

# Fourth int'l special-need children Forum kicks off Monday



Doha - The 4th annual international Forum of the Shafallah Center for children with special needs kicked off Monday in Doha, Qatar.



The meeting, held under the banner: “achieving autonomy”, is attended by Princess Lalla Amina, Chairwoman of the Moroccan League for Child Protection and Special Olympics-Morocco, and member of the Advisory Council of International Special Olympics.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of this event, attended by several first ladies, Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser Al Misned, spouse of the Emir of Qatar, highlighted the importance of integrating children with special needs into society and granting them the right to education and employment to enable them to become independent and autonomous and help them contribute to their society.

She said the international forum is an occasion to exchange experiences on the most pressing issues pertaining to special-need people with the aim to defend their rights, assess their specific needs, and set up special policies for them.

Created in 2006, the Doha-based Shaffallah Center for Special-Need Children has made significant steps in promoting the rights of people with special needs at the regional and international levels, she went on to say. The Center continues to push the leading edge of treatment and advocacy for people with disabilities.

The institution hosts over 520 students mentored by 635 teachers, health professionals, experts and researchers, managing a wide range of professional and educational programs.

The forum, bringing together top educators, policymakers, organization leaders and others, features several seminars and conferences on a number of issues related mainly to the means to promote the autonomy of people with special needs.