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Texas A&M at Qatar annual showcase focuses on the impact of research and partnerships with industry

Texas A&M University at Qatar recently hosted its sixth annual Research-Industry Partnership Showcase, “Making an Impact” at the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Conference Center.

The annual event highlights the work performed by Texas A&M at Qatar faculty, staff and student researchers to help realize sustainable solutions to real-world issues with high relevance to Qatar and contribute to Qatar’s goal of being a knowledge-based economy. The showcase also aims to strengthen partnerships with local industry to maximize shared opportunities and pursuits of mutual interest.

“Through research, which creates new knowledge and drives innovation, Texas A&M at Qatar is directly contributing to Qatar’s goal of becoming a knowledge-based society as outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030,” said Dr. César O. Malavé, dean of Texas A&M at Qatar. “We are proud to partner with industry collaborators to help realize sustainable solutions to real-world issues with high relevance to Qatar and contribute to Qatar’s goal of being a knowledge-based economy. We have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with industry in Qatar and continue to look for ways to explore, encourage, enrich and expand collaborations for the benefit of the State of Qatar and its greatest natural resource, its people.”

Invited talks this year were given by Dr. Hamad Al-Ibrahim, executive vice president of research and development at Qatar Foundation, and Dr. Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, executive director of the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). The symposium also included a special panel discussion, “The Research Environment in Qatar, its Future and How to Increase Texas A&M at Qatar’s Impact,” featuring representatives from local industry, including Dr. Marwa Al-Ansary, R&D and technology manager for Qatar Shell Research and Technology Centre; Al-Taie from QNRF; Eng. Saleh Hamad Mohammed Al-Marri, head of renewable energy technology at Kahramaa; and Yousef Mohammed Al-Jaber, deputy director of the Total Research Center in Qatar. Dr. Hassan S. Bazzi, associate director of research at Texas A&M at Qatar, moderated the discussion.

Students and researchers from Texas A&M at Qatar displayed research findings and outcomes of their recent projects, emphasizing their impact to local and international scientific and technical communities. Several research centers also were represented, including the Gas and Fuels Research Center, the Advanced Scientific Computing Center, the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center and the Smart Grid.

In the student poster session, first place went to Abdul Salam Abd, second place to Muhammad Ghufran Rafique and third place to Mohammed Jaffrin. In the research staff poster session, Grigorios Matenoglou placed first, Sun Hee Yoon second and Dalila Chouikhi third.

Dr. Konstantinos Kakosimos, assistant professor in the Chemical Engineering Program at Texas A&M at Qatar, co-chaired this year's event, and said, "For Texas A&M at Qatar, making an impact transcends all our activities. This year's showcase presented the contributions of our students, researchers and faculty, and how their tangible research outcomes do make an impact in Qatar. Participants from industry and local society actively engaged in fruitful discussions and appraised Texas A&M, but they also formed a clear message: more need to be done to demonstrate these achievements."

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About Texas A&M University at Qatar

Texas A&M University, recognized as having one of the premier engineering programs in the world, has offered undergraduate degrees in chemical engineering, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering and petroleum engineering at Qatar Foundation's Education City campus since 2003, and graduate degrees in chemical engineering since fall 2011. Texas A&M at Qatar has awarded more than 750 degrees since 2007. In addition to engineering courses, Texas A&M at Qatar provides classes in science, mathematics, liberal arts and the humanities. All four of the engineering programs offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET. The curricula offered at Texas A&M at Qatar are materially the same as those offered at the main campus in College Station, Texas, and the courses in Doha are taught in English in a co-educational setting. The reputation for excellence is the same, as is the commitment to equip engineers to lead the next generation of engineering advancement. Faculty from around the world are attracted to Texas A&M at Qatar to provide this educational experience and to participate in research activities now valued at more than \$236.4 million, and that address issues important to the State of Qatar. Visit www.qatar.tamu.edu.