



QATAR FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATES IN 2017 GLOBAL INNOVATION SUMMIT

Delegation Highlights Qatar's R&D Achievements and Ambitions to International Audience

Doha, Qatar, December 10, 2017: A Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) delegation recently joined research, industry, and government leaders from around the world to tackle key themes surrounding innovation and its role in shaping the future at a high-level international summit in Malaysia.

Representatives from QF R&D – the leading advocate of research and development in Qatar, committed to supporting and enabling the nation's research, innovation, and tech product development efforts – provided their insights and highlighted the advancement and aims of Qatar's research and innovation ecosystem as they participated in the 2017 Global Innovation Summit (GIS), the flagship event of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC).

The GIS sees government, business, academia, and civil society leaders, and influential think-tanks, combine to identify ways of enhancing the world's capacity for innovation, with QF R&D's participation reflecting its focus on working with international stakeholders, as well as the local research community, to make Qatar a research and development hub for the region and the world.

As a member of the GFCC – an international network of non-profit organizations, government agencies, universities, and private companies designed to drive prosperity through innovation – QF R&D also participated in its Annual Meeting on November 28 in Kuala Lumpur. During a panel discussion titled 'Examples of Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration', Dr. Hamad Al-Ibrahim, Executive Vice President, QF R&D, who is a GFCC Board Member, explained how data analytics and tech innovation are reshaping health sciences, and how Qatar aims to capitalize on this transformation to help address its healthcare challenges.

On the sidelines of the GIS – which took place from November 29-30 – and the GFCC Annual Meeting, Dr. Al-Ibrahim also met Dr. Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, President and CEO, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology, to discuss potential public-private sector partnerships and research collaborations between Qatar and Malaysia; and Deborah Wince-Smith, President, GFCC, a longstanding supporter of QF R&D's work.

"Innovation, and the development and commercialization of technology that meets Qatar's needs and can make an impact in the global marketplace, is essential to building our nation's capacity, resilience, and economic and societal future," said Dr. Al-Ibrahim. "As Qatar continues to strengthen a research and innovation ecosystem that drives impact, we must demonstrate to the world, through showcasing our achievements and our ambitions, that Qatar is open for business – the business of innovation."



“QF R&D’s membership of the GFCC, and the opportunity to exchange knowledge and insights with thought-leaders from a diverse range of countries and sectors at the GIS, provides us with the opportunity to elevate Qatar’s global profile for research and innovation excellence, and to lay the foundations for mutually-beneficial partnerships with nations that, like Qatar, recognize that innovation is the greatest ally of progress.”

During the GIS, Dr. Erik Stenehjem, Executive Director, Research Strategy and Impact Management (RSIM), QF R&D, was among the panelists in a session focusing on maximizing the value of natural resources through innovation and technology, a key area for Qatar as it aims to develop more secure and sustainable energy and water sources.

Meanwhile, Professor Laoucine Kerbache, Chief Innovation Strategist, RSIM, participated in a discussion on ‘The Future of Universities in the Technology Disruption Era’, where the impact of Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies on education, the new skills required to meet the demands of job markets in innovation-focused economies, and the role of universities as “economic development and innovation agents”, was analyzed.

The QF R&D delegation also published a paper on ‘Best Practice in Competitiveness Strategy’ – reflecting QF R&D’s strategic role in driving forward Qatar’s research and innovation ecosystem – which will form part of the ‘GFCC Principles and Best Practices’, launched during the GIS.

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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 (QNRF), a leading scientific research funding organization, and Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.

For more information, please visit www.qfrd.org

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, science and research, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education.



Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>