



7 October 2013

## MESSAGE FROM SUSTAINABLEQATAR

SustainableQatar is at an important crossroad. After 5 years of chairing this wonderful and much needed organization **it is time to pass the torch to the next generation of environmental and business leaders with a passion for Qatar and for the environment** to explore many more opportunities that present themselves in light of the exciting growth and development in Qatar.

We seek to transfer ownership to young ambitious Qatari leaders to build a truly sustainable organization and legacy for Qatar, that supports the four pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030: Human Development, Social Development, Economic Development and Environmental Development. **ALL IT TAKES is a willingness to lead and to "BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD."**

SustainableQatar needs your enthusiasm, leadership and initiative to further grow the organization to the next level and building on the many successes we have accomplished as a young, action-based organization on a strict volunteer basis, notwithstanding the challenging and transient environment.

Over the past 5 years we have grown exponentially, from a few enthusiasts into an active and respected public forum with several hundred members who meet monthly to discuss environmental issues **relevant to Qatar**. With your help and engagement, we broke through barriers and our monthly meetings now include Qatari speakers/presenters and attendees, including a local bee/apiary expert, an explorer to the Antarctic, and a researcher on the Qatar Whale Shark project.

SustainableQatar's proudest accomplishment, so far, was to be recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an official observer organization during the COP18 climate change conference, hosted in Qatar in November/December 2012.

Additional Milestones include:

- SustainableQatar operates on a strict volunteer basis and has grown exponentially into an action-based organization – new for Qatar.
- SustainableQatar has several hundred members with consistently 40 to 50 people from a broad professional background attending the monthly meetings – new for Qatar.
- SustainableQatar attracts high caliber and professional presenters who discuss environmental issues relevant to Qatar, including a local apiary/bee expert, an explorer to the Antarctic, and a researcher on the Qatar Whale Shark research project – new for Qatar.
- SustainableQatar broke through barriers and monthly meetings now include Qatari presenters and attendees. This mix of locals and expats is new for Qatar, and a true accomplishment.
- SustainableQatar became an official observer organization for the UNFCCC COP18 Climate Change Conference with 11 approved delegates.
- SustainableQatar was a founding and board member of Qatar Sustainability Network (QSN).
- SustainableQatar receives numerous international requests and inquiries for capacity building and collaboration.

As an organizational philosophy, SustainableQatar's tag line is: *"Yes, you can make a difference in the world. One person at a time."*

**SustainableQatar is working hard to find and recruit passionate, determined and committed individuals to carry on the torch. The only thing required is a willingness to lead and to take personal initiative to be the change you want to see in the world. If you are interested or if you know people who might be interested and able to lead, please pass on this message and encourage these people to apply via our website. There are many more opportunities to explore and I, as past president, will be on your side to guide and coach as needed.**

Thank you all for your support and continued interest. We will update you about our resumed meeting schedule as soon as the positions are filled. Until then, there will be no meeting.

Thanks again and kind regards,

Katrin Scholz-Barth  
Past President, SustainableQatar