

## QATAR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PARK UNVEILS ONE-STOP SHOP FOR TECH START-UPS DURING GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

**Doha, Qatar, 9 November 2015** -- Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), unveiled a roster of free activities designed to grow the skills of local technology entrepreneurs during Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW).

GEW, of which QSTP is a Founding Partner in Qatar, is the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators who bring ideas to life, drive diverse economic growth, and expand human welfare. It will take place in Qatar and around the world from 15-19 November.

As a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, QSTP is Qatar's primary accelerator and incubator for technology-based start-ups, and supports QF R&D by fostering new talent in an environment designed specifically to accelerate their route to market in a bid to truly nurture and support innovation and entrepreneurship in Qatar.

An interdisciplinary group of experts will host five workshops on topics of critical interest to current and aspiring technology entrepreneurs at QSTP's main campus near Education City. The workshops announced today include: *Presentation and Pitching*, *Introduction to Big Data*, *Introduction to Machine Learning*, *Speed Pitching*, and *Arduino Prototyping Workshop*.

"Each year, the importance and enthusiasm surrounding Global Entrepreneurship Week in Qatar and around the world grows," said Hamad Al Kuwari, Managing Director of QSTP. "For the fourth consecutive year, QSTP is proud to play an important role in GEW, with a focus on those entrepreneurs striving to seize and create opportunities in the science, computing and technology space. Above all, we aim to nurture the passion and talent of Qatari tech entrepreneurs by offering more world-class insights and access to the field's best and brightest minds each year."

On 17 November, QSTP will kick off its programme, "Tech Entrepreneurship: Basic to Pro", with *Presentation & Pitching* – a workshop covering the fundamental skills of building and delivering a compelling business pitch to potential investors. In partnership with Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), *Introduction to Big Data* will feature Dr. Paolo Papotti - a Senior Scientist and data analyst at QCRI who is currently developing a platform to clean "dirty" data by making it useable for businesses. At the

seminar, which covers the basics of Big Data theory and practice, Papotti will be joined by Dr. Zoi Kaoudi - a postdoctoral researcher at QCRI specialising in data infrastructure and management. Also on 17 November, *Introduction to Machine Learning* will examine the intersection of human and machine intelligence. The talk, which will feature QCRI Research Scientists Dr. Muhammad Imran and Dr. Shafiq Joty, will be including a live demonstration of Artificial Intelligence for Disaster Response - a tool that monitors and classifies social media and other data streams to help stakeholders gain situational awareness in a crisis or other large event.

On 18 November, QSTP innovation mentors Haya Al-Ghanim, Innovation Director; Pontus All, Entrepreneurship Manager; Mohammad Zebian, Innovation Manager; and Wadha Al-Adgham, Marketing Research Executive, will host a *Speed Pitching* session where entrepreneurs will be given just three minutes to win over the panel with a concise and compelling pitch of their business idea. On 19 November, QSTP's GEW programme will conclude with a workshop on Arduino - a highly regarded software platform built for fast prototyping, aimed at students and entrepreneurs who may not have a background in electronics and programming.

**Students, graduates, entrepreneurs, researchers and start-ups interested in taking part in QSTP's GEW activities should register beforehand through [www.qstp.org.qa](http://www.qstp.org.qa)**

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Notes to Editors:

### **About Qatar Science & Technology Park**

Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), is Qatar's primary incubator for technology development, fostering the environment required for accelerating commercialisation of research and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. QSTP focuses on four themes as per the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS) announced in 2012; Energy, Environment, Health Sciences and Information & Communication Technologies. QSTP is located in Qatar Foundation's Education City and has access to the resources of its cluster of leading research universities.

Members within the QSTP Free Zone include SMEs, international corporations and research institutions, which have collectively committed to investing in new programs, creating intellectual property, enhancing technology management skills and developing innovative new products in line with the QNRS. QSTP supports QF R&D's economic and human development



objectives for Qatar and is increasingly being recognized as an international hub for applied research, innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship.

For more information, please visit the QSTP website at [www.qstp.org.qa](http://www.qstp.org.qa).

### **About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)**

Leading Qatar's vision to become an international centre for research and development excellence and innovation, QF R&D is home to Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialisation, as well as the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a globally renowned scientific research funding organization.

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