

# ARC '16

PHOTO RELEASE

## **SUSTAINABLE GROWTH HIGHLIGHTED AT QATAR FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

*'Sustainable Urbanism' Session Calls For Collaboration*

**Doha, Qatar, 22 March 2016:** The Social Science, Arts and Humanities panel session on 'Sustainable Urbanism' took place as part of Qatar Foundation's Research and Development (QF R&D) Annual Research Conference 2016 (ARC'16) today.

Highlighting the importance of community, data infrastructure, and of designing cities with sustainability in mind, the session brought together industry experts to discuss an increasingly relevant area of focus within the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS).

The panel discussion featured Dr Sultan Barakat, Brookings Doha; Professor Patricia McCarney, University of Toronto; Professor Gerhard Schmitt, ETH-Zurich; Professor Julia Lane from New York University, and Dr Eduardo Loreno, UN HABITAT. The session was moderated by Dr Anna Grichting from Qatar University.

The panelists discussed new directions in sustainable urbanism with an emphasis on social sciences and its interdisciplinary nature. As a starting point to understanding how cities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century function, data infrastructure is considered to be the foundation of a thriving economy in addition to the relationship between members of communities.

Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities represent one of the QNRS pillars, and the lively discussion illustrated why this area is pertinent to Qatar's ongoing development.

Citizen involvement was a recommendation advanced for achieving an increase in sustainable urban centres in the region, with the empowerment of citizens being identified as a major factor in a responsive city.

ARC'16 will conclude on March 23 with the announcement of Qatar National Research Fund's funding programmes, and of the ARC'16 Awards in the fields of Energy and Environment, Computing and Information Technology, Health and Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities.

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For more information about ARC'16, visit: <http://www.qf-arc.org/>. You can also follow the latest news and announcements: [@QF\\_ARC](#).

## **Image Captions**

**Image 1:** The Social Science, Arts and Humanities panel session on 'Sustainable Urbanism' took place as part of Qatar Foundation's Research and Development (QF R&D) Annual Research Conference 2016 (ARC'16).

**Image 2:** The panel discussion featured Dr Sultan Barakat, Brookings Doha; Professor Patricia McCarney, University of Toronto; Professor Gerhard Schmitt, ETH-Zurich; Professor Julia Lane from New York University, and Dr Eduardo Loreno, UN HABITAT. The session was moderated by Dr Anna Grichting from Qatar University.

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## **About 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."*

## **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 centre for research and development excellence and innovation. QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research

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Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.

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