

“EMPOWER 2021”:
“Reach Out to Asia” (ROTA), a programme of the “Education Above All” (EAA) Foundation,
EMPOWER 2021 Youth Conference: “Young Global Citizens Co-Create Culture”
Doha, Qatar (and online)
November 23-26, 2021

Short report of the panel presented on November 24, 2021, by Hiba Qassar:
“Cultural Heritage Through the Lens of Global Citizenship”

by Hiba Qassar

Empower 2021 International Youth Conference was organized by “Reach Out To Asia” (ROTA), a programme of “Education Above All”, in conjunction with Qatar Museums.

The three-day hybrid event under the theme “Young Global Citizens Co-Create Culture”, has brought together over 1,000 youth in Qatar and beyond to engage in cross-cultural exchange. Youth participants between 15 and 24 will participate in workshops and learning opportunities, in line with Rota’s Global Citizenship Education mandate, to foster civic engagement and cultural preservation with the goal of bringing about sustainable social and economic development for future generations.

I participated in a panel discussion, day two, under the title: *Cultural Heritage Through the Lens of Global Citizenship*. I shared the panel with the director of UNESCO division of peace and sustainable development, a program officer from the Ban Ki-Moon centre and program engagement director of “Embrace Doha”.

Through my intervention I talked about the “One-on-One” project as a concrete example to engage youngsters with heritage and its impact on making them better global citizens. I started my intervention by talking about the various phases of the program and the challenges that the program encountered to engage youngsters in seeing themselves through the heritage.

Then moved to talk about the impact of the program in fostering dialogue among youngsters, fostering knowledge in each other’s heritage and how it empowers youngsters to share their heritage in a global lens.

After the various interventions, the panelists discussed the role of engaging heritage in education in order to protect cultural heritage which can be considered the first step in which local identities can be preserved and celebrated and its various outcomes.

Programs like the “One-on-One” program presented a powerful example of how youth can think globally by presenting and preserving their local heritage and identity.