

## Transport Minister meets ACAO chief



Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti met yesterday with the Director General of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization, Eng. Abdennabi Manar. The meeting reviewed Qatar-ACAO relations in the field of civil aviation and means of further enhancing them. Qatar's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Chairman, H E Abdullah bin Nasser Turki Al Subaey, also attended the meeting.

## Acclaimed Filipino singers' concert tomorrow

RAYNALD C RIVERA  
THE PENINSULA

The Philippines' concert king Martin Nievera and Asia's night-tingle Lani Misalucha, two internationally acclaimed Filipino singers, are both keen to perform in Qatar at their show at Aspire Ladies Sports Hall tomorrow. Qatar is the first stop of the duo's three-nation concert tour in the region dubbed "World Alliance Serendubbed" the OFWs Middle East Tour 2019.

"We will be serenading the people who are the least serened, the hardworking overseas Filipino workers who are all over the world and make sure they feel important because they truly are the heroes of our country. I think after this concert we will be less proud as singers but more proud as Filipinos because we will all be united that night," Nievera said at a press meet yesterday at Radisson Blu Hotel Doha.

With a career spanning over

three decades, Nievera has released dozens of best-selling albums, starred in movies, featured in television shows and garnered awards. "To the 250,000+ strong Filipinos here in Qatar, we would love to see you all and thank you so much for what you do here in Qatar and for what you do, not only for your families back home but also all of us in the Philippines. I really do hope and pray that all of you here are doing well, healthy and strong," said Misalucha on her message to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Qatar.

Known for her extraordinary ability to sing across genres such as pop, rock, jazz, soul, RnB and operatic arias, Misalucha is the first Asian to headline a main showroom in Las Vegas and has worked with many local and international artists including Nievera.

The show is organised by Star Media Production, Doha City Event Management and the Global Police Community

Relations (PCR) - programme of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in which Nievera and Misalucha have been appointed ambassadors.

General Rhodel Sermonia, Global PCR Director, said the programme launched nearly a year ago aims to be inclusive forging stronger relations with Filipinos abroad and partnerships with other agencies to promote Philippine tourism and investment.

"We want to tell our kababayans that PNP is not just protecting and serving the Filipino people in the Philippines but worldwide. We want them to know we are protecting their loved ones in the Philippines because we want them to work with peace of mind while away from their loved ones," stressed Sermonia. Sermonia said Nievera and Misalucha were chosen as ambassadors "because they are world class performers who can reach out to more Filipinos in any part of the world."



FROM LEFT: General Rhodel Sermonia, Director of Global Police Community Relations; Filipino singers Lani Misalucha and Martin Nievera; and Victor Magnines, CEO of DC Events Management Company, during a press conference held at the Radisson Blue Hotel Doha yesterday. PIC: BAHAR AMIN / THE PENINSULA

## QF-funded technology aims to enhance cybersecurity globally

FAZEENA SALEEM  
THE PENINSULA

A homegrown technology funded by Qatar Foundation (QF) has given Qatar the potential to play a leading role in the global fight against cybercrime.

Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) — part of Qatar Foundation Research, Development, and Innovation (QF RDI) — has supported the Qatari company Application Design for Global Solutions (ADGS), co-founded by Hassan Al Ansari, Christophe Billiotet, and a team of engineers directed by an Argentinian expert, Nahuel Gonzalez, to develop STROKK, a software that adds an extra layer of cybersecurity. The software uses behavioural biometrics to combat cyber threats.

ADGS has also been named as the first beneficiary of QF RDI's 'Innovation Coupon', a fund designed to benefit companies that have the capacity and technical knowledge to develop their product or service, but require more support to resolve a specific technical or business challenge. Based on behavioural biometrics, such as human-centric technology that analyses how people type on a computer keyboard, rather than just what they type, the innovation aims to combat data breaches that pose a threat to users of digital tools such as smartphones, tablets, and computers across the globe.

The technology has already been deployed within Qatar in sectors where the risks, and repercussions, of cyber threats are considered to be high, such as the financial sector. STROKK has been adopted by international banks, and perhaps even more importantly, is being tested by some military and defence intelligence services in Europe and South America for potential use.

It was also recently showcased in Kuwait at the third edition of the MENA Dojo, a unique regional accelerator programme — organised jointly by QSTP and global venture capital firm 500 Startups. Kuwait was the first country to buy copies of STROKK software from ADGS.

Although the idea for the software came to Al Ansari, Billiotet, and Gonzalez four years ago, they needed financial support to develop it into a product that would achieve their goal of



Hassan Al Ansari



Christophe Billiotet

**Based on behavioural biometrics, such as human-centric technology that analyses how people type on a computer keyboard, rather than just what they type, the innovation aims to combat data breaches that pose a threat to users of digital tools such as smartphones, tablets, and computers across the globe.**

enhancing global data security.

Having heard about QSTP and its role in supporting tech entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into reality, Billiotet and Al Ansari approached the QF member with a detailed proposal that reflected their product's purpose.

"From encouraging our idea, to supporting us to the point where we could market our software both in Qatar and abroad, QSTP's and QF's role in the development of the product was crucial," Billiotet said. "It's only because of the funding we have received through Qatar Foundation that we were able to develop it in a way that allows it to be launched globally, to countries such as Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Iraq and Argentina."

"You can have the best idea in the world, but without time, money and resources, it will remain an idea. Thanks to QF, our algorithms have placed Qatar ahead of countries such as Germany and the US, in improving behavioural biometrics for cyber-security."

According to Al Ansari, ADGS is already a serious actor in Qatar's high-tech export sector. "With almost 10 percent of Qatar's high-tech exports, ADGS is already contributing to achieving the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030," said Al Ansari.

He said QF was elevating Qatar's capacity and impact in the field of technology development,

just as it has done in education and health.

In a global context, STROKK's development is quite timely: a 2018 study by IBM revealed that, worldwide, the average cost of a data breach is over \$3m, with the US and the Middle East being the most affected areas. An estimate of 4 billion passwords are stolen every year, and 83% of the data breaches come from hacked passwords.

"The concerns for privacy and security are perennial issues that companies involved in producing smart devices have to deal with. At the moment, you have solutions based on biometrics, such as fingerprint or facial recognition. When these biometrics are being compromised, so is the identity of the user, for biometrics cannot be replaced. And, the consequences can be devastating," said Billiotet. "Behavioural biometrics address the limitations of biometrics. Just as your signature is unique to you, so is the way you type on a keyboard. STROKK is a software that learns the way you type and clearly recognises you from anyone else."

It adds a security layer to any system. In any language. It even makes stolen passwords useless to hackers by knowing how you type. The advantage is that behaviour, unlike biometrics, can be consciously changed by the user to eliminate any prospective risks," he added.

**QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY**  
INVITATION TO TENDER

QAFCO ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER

TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	TENDER FEE (QAR)	TENDER BOND (QAR)	TENDER COLLECTION DATES	TENDER CLOSING DATE
RFCQ-354888	General Maintenance Works at Qafco Residential Area and Doha Offices	500/- (Non-refundable)	1,000,000/- (One Million QAR Only)	26.06.19 27.06.19 30.06.19 01.07.19 02.07.19 03.07.19 04.07.19	05.08.19

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- Technical & Commercial details and Submission Procedures are specified in the Tender Documents.
- The Company will not consider any offer without the enclosure of the Tender Bond.
- Tender Documents may be collected between 0930 – 1130 hours and 1230 – 1400 hours on the dates indicated above, after payment of Tender Fee (non-refundable), from the QAFCO Housing Section, relocated to Training Center Building (near Al Barunah Club) at Messiaed Residential Area, Tel: 44760093 / 44770330.
- During the period this tender is offered, the interested bidders shall first deposit appropriate Tender Fee amount in cash (Cheque will not be accepted) into Company's following Account at any QNB branch:
  - Account Name : **QATAR FERTILISER COMPANY (QAFCO)**
  - Account Number : **0013-025828-058**
  - IBAN : **QAS1QNBA000000000013025828058**
  - Bank Name : **QATAR NATIONAL BANK**
- The interested Bidders shall mention their company's name and Tender number on the payment receipt provided by the bank and produces it during tender collection as Tender Fee receipt.
- Besides the Tender fee receipt (which should have the Tender number and bidder's name clearly mentioned on it), interested bidders shall also bring a copy of the valid Commercial Registration, an authorization letter from his company with the name, telephone, fax and e-mail ID of the local point for this tender, while collecting the Tender Document.
- Bids shall be submitted at QAFCO Housing Section, between 0930 – 1130 hours and 1230 – 1400 hours, of any working day of the Company, onbefore the "Tender Closing Date".

## AJ+ Español wins World Digital Media Award

THE PENINSULA/DOHA

Verificado 2018, the collaborative initiative co-founded by AJ+ Español to verify content during the 2018 Mexican elections, won the 2019 World Digital Media Award in the category of Best Innovation to Engage Young Audiences. "Verificado is a living example of how far AJ+ can go in life and innovation: this is our first-ever journalistic initiative of this size and scope. It has become a multi-awarded project and a reference within the journalism community from Latin America to India. Congratulations to all the AJ+ Español and Verificado teams," said Diana Khatib, Managing Director of AJ+ Channels.

During its 119 days of operation and with its 90 partner organisations, Verificado 2018 successfully engaged young people between 18 and 34 years old, who represented 65% of the initiative's fans and 52% of registered interactions on Facebook. These were mainly first time or one-time voters. Overall, the initiative's Twitter and Facebook accounts racked up more than 200,000 followers in each platform.

"We are thrilled with the fact that the initiative, born in Doha, keeps being recognised by the industry for its impact within young audiences and its collaborative nature. Without the room for experimentation that we have at AJ+, we couldn't have done this," said Diana Larrea, Senior Strategist at AJ+ and creator and co-founder of Verificado 2018.

The World Digital Media Awards Ceremony took place on June 2, during WAN-IFRA's 71st World News Media Conference, in Glasgow, Scotland. After winning the LATAM Digital Award, Verificado 2018



AJ+ officials with the award.

became a global finalist at the World Digital Media Awards, competing against the winners of the same category in other Digital Awards' regional editions, namely Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South Asia. Verificado 2018 beat regional winners from the United States, India and South Africa.

This is the third award won by Verificado 2018. In addition to the World Digital Media Award, the initiative has been honoured with a LATAM Digital Award and an Online Journalism Award, from the Online News Association (ONA). It was also a finalist at the Premio GANA, of the Gabriel García Márquez Foundation, one of the most prestigious awards in the Spanish-speaking world.

## Ministry of Education to start receiving scholarship applications

QNA/DOHA

The Scholarship Department of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has announced that it will start receiving application for scholarships for academic year 2019-20 on June 30 at <https://scholarship.edu.gov.qa> for bachelor's degree and technical diplomas in general and sub-specialities that serve development orientations of the state. The submission of the application for scholarships for academic year 2019-20 will begin on June 30 at <https://scholarship.edu.gov.qa> for bachelor's degree and technical diplomas in general and sub-specialities.

The department has allocated Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday each week to discuss with the public all aspects of the scholarship and to answer their questions and queries, from 8am to 1pm. Director of Admissions and Registration at the Department of Scholarships Saleh Al Mufbah said that this year's specialisations include medicine, education, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, policy, planning, statistics, veterinary medicine, science, laboratories, standardisation, law, languages, translation, engineering, politics, international relations and computer and information sciences.