

Qatar



Ahmed Bin Khalifah Bu-Shirbak Al-Mansouri

Minister of Education

Mr. Ahmed Bin Khalifah Bu-Shirbak Al-Mansouri holds a B.A. in Arts and Education, a Special Diploma in Education and Psychology from the Qatar University, a M.S. in Education and a Ph.D. from the Cairo University. He has undertaken many research activities in the field of education. He has published a number of books and articles, particularly about teachers and gender, human rights, teacher training programs and health education about AIDS. His latest works are "The modern tendencies in teacher training in the light of the modern international expertise" and "Basic human rights and freedoms within the framework of Educational Curriculum". He was Director of Suburbans Educational Areas, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Textbooks, Director of Cultural Affairs, Head of Preparatory, and Secondary education, Head of Educational Inspectorate, Director of Curriculum and Textbooks Department, Assistant Under-secretary for Educational Affairs of the Ministry of Education. In June 2001, he was appointed Minister of Education.

Respect for cultural identities

In the Name of Allah, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Asslamu Alaikum Warahmatu Allah Wabarakatuh,

It is my pleasure to accept the invitation of H.E. Dr. Cecilia Braslavsky, the Director of IBE to send a message to the 46th session of the ICE that expresses Qatar's point of view regarding the items and topics to be discussed during the conference. As these topics are of great importance to all the countries of the world, I Concentrate on the most important of them which is Education and the challenge of globalization.

The conference organizers were quite successful to introduce this important case for discussion. All the people and all the countries of the world are still dealing with globalization with different thoughts and different point of views that are contradictory in conclusion. The previous ICE in the 45th session paid great attention to this case and called for the determination and identification of specific rules and guidelines to harmonize the different attitudes concerning globalization.

Nevertheless, we still recognize that the whole world has not yet achieved any progress to cope with globalization. This makes it difficult to realize a common understanding and comprehension for globalization to permit its acceptance and application. So, there is a common sense among the poor people and poor countries that globalization resembles the compulsion of the powerful superior countries that they miss look its advantages and exaggerate its disadvantages.

However, the Islam religion that is based on equality and justice and that is interested in the goodness of every moral human principle, expressed objectively the correct true meaning of globalization 14 centuries ago when it was mentioned in the holy Quraan.

There are many examples of the holy Quraan and the Hadith of prophet Mohammad - peace be upon him - that confirm the inevitability of globalization in condition that it should be applied according to its true moral values that are accepted by all the people without obligation or compulsion and in respect to the others freedom of beliefs and culture.

The state of Qatar led by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Honorable prince of state, was so careful to deal with globalization objectively. Thus, the Ministry of Education

took into consideration to achieve certain targets that would keep a balance between the national culture and the culture of globalization.

The educational subjects of study encourage the Qatari students to be open minded and aware of the culture and civilization of the other nations and direct them to know the important roles played by the international organizations for the goodness and interest of humanity. They also enlighten the Qatari students of the human crises all over the world such as poverty, racial discrimination, wars and natural disasters and confirm the human rights of equality, freedom of expression and thought and the justice of decisions, rules and international attitudes.

Thereupon, we think that the educational curriculum is the milestone for identifying globalization, its application and its profitability in a way that respects the cultural identity of each nation. So, our conference is a good opportunity to correct misunderstanding of globalization and to emphasize the rules and principles to be followed to accomplish peace and prosperity that humanity hopes for.

Wa Assalmu Alaikum, Warahmatu Allah Wabarakatuh, 