Tourism statistics workshop today

Doha: The Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MOPADS), in coordination with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries in Asia (CESTRA), is organizing a tourism statistics workshop today at InterContinental Hotel.

The three-day workshop aims to highlight the importance of tourism statistics in measuring the contribution of the tourism industry to the national economy via bringing to light statistical concepts, definitions, and methods used in tourism measurement.

The event is part of efforts to build statistical capacity for government and semi-government agencies, according to Qatari tourism requirements of concerned ministries and bodies, the ministry said yesterday.

The workshop also responds to international recommendations released in the 45th session of the UN Statistical Commission. It was held in New York March, with the exigence agreed on member states' approval of World Tourism Organization (WTO) statistical recommendations in 2009.

The workshop also intends to identify data sources relevant to this aspect, and train participants to undertake and publish tourism-related household and institutional surveys.

The Turkish experience and expertise will benefit partici- pant who will also discourse international standards related to the measurement and use of data to build the tourism sub-account, formulate policies, monitor processes, and make sound decisions.

Representatives from ministries and agencies will take part in the workshop, and receive cop- y of WTO guidelines related to tourism.

THE PENINSULA

Two innovators make it to Stars of Science finals

Sixth season of QF’s edutainment TV reality show ends on November 15

Doha: The Intellectual, Thaheeb Al Dossary of Bahrain and ‘The Strategist’ Sultan Al Sulhi of Oman have stomped their tickets to the November 15 final episode of Stars of Science, on MBC4. They will compete for the top spot and a share of the $600,000 prize money.

During an episode punctuated by moments of tension and triumph, the two fan favourites on Qatar Foundation’s television reality ‘TV programme successfully defended their projects in the design stage. Al Sulhi and Al Dossary took first and second place respectively to advance, while Walea Arabia of Tunisia, with her smart head- phone project, fell just short and was eliminated.

Stress of Science, in its sixth sea- son, pits innovators against each other in a competition to turn their ideas into reality.

Twelve candidates between 18 and 30 years come to Qatar, to be mentored by world class engi- neering and design experts at Qatar Science and Technology Park.

Overall winners, in an effort to enhance the design of their projects, also benefit from a ‘real’ opportunity for high school stu- dents to meet all universities in HBKU’s partner universities and institutes in Qatar.

The winners’ concepts will be mentored by world class engineering and design experts at Qatar Science and Technology Park.

Innovative resilience, ingenuity and teamwork are tested in this unique competition as they develop inventions from concept to commercialization.

In the design stage, they were evaluated by VIP jury James Lane, founder of the award-win- ning architectural firm James Lane Cybertecture International.

On the next episode on November 8 at 9PM (QST), the last two candidates will be announced. Between the two, the winner will be chosen.

The final will conclude the sixth sea- son. Rankings will be determined based on the outcomes of the two candidates as they face off. The winner will be announced during the next episode that can be seen in the final episodes.

THE PENINSULA

Canada opens visas centre, annual visitor number likely to double

Anne-Marie Spain (centre), Counsellor (management) and Consul, Canadian embassy, Ewan Cameron (fourth left), Marketing Officer, Mannai Corporation, Ali Alexander (second right), CEO, Middle East and Africa, VFS Global, and Farouk Sander (right), General Manager, Mannai Travel Division, with other officials after the opening of the Canadian Visas Centre at Jaidah Square in Doha yesterday.

BY SACHIN KUMAR

Doha: Visitors from Qatar to Canada are likely to double in a year, with the opening of Canada Visas Application Centre in Doha.

Until now people wishing to visit Canada were required to go to Mannai for visa-related services. About 3,000 people go to Canada in a year on visit visa study and work permits.

VFS Global, the world’s largest outsourcing and technology services company, specializing in government and diplomatic mandates, in part- nership with Mannai Corporation, yesterday afternoon announced the opening of a new office in Jaidah Square.

In attendance was Minister of Interior, Mohammad bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, the Canadian ambassador, Anne-Marie Spain, Counsellor (management) and Consul, the Canadian embassy.

“Opening of the visa centre is the good news for people in Qatar because until now they had to go to Al Doha Visa Service for visa service. We expect the number of visitors to double in a year,” Farouk Sander, General Manager, Mannai Travel Division, with other officials after the opening of the Canadian Visas Centre at Jaidah Square in Doha yesterday.

THE PENINSULA

Ooredoo Passport double roaming data made permanent

Doha: Ooredoo has announced that its double roaming data offer on Ooredoo Passport is now a permanent feature for travel- lers in the GCC.

For QBR300, Ooredoo Passport customers get 100 roaming minute and 1GB of roaming mobile data when they use Passport Partner networks in more than 60 countries, including the GCC.

Ooredoo Passport will provide an extra 1GB of roaming mobile data for use in the GCC. Ooredoo Passport works on all GCC net- works – Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait – and customers will only have to pay an extra(O) per minute and QR1 per MB used on partner networks.

THE PENINSULA

Sixth season of QF’s edutainment TV reality show ends on November 15

Yassah Al Dossary, Walea Arabia and Sultan Al Sulhi taking part in the design stage of the programme.

Doha: The Intellectual, Thaheeb Al Dossary of Bahrain and ‘The Strategist’ Sultan Al Sulhi of Oman have stomped their tickets to the November 15 final episode of Stars of Science, on MBC4. They will compete for the top spot and a share of the $600,000 prize money.

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