



## QATAR FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE DISCUSSION SERIES

*Dr Maher Hakim Spoke On 'Building an Innovation Ecosystem In Qatar'*

**Doha, Qatar, 15 December 2015:** Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), a pillar of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), hosted its first-ever 'Research Dialogue' session recently.

The seminar, entitled 'Building an Innovation Ecosystem In Qatar', was organised as part of the wider series designed to bring together researchers from around the country. The talk was led by Dr Maher Hakim, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMUQ). The discussion series, which engages with stakeholders in strategy and research, will be held once every two months.

As one of the main pillars of QF, QF R&D plays an active role in promoting QF's vision of cultivating life-long learning and interests in many areas, including science and research in Qatar, in a bid to foster a progressive knowledge-based society.

Dr Hamad Al Ibrahim, QF R&D Executive Vice President, commented on the launch of the Research Dialogue series, saying: "The aim of these discussions is to help build a platform with our stakeholders and the local community for the importance of creating synergy, common understanding and expectations, and the needed research ecosystem and culture that will empower and drive the research agenda in Qatar. This will allow us to explore and discuss different opinions and voices towards topics of interest. We look forward to hosting many more seminars that will contribute to the local research and development community."

Dr Hakim, also commenting on his talk, said: "Qatar Foundation has many of the key components of a vibrant innovative and entrepreneurship hub. This includes world-class scientific research, top global universities, financial resources, a diverse community, and an open free zone. We just need to bring these components together and complement them with the right processes and incentives to excel and reward entrepreneurship and risk taking."

The event was held at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) and the presentation was followed by an in-depth Q&A session.

### **Photo Captions**

**Image 1:** Dr Maher Hakim, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMUQ), during his talk at QF R&D's 'Research Dialogue' session.

**Image 2:** Stakeholders in research and strategy listening Dr Maher Hakim, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMUQ).

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### **About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)**

"Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) is charged with the Qatar National Research

Strategy, dedicated to making Qatar a leading center for research and development excellence and innovation. QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.

### **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 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>