

AME Info



Shafallah Center continues to push the leading edge of treatment and advocacy for people with disabilities. In a region in which disability was long a stigma, the Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs continues to push the leading edge of treatment and advocacy for people with disabilities.

- Qatar: Sunday, April 19 – 2009 at 09:34

The Fourth Annual International Forum will gather top educators, policymakers, organization leaders and others for a spirited discussion on strategies to inspire individuals with disabilities to achieve maximum independence, from a global perspective.

The road toward self-actualization could be as basic as the ability to make personal choices or as complex as composing an opera or anywhere in between.

Progress requires a dedicated commitment from all sectors of society. The achievement of independence for people with disabilities is a test of the very tenets of our democracy. 'Achieving independence for people with disabilities is a revolutionary process. It means changing laws in some countries, but more importantly, changing hearts and minds. We must remove all the barriers to independence in order to find jobs and create new opportunities to live and learn,'

said Hassan Ali Bin Ali, Chairman of the Shafallah Center. 'Over the course of three days this Forum will ask some tough questions and hopefully shed some new light on how we can work together to achieve these goals.'

Panel sessions and presenters will discuss issues such as promoting inclusion, family perspectives in achieving independence, improving employment, self advocacy, issues of rights, language and micro enterprise for achieving independence.

Discussions will be led by Cherie Blair, co chair of the Forum and Patron of Scope, Robert Wright, co founder of Autism Speaks, His Excellency Luis Gallegos, Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States and Past Chair of the United Nations Ad-hoc Preparatory Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Dr. Mary Ellen Lewis, Director of Educational Projects, Kennedy Krieger Institute to mention a few.

The Shafallah Center is honored to welcome Princess Lalla Amina, Special Olympics International Advisory Committee; Madame Dorrit Moussaieff, First Lady of Iceland; Mrs. Teuta Topi, First Lady of Albania; Mrs. Vivian Fernández de Torrijos, First Lady of Panamá; Mrs. Maria Kaczynska, First Lady of Poland; Mrs. Hoda Siniora, wife to the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mrs. Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, First Lady of Honduras and Sir Phillip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee; dignitaries who are dedicated in promoting special needs advocacy.