

QU honours winners of BairaQ contest

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The award winning students with officials at the honouring ceremony.

DOHA: Qatar University (QU) recently honoured winners of the Al BairaQ Science in Sports module at the Aspire Academy theatre.

Sheikh Saoud bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani and QU's Vice-President for Research Dr Hassan Al Derham, honoured the winning teams from secondary schools.

The award for Best Presentation went to Al Abtal team from Qatar Secondary School, while the Best Movie award was won by Alnokhba team from Omar bin Al Khattab Secondary School. Alestekshaf team from Qatar Secondary School bagged the Best Video award while the winners of the Electronic Sites Challenge was Almotahedeem team from Omar Bin Al Khattab Secondary School.

The competition, organised by QU's Centre for Advanced Materials (CAM), aims to engage high school students in science and technology as part of Al BairaQ programme. This new element of the programme was launched in Fall 2012.

Students from Omar Bin Al Khattab Secondary School for Boys and Qatar Secondary Independent School for Girls took part in the course, undertaking projects based on scientific research related to the sports sector. Focusing on the use of different materials in sports products, they looked at using materials such as concrete to produce unusual items such as bowling balls and even boats.

The teams had to create 3D models, presentations and films. They participated in a Movie Maker competition by creating a short story using photos they took during their research.

They gave presentations in front of a panel of experts, including representatives from Al BairaQ partner Unesco, platinum sponsor RasGas and sponsor Qatar Petroleum. There was also a Social Media competition with all groups participating in Twitter and Facebook on a daily basis, recording the progress of their projects.

Sheikh Saoud said in a statement that he supported QU's CAM and recognised the importance of their Science in Sport and other research programmes in inspiring young people to become Qatar's researchers of the future.

Al Derham praised the students for their outstanding research and said that the project was part of a wider drive at QU to develop a promising generation of young people who have the capability to supplement the country's economy with knowledge and research expertise.

This week, the students will present their projects as part of I am Discovering Materials competition to a panel of judges. The finals will take place on Wednesday at QU.