



## QF forum brings together top experts and scientists

Publish Date: Monday, 21 November, 2011, at 12:11 PM Doha Time



Dr Abdelali Haoudi making the opening address

**By Noimot Olayiwola/Staff Reporter**

The Qatar Foundation’s Annual Research Forum (ARF), which started yesterday, is bringing together some 1,500 research experts and renowned scientists from across 75 different global institutions in a three-day event at the Qatar National Convention Centre in a quest to exchange knowledge and build partnerships for the advancement of research globally.

HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser attended the opening session of the forum, which is focusing on the globalisation and democratisation of research, allowing for all countries to benefit from the innovations of science and technology.

The forum also features sessions on research progress and achievements taking place in the three national research centres under QF - Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Biomedical Research Centre and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute.

Other parallel sessions and workshops on research in the fields of bio-medicine, computing, arts, humanities, social sciences and Islamic studies are also part of the event.



A panel discussion in progress

Making the opening address at the event yesterday, the QF vice-president for Research, Dr Abdelali Haoudi, noted that the forum was truly a national research forum, which is evident from the calibre of the people gathered at the event.

He later gave a brief overview of QF’s achievements within the last 16 years laying emphasis on its mission of strengthening science, research and education.

“Part of our new initiative at QF is to build local capacities in research and development and in the long run, that is, as part of our long term vision, we will continue to pursue cutting edge scientific research apart from ensuring that Qatar becomes the regional contributor to science as well as a magnet for innovative research and development worldwide,” Dr Haoudi said.

During a panel discussion on “Globalisation of Research” chaired by The Column Group managing partner and National Cancer Institute former director Dr Richard Klausner, panellists stressed that an important tool for science was communication, which was essential to connect scientists to the public.

They also shared similar views on ensuring science education in schools to invoke scientific thinking in young ones.

Other suggestions they identified for globalisation of research included connecting scientists to students, people participating in science by opening up the field to a much wider group of people, science mentor-ship, bridging of the gap between scientists in different parts of the world through collaboration and co-operation between scientists as well as providing access to scientific researches and their findings.

Some of the panellists also called for more ambitious and high profile government interventions and decisions about scientific issues.

In another session titled: "Entrepreneurship in Science and Technology", moderated by Qatar Science and Technology Park executive chairman Dr Tidu Maini, panellists focused on encouraging aspiring young people towards innovations and entrepreneurial skills.

Apart from international experts, QSTP's entrepreneurship manager and innovation director Haya al-Ghanim highlighted some of QSTP work while mentioning some of the challenges facing young entrepreneurs.

Green Gulf Incorporation chief executive officer Omran Hamad al-Kuwari, who shared his experience working for different organisations both in Qatar and abroad, listed some of the reasons why Qatar is ideally placed to become the world leader in the clean energy revolution.

Also, another landmark event, being held in conjunction with the forum, Arab Expatriate Scientists Symposium (AESS) has conducted its opening session.

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