



LECTURE SERIES



August 6, 2009
10:30 AM
Lawson II42

Abdelali Haoudi, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Qatar Foundation

Science, Research and Technology at Qatar Foundation: Qatar as a Centre of Middle East's Science Renaissance

Qatar Foundation is developing a range of science and research capacity building programs to address major needs of the State of Qatar ranging from establishing scientific research programs to creating a critical mass of scientists needed to ensure successful implementation and sustainability of Qatar Foundation's ambitious research agenda.

This also includes the development of a coordinated and integrated research setting to facilitate optimal use of research technology platforms while ensuring the highest standards for the conduct of scientific research through regular monitoring and assessment.

One step towards building a strong foundation for science, research and technology development in Qatar is the development of three research institutes, namely:

- ✚ **Qatar Biomedical Research Institute:** The goal of this institute is to deliver personalized medicine that can mitigate or eliminate diseases of high prevalence in Qatar and the region such as birth defects, genetic disorders, cancer and diabetes. The Qatar Biomedical Research Institute focus on programs of bioscience, engineering and technology research that will lead to new biomarker development, drug discovery and therapeutic vaccines. The implementation of these programs is coordinated with Sidra Medical and Research Center, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar and other research partners.
- ✚ **Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute:** The goal of this institute is to ensure the sustainable development of the State of Qatar through providing a diversity of sources in terms of access to energy while protecting the environment of Qatar by supplying cleaner and safer energy consistently. The Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute will explore and experiment with solar power, hydrogen energy and carbon resources which are available in abundance. Some promising science and research work will be undertaken in environmental (water resources, built environment, etc) and energy (nanomaterials, fuel cells, reservoir modelling, chemical separation

technologies and large storage). The implementation of these programs is coordinated with Texas A&M University at Qatar and other research partners.

- ✚ **Qatar Information & Communication Technology Research Institute:** The goal of this institute is to transform the State of Qatar into a modern digital society by enriching the lives of every individual and delivering the promise of a connected knowledge-based environment. The Qatar ICT Research Institute will focus on programmes of informatics that are important to transform society in healthcare needs, energy use, environmental protection and self-development technologies. These include computing-intensive applications for modelling and simulating energy and environment, biological and chemical processes as well as visualisation modelling for improved human-computer interactions. The implementation of these programs is coordinated with Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar and other research partners.

Bio

Dr. Abdelali Haoudi became the research chief at Qatar Foundation in September 2007. He says his main objective, as Vice President for Research, is to coordinate and liaise between the many parties at Education City that have a research remit. The idea is to align projects and programs with the foundation's vision and build collaborative relationships that will serve the national priorities and needs.

“Research requires focus and clear objectives for what is predominantly a long term project. At Qatar Foundation, through our established partnerships and those yet to be made, we will as a team continue chipping away at our goals” he says

Dr Haoudi has an extensive career in medical research. His previous role was as a Professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School's Department of Microbiology and Molecular Cell Biology. He has also been a scientist and visiting professor in leading biomedical research institutes, including Harvard Medical School, France's Pasteur Institute and the US National Institutes of Health. In 2001 he was the founding Executive Editor of the Journal of Biomedicine and Biotechnology, and became a member of the National Royal Academy of Sciences.

These plans will be consistent with Qatar's research priorities. Biomedicine and health, environment and energy sector, and computer sciences are the current targets. “My aim is to work with our partners at Qatar Foundation to create a roadmap to develop specific research programs in these areas” explains Dr Haoudi.

“At Qatar Foundation we have top research institutions, access to steady research funding through Qatar National Research Fund, and commercialization infrastructure at Qatar Science & Technology Park. Our goal is to harness these significant advantages to accelerate the transformation of Qatar into a thriving knowledge based economy.”

Please Distribute to Faculty

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY