

## **ORGANIZERS APPLAUD PARTICIPATION FROM GULF SCIENCE AND TECH PARKS AHEAD OF GLOBAL MEET**

### *Abstract submissions from GCC science and tech parks soar ahead of first IASP World Conference held in the Arab world*

**(15 February 2014 – Doha, Qatar)** - Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait topped the list of countries contributing abstracts ahead of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation's (IASP) 31st Annual World Conference - a global gathering of science parks, entrepreneurs and policy makers [in Doha](#) later this year. Organizers confirmed that this is the highest participation IASP's flagship World Conference has witnessed in the last 4 years, with 138 abstracts submitted and 33 speakers anticipated for the October summit.

The update comes as the IASP Steering Committee convened in Doha to agree on the detailed agenda for IASP 2014 Doha, which will focus on the unique role of science parks in bridging the gap between entrepreneurs, academia and industry. [Qatar Science and Technology Park has been vocal](#) about the crucial role played by the Arab region's science and technology parks as innovation catalysts, breaking down barriers to success and supporting entrepreneurs.

The Steering Committee consists of officials from Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) and other prominent global hubs including Wista -Management GmbH Berlin Adlershof in Germany, Brazil's Parco Tecnológico do Rio/UFRJ and The Innovation Hub - Africa's first internationally accredited science and technology park. Committee members conducted a site visit to IASP 2014 Doha's venue, Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC), noting how impressed they were by the facilities and high-end solutions provided there.

Head of the IASP 2014 Organizing Committee and QSTP Managing Director Hamad Al-Kuwari said, "QSTP was honored to host such a distinguished delegation of global innovation leaders and decision makers. We are grateful for the support of Steering Committee members in making this event a success and are encouraged by the strong participation and interest we've already seen from our neighbors in the Gulf."

Following the Steering Committee's visit to Doha, IASP Director General Luis Sanz said, "The increasing number of science parks and areas of innovation throughout the world proves that they are powerful tools for economic development and the enhancement of the knowledge economy. The conference in Doha will be the first IASP World Conference in that region. Doha and Qatar Science & Technology Park will provide a perfect environment and platform for an international event of such importance."

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) last [Science Report](#) found that linkages between academia and industry in Arab States were sometimes lacking and needed to be strengthened. The report cited Qatar as an example of an Arab state tackling the issue by setting up a science park and implementing a national research strategy.

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**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 commercialization 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 center 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 commercialization, as well as the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a globally renowned scientific research funding organization, and prominent research institutes operating at the frontiers of science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) and Qatar Energy and Environment Research Institute (QEERI).

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