

# Carnegie Mellon University Qatar

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PRESS RELEASE

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## **Google executive chairman acclaims progressive Carnegie Mellon University**

### ***Eric Schmidt endorses university for creating the computer science industry at new president's inauguration***

DOHA- Google's executive chairman and former Carnegie Mellon Trustee, Eric Schmidt attributed his success as a computer scientist and also the invention and progression of the industry to Carnegie Mellon University's global leadership and innovation.

Schmidt delivered a keynote speech at the official inauguration of the ninth president of Carnegie Mellon, Subra Suresh. Referring to Carnegie Mellon as a "mythical place of achievement," Schmidt went on to comment on the institution's leading role in promoting research, technology and innovation.

"Modern computer science as we know it was created right here and I am simply in awe of Carnegie Mellon. You don't realize how exceptional you are and I am here to tell you how exceptional you are today.

"Current and future students of the institution led by President Suresh will in fact be the mechanism that will drive a better world," Schmidt said.

The official investiture held on November 15 in Pittsburgh was shown at a screening for the Carnegie Mellon Qatar community held yesterday.

Reflecting the inaugural theme "Crossing Boundaries, Transforming Lives" Suresh's address highlighted his personal journey, which he likened to that of the university's founder Andrew Carnegie. "I left my family and travelled across oceans, crossing boundaries to make a future for myself in an unknown land," Suresh said.

His words resonated with students and faculty at Carnegie Mellon Qatar, many of whom have travelled from around the globe to contribute to Qatar's development.

Suresh emphasized past achievements and the promise of a strong network of global campuses and alumni, and welcomed fresh challenges ahead. "Carnegie Mellon is fortunate to have some 92,000 accomplished alumni across the globe whose successes and connections with Carnegie Mellon enrich this university every day," he said.

Ilker Baybars, dean of Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar attended the inauguration ceremony in Pittsburgh alongside delegates from U.S. and international universities to mark the important leadership transition.

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“President Suresh brings exceptional expertise and a strong vision for the future. We look forward to welcoming him to Qatar for our 10 year Anniversary celebration in March 2014,” Baybars said.

Students, faculty and staff gathered to watch the inauguration. Zihan Zho, a freshman in computer science, said: “Being part of historic occasions like today builds community spirit and pride towards the institution. Dr Suresh’s incredible journey excites me about my future and what I can achieve under his leadership.”

Suresh succeeded Jared L. Cohon, who was president from 1997 to 2013 and established Carnegie Mellon Qatar in 2004.

Earlier this month, Suresh became the first Carnegie Mellon faculty member to be appointed as a member of all three U.S. national academies. These entities provide expert advice on pressing challenges facing the world: The Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

## **About Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar:**

As a global leader in education, Carnegie Mellon University is known for its creativity, collaboration across disciplines, and top programs in business, technology and the arts. The university has been home to some of the world’s most important thinkers, among them 18 Nobel Laureates and 11 Turing Award winners.

In 2004, Qatar Foundation invited Carnegie Mellon to join Education City, a groundbreaking center for scholarship and research. As Carnegie Mellon Qatar celebrates its 10th anniversary, the campus continues to grow, providing a prestigious education to 400 students from 42 countries. The university offers five undergraduate degree programs in Biological Sciences, Business Administration, Computational Biology, Computer Science and Information Systems.

Students in Qatar join more than 12,000 Carnegie Mellon students across the globe, who will become the next generation of leaders tackling tomorrow’s challenges. The university’s 90,000 alumni are recruited by some of the world’s most innovative organizations.

To learn more, visit [www.qatar.cmu.edu](http://www.qatar.cmu.edu) and follow us on twitter @CarnegieMellonQ