

# Teachers get online tips at Rota workshop

REACH Out To Asia (Rota) recently organised two workshops as part of its International Education and Resource Network programme in Qatar (iEARN-Qatar).

The workshops were aimed at creating an online community of educators and students of Qatar. The workshops were conducted at the Qatar Foundation recreation centre.

iEARN, a Rota release said, is the world's largest non-profit network with over 120 communities, enabling young people to use Internet as well as other new technologies and engaging in collaborative educational projects.

The first workshop held on October 8 and 9, focused on advanced training for 10 teachers who had participated in the iEARN-Qatar pilot phase from March to July 2008. By building the capacity of these teachers, the workshop provided the participants with the opportunity to further their professional growth and helped them to become facilitators and mentors to new teachers joining the programme.

The workshop's other aspects included a deeper insight into online collaboration, community building skills and advanced use of the Rota Knowledge Network Portal and iEARN collaboration centre.

The second workshop on October 11 and 12 introduced iEARN projects to 40 new teachers from 10 schools. It provided teachers with the nec-

essary knowledge and practical skills to start implementing an iEARN curriculum-based project in classrooms with their students.

The training programme introduced teachers to online collaborative projects, problem-based learning and helped them with skills to enable the integration of ICT in their classrooms and teaching practices.

Commenting on workshops, Cherie Clark-Moore, head of Connect ROTAsia, said: "These two workshops, sponsored by Rota, were in line with our vision for the Knowledge Network and creating a sustainable, supportive community of educators and learners. We will continue our efforts to support teachers here and abroad to develop as professionals and to help them with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate ICT into their practices to improve access to and the quality of education."

She said through the Knowledge Network and Rota's connection with iEARN, "we aim at establishing online connections between schools in Qatar and the 120-plus countries participating in the network, including Rota's focal countries throughout Asia."

The Connect ROTAsia programme aims at connecting schools in Qatar with similar institutions in developing Asian countries through the Rota Knowledge Network. The goal of this programme is to facili-



**Cherie Clark-Moore ... creating supportive community of educators and learners**

tate sharing of expertise, knowledge and educational resources, with the support of higher education institutions in Qatar, as well as building educational capacity in local communities.

As part of the Knowledge Network, the iEARN-Qatar community is being developed in three phases - establishment and initiation between March and July 2008; capacity building of trainers and school coordinators and international expansion of iEARN-Qatar community between September

2008 and July 2009, and iEARN-Qatar connecting to the iEARN-Arabia regional network between September 2009 and July 2010.

The Knowledge Network will also play a pivotal role in facilitating intercultural exchanges, along with bringing teachers and students together in an international K-12 community and best practices platform.

It will aid in breaking down barriers to education across Asia through online collaboration, common activities and services.