

QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND UNVEILS JOINT RESEARCH INITIATIVE WITH BRITISH PARTNERS

Initiative Reflects QNRF's Commitment To Promote Collaboration With British Researchers In Order To Foster A Scientific Culture

Doha, 2 August 2015: Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), has launched a joint research support programme in partnership with the UK Government's Science & Innovation Network, The British Council, and UK Higher Education International Unit.

The initiative entitled '*Qatar/UK Research Networking Programme*' reflects QNRF's commitment to promote collaboration with British researchers in an attempt to foster a scientific culture that supports Qatar Foundation's (QF) mission to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity, while helping the nation develop into a hub of excellence through QF's science and research pillar, QF R&D.

"The '*Qatar/UK Research Networking Programme*' is a new and exciting initiative that will promote knowledge transfer, establish new research links, and develop existing ones between some of the best minds in the research community," said Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director of QNRF. "This initiative will also promote advanced scientific research in a variety of fields, further bolstering long-term sustainable development and knowledge transfer in Qatar."

As part of the new initiative, two-member teams, comprising a researcher from Qatar and another from the UK, are invited to submit proposals to QNRF regarding the organisation of research workshops in Qatar in selected research areas. At these workshops each senior scientist will provide mentorship to their junior colleagues, in an effort to facilitate partnerships that will lead to the planning and submission of joint research bids in the future to UK and Qatar funding agencies.

"This new initiative is in line with QNRF's strategy to support research efforts that contribute to the development of Qatar's knowledge-based economy, and QNRF is extremely proud to be playing an active and significant role in supporting the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030," said Dr Abdulnasser Al-Ansari, Deputy Executive Director of QNRF.

The new programme aims to lay the foundations of a cooperation framework between Qatari researchers and their counterparts in the UK, as discussed during the '*QF/UK Road Ahead Forum*' held at King's College London earlier this year.

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This cooperation framework will function as a capacity building platform for junior researchers in both countries, while providing undergraduate and post-graduate students in Qatar with exposure to the latest research underway in the UK.

The deadline for proposal submissions is 28th September 2015, with the results set to be announced in December 2015. For more information about the '*Qatar/UK Research Networking Programme*' or any of the capacity-building programmes offered by QNRF, please visit www.qnrf.org.

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About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)

Leading Qatar's vision to become an international centre for research and development excellence and innovation, QF R&D is home to Qatar Science & Technology Park, a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, as well as Qatar National Research Fund, a globally renowned scientific research funding organisation.

About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, QNRF was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers. It is a member within the Research & Development establishment at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNRF administers funding for original, competitively selected research and furthers collaborations within academia, the public, governmental and non-governmental sectors through effective, mutually beneficial partnerships. While QNRF actively seeks internationally recognised researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, visit: www.qnrf.org

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