



NATIONAL FAMELAB FINALS TO TAKE PLACE THIS WEEKEND

Event Organised By British Council In Partnership With Qatar National Research Fund

Doha, Qatar, 4 March, 2016: A total of 12 participants have made it through to the national finals of FameLab, the world's largest science communication competition, which is set to take place on Saturday, 5th March, at Hamad bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) Student Center at Education City.

Divided into two categories, 'Young Scientists' and 'Aspiring Scientists', each contestant will deliver a three-minute presentation on a subject of scientific interest to a public audience and a panel of judges, using only their personality, informative communication style, and minimal props. They will be judged on content, clarity, and charisma.

The winner from the researchers and teachers category, 'Aspiring Scientists', will go on to take part in the international FameLab final in the UK at the Cheltenham Science Festival in June, where they will get the opportunity to represent Qatar. Student winners from the 'Young Scientists' category will go to the London International Science Youth Forum (LIYSF) and meet with young scientists from countries all around the world.

This is the first time the competition has come to Qatar and the GCC, and it has materialised thanks to the combined efforts of the British Council and Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research & Development (QF R&D), as well as the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar University, and Hamad bin Khalifa University.

Part of Qatar Foundation For Education, Science and Community Development (QF), QNRF helps to foster a scientific culture that supports QF's mission to build Qatar's innovation and technological capacity, while positioning the nation as a hub of excellence.

"QNRF is extremely pleased to be the local partner of the British Council in Qatar, helping to organise the FameLab event. It offers an excellent platform for young people and young scientists in the country to communicate their passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and engage their peers both regionally and internationally," said Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director of Qatar National Research Fund.

"Qatar is pioneering STEM subjects by being the first GCC partner country to deliver FameLab. We firmly believe this engaging competition will not only connect young Qatari people with the global science communication movement, but also prepare them to build a knowledge-based economy, envisioned by the Qatar National Vision 2030," added Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie.

Competitions like FameLab play a key role in disseminating scientific knowledge to the broader community in Qatar. This endeavour helps to build a knowledge-based economy by recognising the talent and capabilities of budding national scientists with a flair for communication. These representatives are essential to improving the public's understanding of science, inspiring the next generation of talented scientists and engineers in Qatar.

“Science is crucial to tackling major global challenges, and a public understanding of science is essential to build support, funding, and encourage the next generation of researchers. The British Council is delighted to be working with QNRF through FameLab to develop communication skills in Qatari scientists and help them engage the public and policy makers with their research,” said Frank Fitzpatrick, Country Director, British Council in Qatar.

More than 65 students, 45 teachers, and 55 researchers applied to take part, attending pre-event communication training. Entrants were then required to participate in two competition heats held at Qatar University and then the headquarters of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

More information about how to enter FameLab can be found on the website: www.britishcouncil.qa/en/fameLab.

For more information about QNRF's funding programmes, visit: www.qnrf.org.

Image Captions:

Image 1: A speaker at Qatar's FameLab, the world's largest science communication competition.

Image 2: Participants take part in a FameLab activity, which has been organised by the British Council in partnership with Qatar National Research Fund.

Image 3: A FameLab participant speaking to the audience in the lead-up to the final event.

Image 4: A local FameLab participant presenting his project on stage.

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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 organization.

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, private, 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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FameLab® is an initiative of the Cheltenham Festivals in the UK. The British Council has license to deliver the competition in 26 countries overseas. NASA has license to deliver the competition in the USA. Since its inception in 2005, over 7000 people working in science, technology, engineering and maths from across more than 30 countries have taken part.

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We are a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. Our 7000 staff in over 100 countries work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year through English, arts, education and society programmes. For more information, please visit: www.britishcouncil.org. You can also keep in touch with the British Council through <http://twitter.com/britishcouncil> and <http://blog.britishcouncil.org>.