

## Qatar Foundation stresses commitment to sustainable development at Kyoto forum

**Kyoto – Japan, 09 October 2013** – Faisal M. Alsuwaidi, President of Research and Development at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, joined prominent academics and researchers to discuss the future of sustainability at the Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum in Kyoto, Japan.

The tenth annual STS forum, held at the Kyoto International Conference Centre from 6-8 October, aims to create a global network while providing an open framework for discussions related to the progress of science and technology, and the ethical predicaments it can create for the future of humankind. The forum is in line with Qatar Foundation's objective to improve and advance environmental sustainability efforts through economic diversification, including investments in solar energy and alternative fuels.

The high-profile event gathered influential policymakers, scientists, and researchers, and presented them with a valuable opportunity to delve into prevalent safety and environmental issues. Participants debated ethical issues relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century discourse and found ways to mitigate risks based on their shared understanding and appreciation for science and technology, as well as their commitment to the environment.

During a plenary session entitled 'How do we move forward to maintain sustainability for the future of humankind?'. Mr Alsuwaidi underlined Qatar Foundation's ongoing efforts to provide a sustainable future for younger generations and explained the Foundation's role in supporting the nation on its journey from a carbon-based economy to a knowledge-based economy.

He said, "Ultimately, Qatar's cumulative research and development efforts are aimed at enhancing the well-being of its people while making a worldwide impact. In order to maintain sustainable development for humankind, strategic choices must be made that facilitate the pursuit of education and research, so that truly innovative scientific and technological developments can be achieved."

Mr Alsuwaidi also introduced attendees to several of Qatar Foundation's impressive R&D initiatives and highlighted the importance of local, regional, and international collaborations among leading research organisations and their scientists.

"As part of its national endeavours, Qatar has set aside 2.8 percent of its government revenue for science and development," said Mr Alsuwaidi. "The Research and Development division at Qatar Foundation is eager to pursue a strategy of economic and environmental sustainability by collaborating with other organisations in order to form a network of centres that can effectively deal with the challenges that Qatar and the rest of the world are facing."

The Science and Technology in Society forum was established by Japanese politician Koji Omi in November 2004. Among topics of particular relevance to the forum are harmonising economic development with global warming, controlling infectious diseases, in addition to many other aspects of human welfare that are dependent on continued progress in science and technology.

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## **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercializing solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

*For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>*