

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND LAUNCHES 5TH CYCLE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Registration And Letter Of Intent Submission Open Until 8th March

Doha, 25 February 2015: Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a member of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), has launched the fifth annual cycle of its Secondary School Research Experience Program (SSREP).

A collaboration between QNRF and the Supreme Education Council (SEC), SSREP aims to nurture a scientific research culture among Qatar's youth. To date more than 1,000 secondary school pupils have benefited from the SSREP, inspired to undertake research relevant to their academic curriculum under the guidance of their teachers. QNRF is calling for registrations for the latest cycle with a deadline of Sunday 8th March.

By investing in cutting edge-research, QNRF is enhancing a culture that supports Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development on its mission to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity, and help the nation develop into a hub of research excellence through Qatar Foundation's science and research pillar, QF R&D.

Qatar Foundation supports the country's science and research mission as part of the Qatar National Vision 2030, placing great emphasis on students from an early age to help prepare them to become the next generation of scientists in fields of priority for the nation.

"Through SSREP, Qatar National Research Fund aims to support a new generation of home grown researchers, by allowing them to acquaint themselves with the various types of research and methodologies," said Dr. Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director of QNRF. "By investing in youth, through such a programme, Qatar National Research Fund is enabling the country's future leaders to equip themselves with the tools that will help them steer Qatar on its journey towards a knowledge-based economy."

SSREP seeks to identify, attract, and nurture budding researchers in Qatar's independent and private secondary schools, to support the development of their research skills and critical thinking. During the last SSREP cycle, 93 students - 43 of whom are Qatari - representing 18 local schools, were recognised for their outstanding contributions to 51 research projects on a variety of topics, including, health, social sciences, environment, and information and communication technologies.

The winning research projects were acknowledged for achieving a review score of 80 per cent or above, based on their quality, originality, merit and relevance to specific standards developed by QNRF and SEC. Additionally, a selection of students already awarded under SSREP were recently hosted at Texas A&M University Qatar (TAMU-Q) and met with the university's research faculty to learn about higher education and career path opportunities.

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The deadline for registration and submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) under the fifth SSREP cycle is Sunday 8th March at 23.59 Doha time.

For more information about the SSREP, and other programmes offered by QNRF, please log onto www.qnrf.org or email ssrep@qnrf.org

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About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)

Leading Qatar's vision to become an international centre for research and development excellence and innovation, QF R&D is home to Qatar Science & Technology Park, a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, as well as Qatar National Research Fund, a globally renowned scientific research funding organization and prominent research institutes operating at the frontiers of science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Computing Research Institute and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute.

About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

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

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 Amir, 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 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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