

PRESS RELEASE

World Humanitarian Summit invites QCRI to showcase research

Doha, May 17, 2016 – The Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), one of Hamad bin Khalifa University's three research institutes, has been invited to showcase some of its technology at the inaugural World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul later this month.

The summit, organized by the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), aims to propose solutions to humanitarian challenges around the globe. It will bring together governments, people affected by humanitarian crises, humanitarian organizations and businesses.

QCRI's Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Response (AIDR) technology and MicroMappers will feature at the summit's Innovation Marketplace during the event on May 23rd and 24th. Only 100 global innovations have been selected.

QCRI Executive Director Dr. Ahmed Elmagarmid said QCRI, a non-profit research institute, planned to highlight the difference that partnerships between researchers, digital humanitarians and communities could make, as well as collect input on how the technology could support other attendees at the summit.

Dr. Elmagarmid said: "It is part of our mission to be a global leader of computing research in areas that will bring a positive impact to the lives of citizens and society."

AIDR and MicroMappers were deployed following last month's earthquake in Ecuador, the 2015 Nepal earthquake, Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu the same year, and with typhoons Hagupit and Haiyan in the Philippines in 2014 and 2013.

The tools use data to provide insights for humanitarian responders following emergencies. AIDR collects and categorizes social media data. This can be combined with news and aerial imagery information from MicroMappers, a community that analyzes data using a tagging system. MicroMappers is a collaboration between UN OCHA and the digital humanitarian NGO, Standby Task Force.

QCRI has also partnered on the project with organizations including the Qatar Red Crescent Society, Reach Out To Asia (ROTA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to improve the technology and address common research questions.

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About Qatar Computing Research Institute

Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) is a national research institute within Hamad bin Khalifa University. As a national research institute, QCRI aims to build Qatar's innovation and technology

capacity by focusing on large-scale computing challenges that address national priorities for growth and development, supporting Qatar's transformation from a hydrocarbon-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. In doing this, QCRI conducts world-class multidisciplinary computing research that is relevant to the needs of Qatar, the wider Arab region, and the world. It performs cutting-edge research in such areas as Arabic language technologies, social computing, data analytics, distributed systems, cyber security and computational science and engineering. The research conducted at QCRI is aligned with the Qatar National Research Strategy and supports the strategic priorities outlined in the Qatar National Vision 2030.

For more information, please visit www.qcri.qa.

About Hamad bin Khalifa University

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university that is building its foundation upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU delivers undergraduate and graduate programs through its College of Science and Engineering, Law School, College of Public Health, Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, and its College of Humanities and Social Sciences. It also provides unparalleled opportunities for research and scholarship through its research institutes, and its Center of Executive Education delivers customized programs for the business community of Qatar and the region, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.