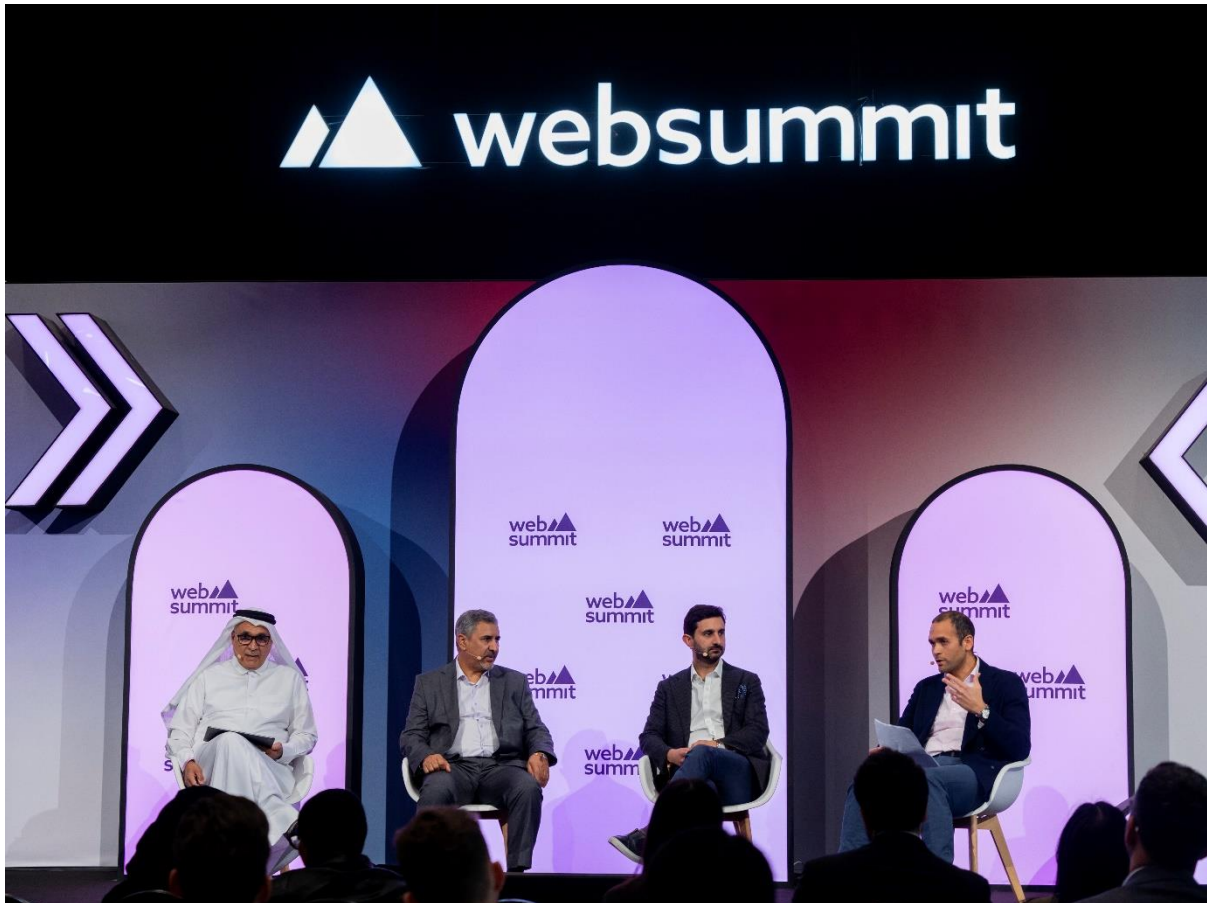


QCRI unveils the Global AI Healthcare Readiness Index at the Web Summit Qatar



Doha, Qatar, 26th February 2025: Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) Qatar Computing and Research Institute (QCRI) presented preliminary insights into its Global AI Healthcare Readiness Index at Web Summit Qatar. Scheduled for full launch later this year, the index will be the first of its kind to assess the readiness of a diverse range of countries to adopt artificial intelligence in healthcare by integrating secondary data with original primary research.

The announcement was made by Dr Ahmed Elmagarmid, Executive Director, QCRI, during a panel at Web Summit Qatar on Wednesday titled 'AI in Healthcare: Readiness, Reality, and Roadblocks'. The panel also featured Dr Harpreet Sood, Partner at Hurley Group, and Harmain Harmain, Consultant at QCRI, in a discussion moderated by Ahmed Helal, MENA Director at Global Counsel. The panel addressed how the remarkable growth in the healthcare AI market is expected to spur massive investment, and how the region can prepare for quick uptake of such technologies.

The rapidly accelerating adoption of AI in healthcare has generated considerable global competition for investment and talent. Guided by the Qatar National Vision 2030, healthcare has long been a strategic priority for Qatar with a particular emphasis on world-class infrastructure and promoting science and innovation. As the country's national champion for AI, QCRI has identified the Global AI Healthcare Readiness Index as one of its top priority projects.

Commenting on the development of the index, Dr Elmagarmid stated: *“This index will serve as a global reference and benchmarking tool to measure the readiness of healthcare systems worldwide to adopt AI technologies. QCRI will use the index not only to showcase Qatar’s abilities but also position the country as an advocate that aims to promote best practices at a global level. Global indices can guide policy by highlighting strengths and areas for improvement – at present, no such index exists for AI readiness in healthcare with a primary source component (survey). By providing a unique contribution to the AI-healthcare ecosystem, QCRI will play an important part in helping shape conversation and global policy guidance around a crucial industry of the future. On a state level, Qatar can encourage strategic reforms and domestic investment, attract international collaboration and FDI, ultimately enhancing its global standing in AI healthcare.”*

Ahmed Helal, MENA Director at Global Counsel, added, *“We are extremely proud to collaborate with QCRI on the Global AI Healthcare Readiness Index. This initiative is not only impactful and highly relevant, but it also serves as a critical tool in pinpointing policy gaps in healthcare, especially in the adoption of artificial intelligence. As a public policy firm, Global Counsel is committed to delivering actionable insights that enable governments to drive strategic reforms and foster a transformative, innovation-driven healthcare ecosystem.”*

The first edition of the index will rank 21 countries – spanning diverse regions, economies, healthcare systems, and demographics – on their AI readiness for healthcare. Each country is scored and ranked across several pillars, with relevant sub-scores in each sub-pillar. Each dimension will include several measures; quantitative or qualitative indicators that assess the country in the given area. These measures draw on secondary sources, including general AI and health indices, as well as a primary component in the pillar assessing public readiness for AI healthcare adoption, that draws on novel insights from an original international survey. Taken together, these measures form a robust “indicator of indicators.”

The index's development is overseen by a steering committee composed of leading experts in AI and healthcare from industry, academia, and regulatory bodies. This diverse group has provided strategic guidance and oversight to ensure the index is methodologically sound and aligned with real-world needs. Moreover, the group has collaborated to ensure that the index's insights are credible, actionable, and widely disseminated as an evidence-based roadmap for embracing AI in healthcare.

Qatar has long recognized AI's transformative potential. Its dedicated National AI Strategy, developed in 2019 with QCRI playing a leading role, laid the foundation for leveraging AI across

various sectors. This commitment has been further reinforced by the broader Third National Development Strategy (NDS3), released in 2023, which identifies AI as an enabler for multiple priority sectors, including healthcare. In addition, the Artificial Intelligence Committee - established under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) – oversees the national AI agenda, coordinates policy development, and fosters collaboration across national stakeholders. Against this backdrop, QCRI continuously tackles national priorities and addresses Qatar’s socio-economic needs through applied computing research, driving excellence and innovation.

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About QCRI:

Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) is a national research institute, established in 2010 by Qatar Foundation (QF) for Education, Science and Community Development, a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar's transformation from a carbon economy to a knowledge economy.

QCRI operates under the umbrella of Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU). QCRI's vision is to be a global leader of computing research in identified areas that will bring positive impact to the lives of citizens and society.

Our mission is to conduct innovative, multidisciplinary applied computing research that addresses national priorities by enhancing the quality of life for citizens, enabling broader scientific discoveries and making local businesses more competitive globally.

About Global Counsel:

Global Counsel is a strategic advisory business. We help companies and investors across a wide range of sectors to anticipate the ways in which politics, regulation and public policymaking create both risk and opportunity - and to develop and implement strategies to meet these challenges. Our team has experience in politics and policymaking in national governments and international institutions backed with deep regional and local knowledge.

Our offices in Berlin, Brussels, Doha, London, Singapore and Washington DC are supported by a global network of policymakers, businesses and advisers. Our partnership with The Messina Group and wider international network further strengthens our global reach.

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