

PRESS RELEASE

**UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA MOZA BINT NASSER
QATAR FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2014
WELCOMES DELEGATES**

World-Renowned Scientists Take Part In Opening Keynote Session Discussing Qatar's Journey 'Towards World-Class Research Excellence' Alongside Recognition Ceremony For Qatar Science Leadership Programme Graduates

Doha, Qatar, 18 November 2014: Qatar Foundation's flagship Annual Research Conference 2014 (ARC'14) aimed at tackling Qatar's national research challenges began today at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC).

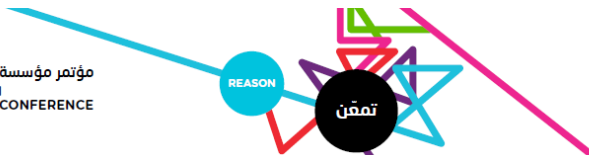
ARC'14 is held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and supports Qatar Foundation Research and Development's (QF R&D's) mission to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity while addressing immediate social needs in the community.

This year's conference 'Towards World-Class Research and Innovation' examines research priorities closely aligned to the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS), including Water Security, Energy Security, Cyber Security and Integrated Healthcare.

As one of the main pillars of Qatar Foundation, QF R&D has been active in promoting QF's vision of cultivating life-long learning and interest in science and research in Qatar, with the Annual Research Conference, organised by QF R&D, being its flagship event.

In today's (Tuesday) Plenary Discussion, Mr Faisal Alsuwaidi, President of Qatar Foundation Research and Development, discussed with world-renowned scientists the future of Qatar's research agenda and said: "Over the past five years our business model has focused on building local infrastructure. We are fully aware this is not something that can be achieved in the short term, but is rather a long term investment – managing expectations around this is essential. As we move forward, a successful research model will depend on building bridges between industry and research."

Mr Alsuwaidi continued: "As Qatar and the international science and research community come together, it is our pleasure and privilege to have such influential expertise in Doha to partner with us on our mission towards world-class research and



innovation, to support Qatar's transition to a sustainable, knowledge-based economy. ARC is our flagship event and provides a uniquely dynamic platform for advancing the country's ambitious national research agenda. We have come together to find local solutions to global problems."

Mr Alsuwaidi was joined on the panel by Dr Steven Chu, U.S. Secretary Of Energy (2009-2013) and Nobel Prize-winning Physicist and Professor, Stanford University, USA; Dr Hiroaki Kitano, President and CEO of Sony Computer Science Laboratories in Japan, and President of The Systems Biology Institute of Japan; and Dr David J. Galas, Principal Scientist, Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute, USA.

The Opening Plenary Discussion concluded by recognising 33 graduates of the Qatar Science Leadership Programme (QSLP), a QF led initiative. Qatar Foundation strives to nurture the future leaders of Qatar and in all of its activities, promote a culture of excellence in Qatar that aspires to develop sustainable human capacity, social, and economic prosperity for a knowledge-based economy.

In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030, QSLP aims to build capacity to diversify Qatar's petroleum and natural resource centred economy, by helping young people who are based in Qatar build prestigious and rewarding careers in the field of science and research. On Tuesday, the following graduates were honoured; *Abdulla Jassim F M Abdulla, Abeer Salman A A Al-Hammadi, Abtesam Ahmad A A Yousuf, Ahmad Sami A S Abushaikha, Ahmed Tarek Mohamed El Ghamrawy, Ali Abdulhussain A A Mohammed, Ameera Khalaf H N Al-Jabiry, Amira Ghenai, Anas Ibrahim Al Bastami, Aref Yousuf E M Al-Tamimi, Bashayer Abdulrahman R A Al-Muftah, Danya Ahmed A A Saifaldeen, Eman Abdulwahab M S Nasralla, Ghanim Mohammed Y J Al-Sulaiti, Hala Sheikh Al Souk, Hessa Yousuf M D Al-Darwish, Isra Yousef (Mohammad Saleh) Marei, Kawthar Mohamed A O Al-Dabhani, Khadeja Mohd J M Al-Khawaja, Kholoud Nedham Alshafai, Lina Omar O A Hassna, Misam Ali Mehmood Jaffer, Mohammed Abdulmuniem Abdulrahman Al-Obaidi, Mooza Mohamed R E Al-Sowaidi, Nada Missad M A Al-Olaqi, Nada Mohammed Al-Balam, Nejoud Mohd A Almalki Al-Jehani, Noor Easa A A Al-Naimi, Nuha Rashid S. Alokka, Nura Adam Mohamed, Salwa Salah J Al-Mannai, Samreen Anjum and Suha Khamis M K Al-Sulaiti.*

Noor Easa A A Al-Naimi, a QSLP graduate and MC at ARC'14 said: "It is an honour to have been recognised in front of the global research community, as an aspiring scientist in Qatar. The QSLP programme has been an incredible and inspiring experience that has provided me with a significant foundation for my future. I look forward to completing my PhD in Sociology that will enable me to assist in building Qatar's human capacity."



QF R&D is the custodian of the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS) and leader of a science and research mission that puts Qatar and the Arab region on the map globally.

ARC'14 will continue its two-day programme at QNCC on Wednesday, building on previous successes for the fifth consecutive year, offering thought-provoking panel discussions, technical presentations, and high-powered debates where leading experts will share constructive experiences and innovative approaches. Abstract submissions have also been chosen on their merit and will be presented at the conference.

For more information about ARC'14, please visit: <http://www.qf-arc.org/>.

For the latest news and announcements, please follow: https://twitter.com/qf_arc.

Image Caption

Image 1: ARC'14 Key note speakers (from left to right) – Dr Steven Chu, U.S. Secretary Of Energy (2009-2013) and Nobel Prize-winning Physicist and Professor, Stanford University, USA; Mr Faisal Alsuwaidi, President of Qatar Foundation Research and Development; Dr Hiroaki Kitano, President and CEO of Sony Computer Science Laboratories in Japan, and President of The Systems Biology Institute of Japan; and Dr David J. Galas, Principal Scientist, Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute, USA.

Image 2: Mr Faisal Alsuwaidi, President of Qatar Foundation Research and Development, discusses Qatar's journey 'Towards World-Class Research and Innovation'

Image 3: Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference 2014 Day 1 Keynote Plenary Session Discussion

Image 4: Under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, Annual Research Conference 2014 welcomes delegates

Image 5: Noor Easa A A Al-Naimi, a QLSP graduate and MC at ARC'14

Image 6: Dr Steven Chu, U.S. Secretary Of Energy (2009-2013) and Nobel Prize-winning Physicist and Professor, Stanford University, USA

Image 7: Dr Hiroaki Kitano, President and CEO of Sony Computer Science Laboratories in Japan, and President of The Systems Biology Institute of Japan

Image 8: Dr David J. Galas, Principal Scientist, Pacific Northwest Diabetes Research Institute, USA

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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 organisation, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, and Research institutes operating at the frontiers of science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Computing Research Institute and Qatar Energy and Environment Research Institute.

Qatar Science Leadership programme (QSLP) graduates recognition ceremony and Group Photo:

The Qatar Science Leadership Program is designed to develop the abilities of young people who are based in Qatar to provide future leadership for Qatar's research enterprise. The Program has four tracks;

1. The Undergraduate track, which supports young people of outstanding talent as they undertake and complete their Bachelor's -level studies in Qatar or elsewhere
2. The Management track, which develops research management skills in individuals who already have a Bachelor's or Master's degrees
3. The Research Scientist track, which develops the skills of an independent research scientist through studies toward the Master's and PhD degrees, and
4. The Postdoctoral track, which provides experience toward individuals becoming independent research scholars following completion of the PhD degree.

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