

## ● ● ● ● TOP TECH INNOVATORS URGE QATAR'S ENTREPRENEURS TO STAY THE COURSE IN A FAST-MOVING MARKET

*QSTP brings 7 of the world's top young innovators to Doha to discuss success, failure and perseverance in the tech sector*

**19 November 2013: Doha, Qatar** – Social entrepreneur Evans Muchika Wadongo, founder and Executive Director of Sustainable Development For All – Africa, turned a \$50 business making simple solar lamps into a \$1 million business without any external funding. 23-year-old Daniel Gomez, co-founder of SOLBEN, a prominent Mexican biodiesel producer and MIT Technology Review's 2013 Innovator of the Year, was told that he would have to look outside Mexico when he insisted that the technology he needed could be developed in his home country. Today more than 80% of biodiesel producers in Mexico use SOLBEN's home-grown technologies.

In celebration of Global Entrepreneurship Week, Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) brought seven top technology innovators from developing economies and emerging markets to Doha for an exclusive Speakers Session attended by students, entrepreneurs and businesses in Qatar.

Majority of the speakers, including Wadongo, Gomez and Ayesha Chaudhary, co-founder of New Delhi-based healthcare start-up Windmill Health Technologies, urged technology-entrepreneurs in Qatar to engage their communities and consumers to gain insights into how technologies are used and understood by the end user. "We went down to the communities and asked them what is going to work for them," said Wadongo.

Speakers also urged entrepreneurs to put customer needs assessment into action sooner rather than later. While acknowledging the fundamental importance of technology design in the classroom, most speakers encouraged attendees to start building prototypes, take what knowledge and resources are available, and move forward. "Knowledge is not enough by itself. You need to get it into practice," said Gomez. "Intellect is that thing that helps you take a decision in a wiser way and that's the thing entrepreneurs should be looking for."

Educating young Qataris about innovation in science and technology features prominently in Qatar's planned transition to a knowledge-based economy. The session was particularly timely as Qatar was recently upgraded to Emerging Market status by the MSCI Index.

"The pace of economic growth and development in Qatar brings great opportunity and complex challenges to the growing base of technology-focused entrepreneurs here," said QSTP Managing Director Hamad Al-Kuwari. "Though provision of the right facilities, favorable regulations, sophisticated training programs and groundbreaking forums like today's Speakers

● ● ● ● Session, QSTP is committed to helping Qatar's technology entrepreneurs turn their visions into reality. Today's dialogue undoubtedly educated and inspired and we look forward to an ambitious pipeline of similar activities for Qatar's innovators throughout the year."

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Notes to Editors:

### **About Qatar Science & Technology Park**

Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation R&D is Qatar's primary incubator for technology development, fostering the environment required for accelerating commercialization of research and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. QSTP focuses on four themes as per the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS) announced in 2012; Energy, Environment, Health Sciences and Information & Communication Technologies. QSTP is located in Qatar Foundation's Education City and has access to the resources of its cluster of leading research universities.

Members within the QSTP Free Zone include SMEs, international corporations and research institutions, which have collectively committed to investing in new programs, creating intellectual property, enhancing technology management skills and developing innovative new products in line with the QNRS. QSTP supports QF R&D's economic and human development objectives for Qatar and is increasingly being recognized as an international hub for applied research, innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship.

For more information, please visit the QSTP website at [www.qstp.org.qa](http://www.qstp.org.qa).

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