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OVER 160 SCHOOL STUDENTS TO COMPETE IN 1ST NATIONAL QATAR SCIENCE RESEARCH FAIR

*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math Fair Winners To Represent Qatar at
Global Science Competition in the USA*

Doha, 22 March 2015: More than 160 students from 40 schools will compete in the inaugural Qatar Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Art Fair (Qatar STEAM) finals tomorrow and Wednesday, March 24th and 25th, at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

The country's inaugural Qatar STEAM Fair will see middle and secondary school students present their research projects to an expert panel of judges and compete to win awards in different scientific categories. The overall winners will go on to represent Qatar at the renowned Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) in Pittsburgh, USA, in May.

This nationwide competition is being organised by Qatar Foundation Research & Development (QF R&D), Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), which is part of QF R&D, and the Supreme Education Council (SEC). The competition supports Qatar Foundation's mission to build and develop capacity for creativity and critical thinking through research in education and science.

Established in direct support of the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV2030), and the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS), Qatar STEAM aims to facilitate an environment in which the nation's young scientists can thrive through firsthand experience of the impact of research.

As Qatar Foundation's science and research pillar, QF R&D is leading Qatar's vision to become an international centre for research and development excellence and innovation. It is also home to Qatar Science and Technology Park, a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, and QNRF, a globally renowned scientific research funding organisation.

"The Qatar STEAM Fair witnesses the launch of a national competition aimed at instilling the enjoyment of academic research into our nation's youth, as part of a collective effort to grow a robust research culture within Qatar for generations to come," said Dr Dirar Khoury, Executive Director of Research Coordination and Special Initiatives and Acting Executive Director of Education, Training and Development at QF R&D. "Qatar Foundation's mission



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supports the students competing in Qatar STEAM today to unlock their potential and foster a sustainable ecosystem based on knowledge. QF R&D is proud to be leading such an initiative that will no doubt go on to impact the lives of many.”

By investing in cutting-edge research to support the growth of a local and regional scientific environment, QNRF supports Qatar Foundation in its mission to build Qatar’s research and innovation capacity that seeks to transform the nation into a hub of research excellence.

Dr Abdul Sattar AL-Taie, Executive Director of QNRF said: “Qatar STEAM provides a tremendous opportunity for budding researchers in Qatar to develop their research skills at the school level, while nurturing their ideas, which will ultimately prepare them for research at the undergraduate and graduate level. Therefore, what begins with a national competition at school, may see these students go on to impact Qatar, the region and the world, with their contributions to academic research. It is for this reason we are proud to be part of this competition, since it is an important contribution to the realisation of QNRF’s mission to support the development of a research environment that generates original and unique knowledge.”

As the national body responsible for the development and advancement of Qatar’s education sector, the SEC meets the needs of the nation’s leadership by nurturing human capital and competency in various fields, a mission closely aligned with the QNV2030.

Dr. Asma AlMohannadi, Head of Scientific Research Team, Supreme Education Council added, “The Supreme Education Council is proud to partner with Qatar Foundation on Qatar STEAM, which is indeed an initiative that serves the purpose of enhancing the cognitive and practical development of students across the nation. By participating in this Fair students will not only gain scientific knowledge and research experience, but also soft-skills, which will go on to positively impact the rest of their academic life beyond their school years. Indeed, it is through the acquisition of such skills that innovation is born, since it is these skills acquired through education that allow ideas to transform into reality while positively impacting society in the process.”

With more than 80 research projects submitted since the start of the competition in September last year, participating teams or individuals will present their projects to a judging panel over the course of the two-day competition.

The students’ projects will be on view to the public from 8am on Wednesday, March 25th. This will be followed by the announcement of the winners at an award ceremony at 10am. The overall winners will go on to join 1,700 of the world’s brightest young minds and compete for more than US\$5 million in prizes in the USA.



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Qatar Foundation Research & Development

Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) is charged with the Qatar National Research Strategy, dedicated to making Qatar a leading center 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.

For more information, visit: www.qfrd.org

Qatar National Research Fund

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers. It is a member within the Research & Development establishment at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNRF administers funding for original, competitively selected research and furthers collaborations within academia, the public, private, governmental and non-governmental sectors through effective, mutually beneficial partnerships. While QNRF actively seeks internationally recognised researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar.

For more information, visit: www.qnrf.org

Supreme Education Council

The Supreme Education Council is the authority responsible for the development and advancement of Qatar's education sector to meet the needs of the nation's leadership to nurture human capital and competency in various fields. The Council is also responsible for drawing up the national educational policy and linking the latter to a set of educational goals, plans and programmes in accordance with the general objectives of the State.

For more information, visit: www.sec.gov.qa

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