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## **Carnegie Mellon Qatar appoints Dr. John O'Brien as associate dean**

**DOHA, QATAR** –John O'Brien has been named associate dean at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar. Effective from December 2014, O'Brien will be responsible for assisting the Dean's office with faculty affairs including recruitment, reviews for reappointment, promotion and mentoring.

O'Brien has been with the Carnegie Mellon Tepper School of Business since 1984. He was the co-architect of the first Educational Trading Room, which combined and applied real time data and computer-aided experiential learning tools to finance education worldwide. This resulted in a four-course series titled "Financial Analysis and Securities" (FAST), which was innovative in terms of its application of computer networking and computer-aided decision making to education.

FAST has been offered in over 35 MBA programs globally and was also used to train participants in the emerging financial markets such as Russia and Mexico. A working replica of the FAST program and software was included in the Smithsonian Institute's Washington, D.C. time capsule on the technological revolution in the 1990s, to be opened 100 years later.

"I have known John for many years, and am very pleased to welcome him into the administration at Carnegie Mellon Qatar. With three decades of experience at Carnegie Mellon, John will be an asset to the Qatar campus as we continue to advance the academic programs and attract a world class faculty," said Ilker Baybars, dean of Carnegie Mellon Qatar.

O'Brien was previously the director of the business administration program at Carnegie Mellon Qatar teaching accounting and economics.

O'Brien is currently working on addressing one of the major challenges facing business and business school educators, which is how to drive profitability growth by extracting business intelligence from Big Data. The project looks at the new challenges presented by 'Big Data' databases, through the creation of a "Big Data Business Laboratory."

The project utilizes Carnegie Mellon's strengths in applying insights from "Business Analytics" and "Machine Learning" to extract business intelligence from Big Data generated from Qatar and the surrounding region.

The laboratory is yielding early results allowing closer links to be built between the university and the business community in Qatar, and creating more sophisticated private study projects for Carnegie Mellon students.

A native of Australia, O'Brien earned bachelor's degrees from Sydney University in 1973 and Macquarie University in 1980. He earned his P.D. from the University of Minnesota in the United States in 1985.

For more information on the business administration program at Carnegie Mellon Qatar, please visit:

<https://www.qatar.cmu.edu/ba>

## **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 19 Nobel Laureates and 12 Turing Award winners.

In 2004, Qatar Foundation invited Carnegie Mellon to join Education City, a groundbreaking center for scholarship and research. The campus continues to grow, now providing a prestigious education to more than 400 students from 40 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 95,000 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).

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