

***IASP CONFERENCE DEMONSTRATES QATAR FOUNDATION'S DEDICATION TO
ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE REGION***

*Qatar Foundation Research & Development's Qatar Science and Technology Park
Hosts Premier Event In Doha*

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Doha, Qatar – Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development's on-going dedication to providing entrepreneurial development opportunities was recently highlighted in the 31st International Association of Science Park and Areas of Innovation (IASP) World Conference. The event took place in Doha this week, and, as it was first time the Conference was held in the Middle East, it represented a significant contribution towards realising Qatar's goal of becoming a knowledge-based economy.

Diversifying Qatar's economy from a carbon-based society and positioning the country as a regional hub for knowledge is at the top of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV 2030) agenda. It is this goal that drives the science and research industry in Qatar. The overarching aim of this year's IASP Conference, which attracted leading entrepreneurs such as Chad Hurley, Co-Founder of the world's largest and most popular video sharing website YouTube, was to explore new models of technical, financial and administrative support that science and technology parks can offer entrepreneurs.

This year's event was hosted by Qatar Foundation Research and Development's (QF R&D) Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP). As a think-tank that serves as a Qatar's primary incubator to help entrepreneurs plan, launch, and grow start-up technology companies, QSTP provides world-class infrastructure, managerial know-how, favourable regulatory terms, and comprehensive financial support. And, in doing

so, the centre is helping to develop the country's human capital and resources; key to the successful creation of a knowledge-based economy.

"I believe the talents and brilliant minds of our local entrepreneurs deserve an environment capable of supporting them," said Hamad Al Kuwari, Managing Director of QSTP. "Broadly speaking, QSTP strives to be that platform by creating a unique space where theoretical ideas can be transformed into practical solutions. And, by listening to and keeping pace with the country's most tech-savvy generation of innovators, QSTP is devising ways to help and support these individuals further."

QSTP also plays an important role in facilitating meaningful collaborations. "Innovation takes work. It is the product of late nights, new policies, risk taking, and constant collaborations between universities, laboratories, and industries, all to support the great thinkers and innovators in our communities," said Al Kuwari.

The importance of collaboration between individuals was reiterated by the entrepreneur ambassador, Chad Hurley, who drew upon his personal experiences on PayPal and YouTube to provide an insightful keynote speech at the opening of the conference. "That is what technology is about, getting a lot of individuals together to try and solve a similar problem," he said.

"Innovation is more about the journey, and the opportunity of having the chance to create something new with those individuals you work with along the way. I really hope that everyone here has a chance to surround themselves with great individuals, and a great team, that share in the same vision," he concluded.

QSTP is also dedicated to providing unique partnership opportunities, and alongside its centres, the science and technology innovator is working with a range of small companies, international corporations, and research institutes. Together, these organisations are committed to funding ventures, creating intellectual property, enhancing technology management skills, and developing innovative products that are in line with the QNV2030.

“Science and technology hubs such as QSTP play a critical role in sparking meaningful collaborations across sectors, ensuring that the country’s investments in education and research, which is 2.8 per cent of GDP in Qatar’s case, pay off in the form of skills, intellectual property and viable technology businesses,” said Al Kuwari.

One such example is Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). As a member of QF R&D that is dedicated to fostering original research, QNRF competitively selects and funds research projects in fields such as energy, environment, health and ICT – technology projects that are closely aligned with QSTP. QSTP aims to help sectors grow, and consequently, serves as a vehicle for QNRF.

In addition, as part of on-going collaborations between the two institutions, QSTP and QNRF work closely together on the Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programme (TIEP), which helps technology entrepreneurs understand how to build commercial strategies. And, as the projects are applicable to real-world situations, students are equipped with relevant skills.

The conclusion of the IASP Conference marked an important milestone for QSTP, as the centre was only created in 2009. “Having held this event 30 times before, it is significant that the members of IASP chose Qatar to host this event, as it serves as a testament to the growing importance of a leadership of Qatar Foundation, QSTP in the region, and driving science technology innovation and commercialisation,” concluded Hamad Al Kuwari.

The last five years have served as an opportunity to define QSTP’s core offerings, and the successful hosting of the IASP Conference is a testament to the centre’s on-going hard work. Moving on, QSTP will remain focused on technology-focused entrepreneurs, but will continue developing the necessary supporting programmes and infrastructure required to support these individuals. And by continuing to invest in the country’s human capital resources, Qatar Foundation will continue working towards fulfilling the QNV 2030 and creating a knowledge-based economy.

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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. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. 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 commercializing 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>