

QATAR PREPARES TO HOST FIRST IASP WORLD CONFERENCE IN ARAB REGION

Qatar Science and Technology Park assumes official duties in Brazil and launches preparations for the IASP 2014 World Conference in Doha

23 October 2013: Doha, Qatar – At a global gathering of science parks, entrepreneurs and policy makers in Recife, Brazil last week, Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) was officially appointed host of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation’s (IASP) 31st Annual World Conference. Having [won the bid](#) to host the conference last year, IASP 2014 Doha will be the first IASP World Conference hosted in the Arab world.

Head of the IASP 2014 Organizing Committee and QSTP Managing Director Hamad Al-Kuwari addressed delegates at the closing ceremony of this year’s IASP World Conference in Brazil. He launched official preparations for IASP 2014 Doha and vowed to lead a robust discussion in the coming year among entrepreneurs, science parks, academia and industry about how technology goes to work in science parks to create knowledge and commercial opportunities.

QSTP invited science parks, national development agencies, industry groups, venture capitalists and others [to submit abstracts for the 2014 conference](#) focusing on the expanding role of science and technology parks and the future of cross-sector collaboration.

Citing Qatar’s historic national commitment to research and development – 2.8% of GDP - and the visionary leadership of Qatar Foundation Research and Development, Al Kuwari expressed eagerness to share Qatar’s vision with IASP delegates and underscored the increasingly important role played by science and technology parks in incubating viable, home-grown technology businesses.

“Our challenge is not just to keep pace with the world’s most empowered generation of innovators, but to support and empower them further,” said Al-Kuwari. “To do this, we must be the bridge between academia and industry – the space where technology goes to work to be commercialised for the marketplace, for individuals and for organisations.”

In Arab States in particular, effective incubation of science and technology-focused enterprises is a critical element of creating economic opportunity and diversification into knowledge sectors. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) [Science Report 2010](#) found that linkages between academia and industry in Arab States were sometimes lacking and need to be strengthened. The report cited Qatar as an example of an Arab State tackling the issue by setting up a science park and implementing a national research strategy. Great strides have been made more recently in the region and in Qatar, which has

● ● ● ● taken a leadership role with respect to science and technology research.

IASP 2014 Doha will take place from 19-22 October 2014 at the Qatar National Convention Center in Doha. Learn more and submit abstracts at www.iasp2014doha.com.

The full text of Hamad Al-Kuwari's speech is below:

Remarks by Hamad Al-Kuwari, Head of the IASP 2014 Doha Organizing Committee and Managing Director of Qatar Science and Technology Park - Delivered on October 17, 2013 at the Closing Ceremony of the IASP 2013 World Conference in Recife, Brazil:

I would like to thank the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation for bringing the people in this room together.

This brings me to our hosts in Brazil – ANPROTEC, Porto Digital and SEBRAE for their efforts in organizing the 30th IASP World Conference and pushing the Conference to higher levels.

IASP has created for science and technology parks what we create for entrepreneurs in our communities – a place where we can exchange ideas, share experiences and grow.

Science and technology parks and areas of innovation are at a critical stage in their own development.

Today, individuals have more tools at their disposal than ever before. If you want to publish a book, write your own mobile application, or create your first album, you can do it easily.

The need for what STPs do has never been greater. The historic pace of knowledge and technology creation is a call to action for us.

Providing new models of technical, financial and administrative support to entrepreneurs and opening channels for collaboration between academia, government and private sectors is an increasingly difficult task as challenges and opportunities grow in scale and complexity.

Our challenge is not just to keep pace with the world's most empowered generation of innovators, but to support and empower them further.

Our role is to act as a bridge between academia and industry. STPs provide a unique space where technology can go to work with academia, industry and policymakers - seated at the same table. The result is an environment that is capable of eventually commercializing technology for the marketplace, for individuals and for organizations.

● ● ● ● In Arab States in particular, effective incubation of science and technology-focused enterprises, is a critical element of creating economic opportunity and diversification into knowledge based sectors.

When Qatar Science and Technology Park was thankfully chosen by YOU and won the bid last year to host the 31st IASP World Conference, we saw it as an opportunity to further the global discussion about how we support great thinkers in our communities.

With the historic commitment to research and development by the Qatari government and the visionary leadership of Qatar Foundation Research and Development – Qatar has dedicated 2.8% of its annual GDP to R&D. We have made a national commitment to knowledge and technology development which I am eager to share with you.

Today, we start paving the way to Doha. And with it a one year campaign celebrating heritage, innovation and collaboration toward the future of knowledge creation.

We will unveil the year's activities through a kaleidoscope, a tool representing how we approach knowledge creation.

Through science and geometry – not magic – a kaleidoscope forces us to look at separate objects in a new way.

The final image we see through a kaleidoscope is more complex than its individual parts and would not be possible without them.

Starting now, we will be launching initiatives, throughout the year, to ensure that our collaboration and conversation are on-going.

I invite you to join the conversation on Twitter through our hashtag #iaspdoha

I invite STPs, areas of innovation, chambers, development agencies, industry groups, venture capitalists and others to enrich the next IASP World Conference with their papers on three core topics:

- (1) The role of STPs as technology Development Catalyst;
- (2) Future models of collaboration among sectors and the role that STPs can or should play- and;
- (3) STPs and their resident companies.

I am pleased to inform you that the Doha Conference website is now launched. Go to www.iasp2014doha.com for more details on the conference and other essential information

● ● ● ● about Qatar.

I look forward to welcoming you at the first IASP World Conference to be hosted in the Arab world.

Again, thank you IASP, thank you ANPROTEC, thank you Porto Digital, and SEBRAE.

Thank you all for attending and see you in Qatar.

-Ends -

Notes to Editors:

[PHOTO CAPTION:] IASP 2014 Organizing Committee Head and Qatar Science and Technology Park Managing Director Hamad Al-Kuwari invites delegates to Doha for the 2014 World Conference

About Qatar Science & Technology Park

Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation R&D enterprise, is Qatar's primary incubator for technology development, fostering the environment required for accelerating commercialization of research and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. QSTP focuses on four themes as per the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS) announced in 2012; Energy, Environment, Health Sciences and Information & Communication Technologies. QSTP is located in Qatar Foundation's Education City and has access to the resources of its cluster of leading research universities.

Members within the QSTP Free Zone include SMEs, international corporations and research institutions, which have collectively committed to investing in new programs, creating intellectual property, enhancing technology management skills and developing innovative new products in line with the QNRS. QSTP supports QF R&D's economic and human development objectives for Qatar and is increasingly being recognized as an international hub for applied research, innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship.

For more information, please visit the QSTP website at www.qstp.org.qa.

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