



QATAR FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL GATHERING OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

Importance of Driving Innovation Through Collaboration Emphasized at STS Forum

Doha, Qatar, October 2, 2017: The need for collaboration across all sectors in building a research and innovation ecosystem capable of meeting the challenges Qatar faces has been highlighted to science and technology leaders by Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) at a high-level international gathering in Japan.

A QF R&D delegation is currently participating in the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum's 14th Annual Meeting in Kyoto which is taking place from October 1–3. The event has brought together heads of state; government ministers and diplomats; and prominent figures in academia, industry, and policymaking, in order to provide a long-term, century-spanning perspective on how scientific and technological advancements will shape and define the future of humankind.

The STS Forum has been attended by a number of dignitaries, including Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and Honorary Chairman of the STS Forum, and around 1,000 delegates. His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Bin Abdul Wahed Al-Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education, participated in the STS Forum's 14th Science and Technology Ministers' Roundtable on 'Society 5.0', the concept of a human-centered society that capitalizes on technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, robotics, and Big Data.

Speaking during a forum session titled: 'Collaboration Among Academia, Industries, and Government', Dr. Hamad Al-Ibrahim, Executive Vice President, QF R&D, outlined to the audience how the ongoing blockade of Qatar by neighboring countries has provided fresh impetus for the nation's research and innovation efforts.

"This situation has given us incentive to reflect on our progress toward building a sustainable, diversified economy, to analyze how we can become more resilient through developing our own capacity across many areas and sectors, and to ensure that we are the drivers of our own destiny," he said.

"Necessity can drive action, change, and progress in a research and innovation ecosystem, if it is built on collaboration, synergy, and a vision that all sectors share. Fostering such an ecosystem in Qatar is central to the work of QF R&D.

"The challenges now faced by Qatar have brought us together, increased our awareness of the need to build our resilience, and inspired us to respond positively and with purpose. This mindset will continue to define Qatar's research and innovation ecosystem, which has no boundaries, only horizons."

Dr. Al-Ibrahim outlined to delegates how the National Priorities Research Program of Qatar National Research Fund, part of QF R&D, is supporting projects that address Qatar's key challenges and



encouraging private sector collaboration through co-funding opportunities, and how QF R&D's Hotspot Analysis allows research and innovation stakeholders to focus on technology areas which have the highest commercialization potential. He also explained how the programs of Qatar Science & Technology Park, part of QF R&D – such as its Product Development Fund and Tech Venture Fund – are enabling startups and SMEs to develop innovation that meets the needs of the local market.

QF R&D also participated in the Forum's 7th Funding Agency Presidents' Meeting, where representatives from 27 countries and one international organization discussed mutual interests, issues, challenges, and opportunities to enhance co-operation between research funding agencies around the world. QNRF was represented at the meeting by Dr. Frans Van Den Boom, Executive Director, Policy, Planning, and Evaluation, QF R&D.

Qatar Foundation has been a leading sponsor and corporate member of the STS Forum – a non-profit organization that has become a premier international science and technology platform – since 2013, due to the opportunities it has provided for QF R&D to form networks and exchange knowledge with a global thought-leadership community.

Image Caption:

Image 1: Dr. Hamad Al-Ibrahim, Executive Vice President, QF R&D, with Mr. Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman, Agency for Science, Technology and Research, Singapore, at the STS Forum 14th Annual Meeting in Japan.

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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 center for research and development excellence and innovation.

QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, and Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.

For more information, please visit www.qfrd.org