



YOUNG SCIENTIFIC MINDS IMPRESS AT QATAR STEAM FAIR

Grand Award Winners To Represent Qatar At Renowned International Science Competition

Doha, Qatar, 12 March 2016: Qatar Foundation Research and Development's (QF R&D) annual Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math Fair (Qatar STEAM Fair) came to a close on Thursday. Organised in collaboration with Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of QF R&D, and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the three-day event was held at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

By encouraging creativity with scientific inquiry and enabling students to develop a wide range of skills necessary to succeed in the field of science, Qatar STEAM Fair supports Qatar Foundation's mission to build and develop Qatar's capacity for creativity and critical thinking.

The second edition of the fair brought together some of the brightest scientific minds from around the country. With 330 students competing, 65 percent of whom were Qatari, from 67 independent and international middle and secondary schools, it boasted record participation. Additionally, a total of 170 research projects were presented over the course of the fair.

"The second edition of the competition has been a phenomenal success, with record participation. This year we introduced the Mentor Program, which, I believe, gave students the additional support and guidance they needed to succeed," said Dr Hamad Al Ibrahim, Executive Vice President at Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) and Chairman of Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP).

"Qatar STEAM is the only competition of its kind in the country that enables young students to develop their research skills and explore the field of science in an exciting yet intense setting. It's been incredible to witness the tremendous talent and ability displayed by the participants who, I have no doubt, will go on to make significant contributions to Qatar and the field of science," Dr Al Ibrahim added.

Participants presented their research projects to a judging panel comprising of 56 leading industry experts from local education institutions and ministries, who assessed project submissions in Computing, Biomedicine, Mathematics & Physics, Basic Sciences, Engineering, Chemistry, Energy, Behavioural, and Social Sciences. Judges awarded prizes in each category to the projects that were the most innovative and demonstrated sound research skills.

In the Grand Awards category, Sara Khalaf Al Kubaisi and Tamara Ismail Bashir from Moza Bint Mohammed Preparatory Independent School for Girls won first place for their project titled



'The Impact of Sports Jacket on Amending the Runner's Spine during Athletic Running'. Abdulrahman A. Mohammed and Ahmed S. El Hamamsi from Ahmed Bin Hanbal Independent Secondary School for Boys took home second place, while Maryam A. AlAnsari and Heba Redwan from Al Eman Independent Secondary School for Girls were awarded third place.

Furthermore, Mohammed K. Al Sheebani and Ahmed R. Mohmoud from Abdulrahman Bin Jassim Preparatory Independent School for Boys; Khaloud K. Al Hajri and Usra A. El Shaikh from Al Rayyan Al Jadeed Secondary Independent School for Girls; and Dhabya M. Al Habab and Sara M. Al Kaabi from Qatar Banking Studies And Business Administration Secondary Independent School for Girls came fourth, five, and sixth, respectively.

"In addition to promoting science-based careers and nurturing the minds of budding scientists, Qatar STEAM grants winners an unprecedented opportunity to showcase their scientific research on a world renowned platform. We are proud to have six of the winners representing us on an international level later this year," said Reema Abu Khadija, Director of the Office of Education Supervision at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The Grand champions will go on to represent Qatar at the renowned Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) to be held from 8th – 13th May 2016 in Phoenix, Arizona, US, and the Intel Arab Fair set to take place later this year.

Additionally, new to this year's edition of the fair were three student choice prizes, which were granted to projects that received the highest votes by fellow students. This year also saw the introduction of the Special Awards category, which was sponsored by Qatar Green Building Council (QGBC), Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI), and General Electric (GE).

Image Captions

Image 1: Sara Khalaf Al Kubaisi and Tamara Ismail Bashir from Moza Bint Mohammed Preparatory Independent School for Girls won first place in the Grand Award category at Qatar STEAM Fair for their spinal correction vest.

Image 2: Over 300 students from elementary and secondary schools across Doha competed in the second edition of the Qatar STEAM Fair held at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

Image 3: Grand Award winners, Sara Khalaf Al Kubaisi and Tamara Ismail Bashir, present their winning spinal correction vest at the second edition of Qatar STEAM Fair.



Image 4: Dr Hamad Al Ibrahim, Executive Vice President at Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D); Dr Dirar Khoury, Executive Director of Research Coordination and Special Initiatives at QF R&D; Dr Abdul Sattar Al Taie, Executive Director of Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF); and Ms Rima Abu Khadija, Director of the Office of Education Supervision at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, awarding Grand Award winners at Qatar STEAM Fair 2016.

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Qatar STEAM Fair

Qatar STEAM Fair is a nationwide competition that welcomes students from secondary schools across Qatar. The competition encourages creativity with scientific inquiry and helps students develop the range of skills used in scientific communication. Apart from being recognized as national champions, the winners of Qatar STEAM Fair will also get a chance to represent Qatar at the renowned Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) in the United States.

Qatar STEAM Fair is held annually during March at Qatar National Convention Centre in collaboration with Qatar Foundation Research & Development (QF R&D), Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

This national competition aims to facilitate the research capabilities of Qatar's youth, while engaging the local community and supporting the budding scientists who will be part of the next generation to lead Qatar into a knowledge-based economy.

Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)

Leading Qatar's vision to become an international center for research and development excellence and innovation, QF R&D is home to Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, as well as the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a globally renowned scientific research funding organization, and prominent research institutes operating at the frontiers of science

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation 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. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. 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 commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive



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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>