

# ARC '16

## PHOTO RELEASE

### TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP HIGHLIGHTED AT QATAR FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

*QSTP Session At ARC'16 Highlights Ways To Bridge The Gap Between Research, Innovation And Commercialisation*

**Doha, Qatar, 23 March 2016:** An interactive session devoted to innovation and entrepreneurship took place as part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development's (QF R&D) Annual Research Conference 2016 (ARC'16).

The session, entitled '*QSTP: Where Research Goes to Work – How QSTP Addresses the Different Needs of the Innovation Community in Qatar and the Region*', was held under the overarching theme of '*Investing in Research & Innovating for Society*'. Delegates highlighted innovative technology research, commercialisation and entrepreneurship - main areas of focus within the nation's Research Grand Challenges stipulated in the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS).

Qatar's primary incubator for technology development, Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of QF R&D, is fostering the environment required to accelerate commercialisation of research, and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.

The session featured a series of informative presentations from QSTP's leadership, including Hamad Al Kuwari, Managing Director of QSTP, Haya Al-Ghanim, QSTP's Innovation Director, and Dr Danny Ramadan, Acting Director for Strategic Research at QSTP.

The initial segment of the session highlighted QSTP's strategic alignment with the main objectives of QNRS, and its array of initiatives and support programmes for young entrepreneurs in Qatar.

An informative presentation on QSTP's popular Accelerator Programme for aspiring entrepreneurs was conducted by Haya Al-Ghanim. Since its inception, the project has served as a bridge between research and commercialisation, helping aspiring youth in Qatar to turn their ideas into feasible prototypes to address trending market needs. Combining funding and comprehensive mentorship, the Programme provides youth entrepreneurs with three month-long training courses delivered by seasoned local and international experts.

# ARC '16

During the session, Dr Danny Ramadan also elaborated on QSTP's Incubation programme, which is offered to technology-based companies. The presentation set out the benefits provided by the park to support start-ups and create a favourable environment for businesses to thrive.

The audience was given examples of entrepreneurial success stories that have received QSTP funding and incubation support. These projects include 'Samam: A Smart LPG Leakage Detector for a Safer House' and 'MaktAPP', a cloud-based solution for business and team management. Representatives from ExxonMobil Research Centre also spoke to attendees about their experience as a QSTP resident-company.

QSTP provides business development support, including business assessment and evaluation, operational services support, and funding programmes in support of commercialisation. In addition, access to research, technical and marketing services are provided to aspiring youth with innovative, technology-based business ideas.

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:** Mr Hamad Al Kuwari, Managing Director of Qatar Science and Technology Park.

**Image 2:** Mr Hamad Al Kuwari, Managing Director of Qatar Science and Technology Park.

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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

# ARC '16

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 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](http://www.qstp.org.qa)

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