

QATAR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PARK TO HOST INNOVATION SESSION AT ARC'16

Aims To Address Different Needs Of Innovation Community In Qatar And Wider Region

Doha, Qatar, 20 March 2016 – Qatar's primary incubator for technology development, Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), will be hosting a parallel conference session at Qatar Foundation's Annual Research Conference (ARC'16).

During the event, QSTP will address the different needs of the innovation community in Qatar and the wider region, bringing together some of the world's brightest industry minds. The event aligns with Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's (QF) mandate to develop and commercialise solutions which help foster a progressive society in Qatar, also positioning the country as a global engine driving the development of science and research internationally.

ARC'16 will take place from 22nd to 23rd March at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), providing a platform to highlight the importance of strategic investment in research and innovation for the benefit of Qatar's society. The event will also address the country's national Research Grand Challenges on a global scale.

The parallel sessions will be led by Mr Hamad Al Kuwari, QSTP Managing Director; Ms Haya Al-Ghanim, QSTP Innovation Director; and Dr Danny Ramadan, Acting Director of Strategic Research at QSTP.

Commenting on QSTP's participation in ARC'16, Mr Hamad Al Kuwari, said: "QSTP strives to be a unique platform that transforms creative ideas in Qatar and the Pan Arab region into reality. We have committed ourselves to be the hub for technological and scientific innovations and an essential supporter of aspiring entrepreneurs through our permanent mission to implement Qatar's National Research Strategy."

Mr Al Kuwari added: "In undertaking the pledge to support outstanding thinkers and creators in our respective fields, such as the ones hosted by QF R&D through the Annual Research Conference, cooperation and networking with educational establishments, scientific laboratories, and industrial enterprises will help to provide synergy among the Innovation Community."

To further explain QSTP's invaluable role in bridging the gap between research and commercialisation, while facilitating the transformation of inspiring ideas into products that address various market demands, the sessions at ARC'16 will highlight the different support programmes it offers to the community.

Speakers will elaborate on the services, which include: the Proof of Concept fund, aimed at providing grants to focus on product development; the Accelerator, designed to help entrepreneurs and researchers assess the commercial viability of a business idea; and the Incubator, which facilitates the establishment of technology development start-ups.

Under QF R&D, QSTP is committed to materialising key national research objectives in support of Qatar's

paradigm shift towards becoming a knowledge-based economy. To that end, QSTP accelerates then incubates competitive, home-grown businesses in Qatar by offering entrepreneurs integrated, operational, managerial, financial support, and guidance to help establish themselves in national and international markets.

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Qatar Science & Technology Park

Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), is Qatar's primary incubator for technology development, fostering the environment required for accelerating commercialisation 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

Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference 2016

Held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference (ARC) is QF Research and Development's (QF R&D) flagship event since 2010.

ARC provides a unique platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration between Qatar's brightest scientific minds and leading international researchers as they work to tackle the nation's Research Grand Challenges defined in Qatar's National Research Strategy (QNRS): Energy and Environment, Computing and Information Technology, Healthcare, and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. This year it will for the first time unite several major R&D initiatives under the conference's theme, "Investing in Research and Innovating for Society."

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 centre 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>.

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