



## News Release

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### World's Top Machine Learning and Data Analytics Experts Come to Doha, Qatar

DOHA, Qatar, March 17, 2016 – Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), a national research institute under Hamad bin Khalifa University, and Boeing [NYSE:BA] completed the third annual Machine Learning and Data Analytics Symposium (MLDAS) in Qatar. Open to students, researchers and industry experts, the event took place on March 14 and 15 in Doha, Qatar, and featured top global experts discussing applications, recent advances and new solutions in the fields of machine learning and data analytics.

The first day of the symposium was focused on applied data analytics and machine learning. There were several talks on intelligent data analytics led by Chris Jermaine from Rice University and Cheng Soon Ong from Data 61/National ICT Australia (NICTA). The second day of the symposium was focused on healthcare and how machine learning can be applied to aircraft maintenance and airspace procedures. Hugh Durrant-Whyte from the University of Sydney, a pioneer of autonomous flight and former director of NICTA, gave a talk on “Data, Knowledge and Discovery: Machine Learning meets Natural Science”, while Byron Wallace from the University of Texas at Austin spoke about machine learning for automating clinical evidence.

“The remarkable improvement in the quality of research submissions and the international reputation of the invited speakers clearly indicates that MLDAS has established itself as a premier symposium on Data Science. This is a huge success for Qatar and the region,” said symposium co-chair Dr. Sanjay Chawla from Qatar Computing Research Institute.

This symposium continued with the focus on healthcare and saw discussions on applied machine learning for systems health management, trying to address some of today's research questions, and to discuss the open questions posed by real-world



applications. Topics such as human-system interactive learning, machine learning for streaming data, and integrating learning with other artificial intelligence techniques such as knowledge representation and reasoning dominated the talks and technical discussions.

Dr. Dragos Margineantu from Boeing Research & Technology and co-chair of the symposium added, “When we organized the first MLDAS three years ago, we wanted to drive conversations and innovations in the machine learning and data analytics field. Since that time, we have seen unprecedented growth and, though we’re just one piece of a huge field I’m proud that we’ve been involved and helped connect respected researchers with practitioners and students to further advance research in the fields of machine learning and data analytics.”

“Our goal was to share knowledge about machine learning and data analytics and provide university students with first-hand experiences that equip them to be part of the next wave of innovators in this field,” said Bernard Dunn, President of Boeing Middle East. “We helped contribute to building an innovative future generation in the country.”

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## About QCRI

Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) is a national research institute under Hamad bin Khalifa University, established by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar's transformation from a hydrocarbon-based economy to knowledge-based economy.

QCRI supports Qatar Foundation's mission to build Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by focusing on large-scale computing challenges that address national priorities for growth and development.

In doing this, QCRI conducts world-class multidisciplinary computing research that is relevant to the needs of Qatar, the wider Arab region, and the world. It performs cutting-edge research in such areas as Arabic language technologies, cyber security, social computing, data analytics, distributed systems, and computational science and engineering.

The research conducted at QCRI is aligned with the Qatar National Research Strategy and supports the strategic priorities outlined in the Qatar National Vision 2030. For more information, please visit [www.qcri.qa](http://www.qcri.qa).

## About Boeing Company

Boeing is the world's largest aerospace company and leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners and defence, space and security systems, with more than 165,000 employees in 70 countries. Boeing products and tailored services include commercial and military aircraft, satellites, weapons, electronic and defence systems, launch systems, advanced information and communication systems, and performance-based logistics and training. For more information about Boeing please visit: [www.boeing.com](http://www.boeing.com).

## About Hamad bin Khalifa University

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university that is building its foundation upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU delivers undergraduate and graduate programs through its College of Science and Engineering, Law School, College of Public Health, Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, and its College of Humanities and Social Sciences. It also provides unparalleled opportunities for research and scholarship through its research institutes, and its Center of Executive Education delivers customized programs for the business community of Qatar and the region, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.