

QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND SHARES OUTCOMES OF EDUCATION PROJECTS

Panel Discussion Addresses How to Bridge Gap Between Research, Theory and Practice

Doha, Qatar, March 1, 2017 – Policy-makers, researchers, teachers, and representatives from local educational organizations came together recently at a Research Outcome Seminar (ROS) hosted by Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) under the theme ‘Education for the Future of Qatar’.

More than 80 participants discussed and shared knowledge on advances made by researchers funded through QNRF, part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), in the field of education.

Dr. Michael Reksulak, Pillar Director, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, QNRF, emphasized the importance of the discipline to the realization of Qatar’s goals, saying: “This seminar is part of our continuing conversation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education about how to incorporate lessons from research into Qatar’s classrooms. The ultimate gold-standard by which successful researchers often want to be measured is the positive impact they have on society.”

The ROS series is an initiative designed to provide researchers with a public platform to share the outcomes of cutting-edge research activity supported and enabled by QNRF funding, as well as being a forum for enhancing synergy and exchanging knowledge.

In its latest edition, Dr. Abdellahi Hussein, Program Manager, Education, QNRF, gave an overview of the grants that QNRF has provided to researchers in the field of education. He discussed the outcomes generated by their projects, and highlighted the need to increase the level of collaborative research amongst institutions in Qatar.

The event began with presentations on four completed QNRF-funded projects, as Dr. Hayat Heji of the Al-Noor Institute for the Blind discussed tools for helping Arabic-speaking pre-school students who are blind or visually impaired; followed by Dr. Zohreh Eslami, of Texas A&M University at Qatar, a Qatar Foundation (QF) partner university, who highlighted techniques for improving reading skills among middle-school science students.

Dr. Saquib Razak, from QF partner university Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, spoke of his experience of ‘Alice Middle East’, software that guides students through a 3D interactive world. The presentations concluded with Dr. Ziad Said, of the College of the North Atlantic – Qatar, who highlighted the attitude of students towards science.

The second part of the seminar was dedicated to an engaging panel discussion among stakeholders in Qatar on the theme of ‘Bridging the gap between researchers and educational policy makers: translating research evidences into practice’, moderated by



Professor Abdullah Abu-Tineh, Director of National Center for Educator Development, Qatar University. Panelists included Dr. Aziza Ahmed Al-Saadi, Director of Policy and Educational Research, Ministry of Education and Higher Education; Professor Rupert Maclean, CNA-Q; and Dr. Faryal Khan, UNESCO Doha Education Program Specialist.

The panel session provided an opportunity for education researchers and policy-makers to share a platform and discuss ways in which the gap between research theory and practice can be bridged. Developing homegrown research studies, rather than importing solutions, was one of the suggestions made as panelists underscored the need for closer collaboration and dialogue between the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Qatar's research community.

Dr. Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director, QNRF, said: "We are very pleased to see the direct impact that QNRF-funded projects are having on Qatar's education system. It is also very encouraging to see the ever-increasing impact that research projects funded by QNRF are making on the ground, whether in terms of policy, practice, or publications."

Image Captions

Image 1: Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) recently hosted a Research Outcome Seminar entitled 'Education for the Future of Qatar'.

Image 2: Education researchers and policy-makers discuss ways to bridge the gap between research theory and practice during QNRF's Research Outcome Seminar.

Image 3: Attendees listen to an overview of the grants QNRF has provided to researchers in the field of education.

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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 organization, and Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.

For more information, please visit <http://www.qfrd.org/>



About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, QNRF was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers. It is a part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development.

QNRF administers funding for original, competitively selected research and furthers collaborations within academia, the public, governmental and non-governmental sectors through effective, mutually beneficial partnerships. While QNRF actively seeks internationally recognised researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, please visit www.qnrf.org