



In The Name of Allah
The Merciful and The Beneficent



**Statement of STEP 4: Health, Energy and Water; Current and Future Status
2-5 December 2018
Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman**

The 4th Mustafa^(pbuh) science and technology exchange program (STEP) in Islamic countries was organized jointly (2-5 Dec. 2018) by Mustafa^(pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) and the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) with a focus on health, water and energy.

The forum was attended by almost 60 delegates representing 20 countries (Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, India, Italy, Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, South Africa, Singapore, Turkey, UK and USA), many undergraduate and graduate researchers and faculty members who participated in this event. Representatives from COMSTECH, TWAS, ECOSF also participated in STEP4.

The program included the following sections:

- **Scientific and technological panels, round tables, keynote addresses and invited talks focusing on the following areas were covered over the three days in 12 different sessions:**
 - a- The current and future scope of STI in Islamic countries and world.
 - b- The challenges and obstacles for a better environment focusing on the areas of health, water and energy.
 - c- Scientific and technological collaborations among Islamic countries.
 - d- Mustafa^(pbuh) Prize laureates and other scientists presented their latest scientific achievements and discussed their impact on society.
- **Academia to Academia (A2A) meetings: several A2A meetings between international delegates and academia took place.**
- **Presentation of PhD Scholars' achievements and interaction with the Mustafa^(pbuh) Prize laureates: three sessions to showcase the achievements**

of young PhD students were held and the best three were selected by the Jury Panels.

As a parallel program on Exposure of Industries to Scientists' achievements (EISA) was organized and included the following:

- **Exhibitions:** 25 knowledge based enterprises from 12 countries (Oman, Egypt, Malaysia, Iraq, Qatar, Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Belgium, New Zealand, UK and USA) participated in the EISA exhibition.
- **B2B meetings:** several B2B (30) meetings were arranged
- **Pitch Deck Presentations:** 7 Pitch Deck presentations of knowledge based enterprises were presented.

Based on extensive discussions during these sessions and presentations by delegates on the state of R&D in their respective institutions, the following observations and recommendations were made to further enhance S&T collaboration between Islamic countries and beyond:

- 1- To establish an on-line hub (in progress) as an enabling platform for S&T collaborations, networking, data sharing and dissemination of information.
- 2- To create an endowment whose purpose is to fund activities that go above and beyond the present level of competence such as supporting exceptional early career scholars, productive researchers, and new initiatives. It is envisioned that this fund will seed high risk and high impact projects.
- 3- To promote sharing of research and R&D infrastructures.
- 4- To support scholarship programs jointly funded by other institutions and MSTF.
- 5- To promote public awareness and knowledge promotion in Islamic countries.
- 6- To establish an International Advisory Board for MSTF.
- 7- To promote gender balance and young scientist representation at meetings.
- 8- To support mentorship programs by leading scientists for young scientists.

9- To facilitate the translation of science and technology for the benefit of society.

The attendees of the meeting deeply value and appreciate the excellent organization of the program and the overwhelming hospitality of the Officers of Sultan Qaboos University and in particular the dedication and commitment of leadership and staff of SQU.

We acknowledge the vision of MSTF for furthering the S&T agenda among the Islamic World.

Finally, we thank the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Pakistan for offering to host the 5th STEP meeting in March 2019.