunity to hear from leaders in the field of technology in higher education, learn about the latest applications of technology in teaching and learning in higher education and meet colleagues from all around Qatar. This year's program included two keynote speakers, six presentations and a panel discussion. THE Conference presented cutting-edge subject matter such as the new generation of learners, intercultural collaboration, Open Learning initiative, educational applications of iPad, imaging and visualization in engineering education, transformative leadership in IT, simple Web 2.0 technologies to improve student learning and Second Life and virtual campuses.

Texas A&M at Qatar Dean and CEO, Dr. Mark H. Weichold, said, 'I am very excited to see so much enthusiasm about technology in higher education. Technology can be used to enrich teaching and learning, and we are fortunate in Qatar to have resources that provide access to the latest and greatest technology available today. Texas A&M at Qatar is committed to enhancing the presence and use of technology in teaching and learning. We want to have the best technology in our classrooms and laboratories, and we want to make certain we are using it to its maximum benefit. Our interest in organizing this important conference is to initiate dialogue and

debate about how technology can be used in higher education, and to share these with others in the higher education community.’

THE Conference featured keynote addresses by Dr. Diana Oblinger, president and CEO of EDUCAUSE, the leading organization for technology in higher education, and Dr. Karen L. Murphy, associate professor emerita, Texas A&M University. Dr. Timothy Chester, vice provost for Academic Administration and chief information officer, Pepperdine University; Mary Ann Blair, director of Information Security Office, Carnegie Mellon University, and Nancy Fawley, director of User Services, Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar spoke regarding technical skills, information security awareness and iPad applications in learning, respectively. Dr. James Snell, director of Instructional Technology, and Dr. Anuj Gupta, associate professor, petroleum engineering, both of Texas A&M University, discussed Second Life and imaging and visualization, respectively. Texas A&M at Qatar was represented by Carole Thompson, director of Library; Nancy Small, senior lecturer and Joseph Williams, lecturer.

Dr. Yakut Gazi, THE Conference Chair, 2010, said, “This conference encompassed very hot topics in the field of technology in higher education such as iPads, Second Life, Web 2.0 in the classroom, 3D visualization. The presenters represented IT professionals, as well as faculty members, the two key elements for successful collaborations for technology initiatives in education. We had presentations throughout the day on technologies and their use in education and at the end of the day we had a panel discussion where we paused to consider if we are overselling technology. We really hope that attendees will leave this conference with new ideas and inspirations, as well as new relationships, and they will look forward to next year’s conference.

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About Texas A&M University at Qatar

Texas A&M University, recognized as having one of the premier engineering programs in the world, has offered undergraduate degrees in chemical, electrical, mechanical and petroleum engineering at Qatar Foundation’s Education City campus since 2003. One hundred fifty one engineers have graduated from Texas A&M at Qatar since 2007. In addition to engineering courses, Texas A&M at Qatar provides classes in science, mathematics, liberal arts and the humanities. All four of the engineering programs offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are accredited by ABET. The curricula offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are materially identical to those offered at the main campus in College Station, Texas, and courses are taught in English in a co-educational setting. The reputation for excellence is the same, as is the commitment to equip engineers to lead the next generation of engineering advancement. Faculty from around the world are attracted to Texas A&M at Qatar to provide this educational experience and to participate in research activities now valued at \$70 million, and that address issues important to the State of Qatar. Visit www.qatar.tamu.

About Techno Q

Techno Q is the leading System Integrator in Qatar committed to offering integrated low current systems. It is specialized in Audiovisual, Security, Control, Fire, Lighting, IT, Broadcast and Hospitality Management Systems. It has developed more than two hundred projects over its thirteen-year history for government institutions, education and health care organizations, corporate, hotels, retail clients and international developers. Techno Q has selected and trained a

team of two hundred professionals – managers, engineers, and designers - to provide comprehensive and customized project leadership. Our team of experts has accumulated over a century of experience working together with the leading companies in the different industries to specify, design, install, test, operate and maintain the top-notch technology solutions. The engineering consultants design customized solutions to provide cost efficient, advanced technology combined with an easy-to-use human interface. Techno Q combines knowledge, experience and passion to ensure that the project is delivered on quality and on time. An agile and responsive team of experts committed to guarantee timely and personalized customer service. Our clients come first.

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