

Qatar Foundation Research and Development commends exceptional students and researchers

Doha, 25 November 2013 – Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) marked the culmination of its highly successful Annual Research Conference today by celebrating the outstanding achievement of 27 talented students and researchers during an award ceremony held at Qatar National Convention Centre.

During the awards ceremony, QF R&D praised the remarkable efforts made by all researchers to find solutions that could positively impact the future of Qatar in the crucial areas of biomedicine, energy, environment, computing research and arts, social sciences, and humanities.

Faisal Alsuwaidi, President of Research and Development at Qatar Foundation, congratulated all the participants and finalists for taking an active interest and working hard to transform Qatar into an international hub for excellence and innovation in research and development.

He said, “We are truly delighted at the level of enthusiasm and commitment shown by participants this year, and we are extremely proud of all the students and researchers who presented us with superb ideas in the hope of advancing the nation’s ambitious research agenda. Despite the high number of impressive abstracts, oral and poster presentations, the award winners here today stood out for their creative foresight and for presenting us with an exemplary standard of innovative research that effectively addresses the country’s grand challenges.”

Mr Alsuwaidi stressed that all submissions had been carefully reviewed and assessed by a panel of local and international experts comprising leading scientists and scholars. In addition, a rigorous set of measurable criteria has been used in the grading and selection process, which includes research quality, originality and merit, written content, and relevance to the country’s research grand challenges.

Dr Nabeel Al Salem, Executive Director of Outreach and Communications at Qatar Foundation Research and Development, thanked everyone who helped make the conference a great success, and underscored the rising standards of research excellence.

He said, “Every year, we offer our talented students the opportunity to develop their scientific skills and fulfil their academic potential. And, without fail, they rise to this challenge annually by presenting us with an array of groundbreaking research projects. Tonight, we would like to champion all the students and researchers who have invested their time and energy into developing cutting-edge projects. We hope that, over the coming years, you will become inspirational role models for future generations.”

Dr Al Salem also acknowledged the steady increase in student participation this year. Nearly 1170 abstracts were submitted, and a total of 517 accepted. Of these, 125 abstracts were presented by students, which is a clear testament of the event’s growing influence.

He added, “I hope that by celebrating these extraordinary researchers today, we can motivate many others to follow in their footsteps tomorrow. It is encouraging to see an increase in student interest that reflects the growing scientific culture among our younger generations. I see a very bright future ahead, and I am confident that we will all continue to play a significant part in the realisation of homegrown innovations and in the nurturing of local talent.”

At this year’s conference, students and researchers were encouraged to address one or more of Qatar’s cross-cutting ‘Research Grand Challenges’, which include protecting the nation’s cyber infrastructure, developing and deploying solar energy solutions, ensuring sustainable food supply, integrating health management systems, and supporting Arabic culture, arts, heritage, media and language.

The Annual Research Conference is a QF R&D initiative, rooted in the State of Qatar’s national vision and strategy to foster a community of research excellence and world-class education. More information can be found online at:

<http://www.qf-arc.org/>

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About Qatar Foundation Research and Development

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 (QSTP), a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, as well as the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a globally renowned scientific research funding organization, and prominent research institutes operating at the frontiers of science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) and Qatar Energy and Environment Research Institute (QEERI).

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