

Another milestone for Shafallah

AILYN AGONIA - The 4th Annual International Shafallah Forum, which showcases presentations and studies highlighting the theme of 'Achieving Independence', was inaugurated by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser al Missned at the Shafallah Center in Doha on Monday. Shafallah Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali and human rights barrister and patron of 'Scope' Cherie Blair joined in welcoming the high-profile delegation who graced the opening ceremony, which included the First Ladies of Panama, Honduras, Iceland, Albania and Poland. Representatives of reputed organisations like Autism Speaks, International Paralympic Committee and Best Buddies International were also part of the impressive lineups of guests for the occasion.

A documentary on 'Achieving Independence' started the daylong programme. The short video presentation demonstrated the remarkable programme and facilities of Shafallah. Among the key presentations of the day included the Shafallah Community Services Program shared by Shafallah Director of Special Education Heyam Nasser al Suwaidi. The paper showed the initiatives of the Center in empowering their graduates through employment and how the programme effectively matches the skills and qualifications of the graduates to the requirements of employers. A presentation on the Functional Behaviour Analysis was also made by Shafallah department head Hakam M Abu al Khair.

The journey towards discovering how to empower people with disabilities was highlighted by the inspiring presentation of the Best Buddies Friendship Ambassador Katie Meade. 'I am a survivor, I am a fighter. I will soon celebrate my 7th year as being a paid worker,' was how Katie, one of those who successfuly overcame her disabilities, started her motivating talk.

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