

World Virtual Science and Engineering Fair 2008



2008
**EVENT
PROGRAMME**
College of the North Atlantic - Qatar



Special Guest Judge

Astronaut Dr. Roberta Bondar,
World's First Neurologist in Space

As the world's first neurologist in space, Dr. Roberta Bondar is globally recognized for her pioneering contribution in space medicine research. Aboard the Discovery mission STS-42 in 1992, she conducted experiments in the shuttle's first international microgravity laboratory.

For more than a decade at NASA Dr. Bondar headed an international research team, continuing to find new connections between astronauts recovering from the microgravity of space and neurological illnesses here on Earth such as stroke and Parkinson's disease. Her techniques have been used in clinical studies at the B. I. Deaconess Medical Center, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School and at the University of New Mexico.

A true renaissance woman, Dr. Bondar is an acclaimed photographer of the natural wonders of our planet. She is the author of four best-selling photo essay books featuring her stunning photography of the Earth. Her book, *The Arid Edge of Earth* which features deserts of the world, has on its cover the Inland Sea, Qatar in the Arabian Peninsula.

UNESCO has announced 2008 through 2010 as the International Years of the Planet and Dr. Roberta Bondar has been named the Honorary Patron for Canada.

As an author, environmental educator and celebrated landscape photographer, Dr. Bondar has also earned a reputation as a leading speaker and consultant within the medical and scientific communities, and in the field of corporate social responsibility and care for the Earth's environment.

In 2007 the Ontario Government appointed Dr. Bondar to chair the Working Committee on Environmental Education, to strengthen environmental education in the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools. The Committee presented the report and all 32 of their recommendations are being implemented in 2008.

Dr. Bondar has been recognized with the NASA Space Medal, inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and into the International Women's Forum Hall of Fame for her pioneering research in space medicine. In addition, she has received 24 honorary doctorates from Canadian and American universities. In 2003 TIME magazine named her among North America's best explorers.

Currently, Dr. Bondar is in her second term as Chancellor of Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario and she continues photographing the extremes of our planet.