



## **QATAR FOUNDATION ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2018 (ARC'18) FOCUSES ON MEETING LOCAL NEEDS AND MAKING GLOBAL IMPACT**

### ***Sessions and Presentations Will Explore Innovative Solutions to Qatar's Challenges***

**Doha, Qatar, March 18, 2018:** Three tracks, focusing on key themes that span the cycle of research and innovation, will form the basis of the Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference 2018 (ARC'18), which takes place from March 19-20 at Qatar National Convention Centre under the theme 'R&D: Focusing On Priorities, Delivering Impact'.

The seventh edition of the conference – which is organized by Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) – will bring together members of Qatar's R&D community and international experts and thought-leaders, to share their perspectives and ideas on how research and innovation can address Qatar's greatest challenges, diversify its economy, and enhance its sustainability.

High-level panel sessions at ARC'18 will explore how Qatar's R&D ecosystem can develop innovative solutions that generate economic and social benefit for the nation, while also making a global impact. ARC'18 sessions and presentations will relate to the four thematic pillars defined in the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS) – Energy and Environment; Computing and Information Technology; Health and Biomedical; and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities – with three tracks forming the core of the conference.

On the opening day of ARC'18, the Research Strategy Track will feature a special panel session in co-ordination with the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils, an international network of over 60 non-profit organizations, government agencies, universities, and companies that work together with the aim of building sustained prosperity through innovation. The session, titled 'Research and Innovation for Qatar's Competitiveness', will focus on the role of R&D in achieving economic growth and sustainability.

This track will continue into day two of the conference, when a series of interactive workshops will see Qatar's R&D leaders and stakeholders from all sectors participate in discussions that will pave the way for updating the QNRS, the overarching framework for Qatar's research objectives.

The ARC'18 Innovation Track features a groundbreaking event for the Middle East, 'The Future Is Now', presented by Qatar Science & Technology Park and Singularity University (SU), where rapidly-accelerating technologies set to reshape the future of industries and societies, and the way we live and work, will be exhibited and explored.



'The Future is Now' will feature leading speakers from SU, a global community focused on using exponential technologies to solve the world's biggest challenges. On day one of ARC'18, they will participate in sessions on the future impact of technology on business, economies, money, energy, manufacturing, health and medicine, and our everyday lives. In addition, 16 global start-ups will showcase their ideas and products in fields including energy, health, manufacturing, and artificial intelligence to ARC'18 delegates throughout the conference.

Meanwhile, through the ARC'18 Researcher Track, the original, high-quality research that is being conducted across Qatar in areas of national priority, and its potential for impact, will be presented through a series of QNRS-themed sessions on the opening day of the conference. A panel of experts selected 55 projects for oral presentation and 270 projects for poster presentation from almost 1,000 abstracts submitted for consideration.

"The three tracks introduced for ARC'18 reflect the cornerstones of a vibrant, holistic, and mission-driven research and development ecosystem," said Dr. Nabeel Al-Salem, Executive Director, Operations, QF R&D. "They also reflect the role of QF R&D in supporting and enabling world-class research and innovation that brings tangible benefit to Qatar and is capable of global impact.

"Sessions and presentations under these tracks will demonstrate the true scope of the research activity taking place in Qatar, its focus on addressing Qatar's priorities, and its capacity to catalyze solutions to real-world challenges. They will emphasize the opportunities that technology product development and a tech entrepreneurship culture can open up for Qatar, and engage our R&D stakeholders in updating the Qatar National Research Strategy, ensuring it aligns with their needs and their strategic initiatives.

"The three tracks will illustrate how creating synergies, channeling diverse expertise into achieving shared goals, encouraging private sector involvement in research and innovation, and working in partnership will extend the horizons of what this ecosystem can accomplish. What we discuss, discover, and determine over the course of ARC'18 will be instrumental in ensuring that the next chapter in Qatar's R&D story is one of impact."

To register to attend ARC'18, and for more information and the full conference program, please visit: [www.qf-arc.org](http://www.qf-arc.org)

### **Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference 2018**

Held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference (ARC) is the flagship event of Qatar Foundation Research and



Development (QF R&D).

ARC provides a unique platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration between Qatar's brightest minds in research and innovation and leading international researchers, with the goal of addressing priority areas defined in Qatar's National Research Strategy (QNRS): Energy and Environment; Computing and Information Technology; Health and Biomedical; and Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities.

### **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](http://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>