



QF and Web Summit Sign Agreement Focusing on Volunteerism, Innovation, and Expanding Knowledge

Collaboration announced on first day of Web Summit Qatar 2026 as global tech community gathers in Doha

Doha, Qatar, 2 February 2026: As the world's largest event series dedicated to technology and innovation comes to Doha for the third time, Qatar Foundation and Web Summit have unveiled a new partnership with volunteerism, research, education, and the sharing of knowledge at its core.

The opening day of Web Summit Qatar 2026 – which has drawn over 30,000 members of the global tech entrepreneurship and investment community, alongside business and cultural leaders and policymakers, to Qatar to connect, form partnerships, and discuss the tech trends shaping the world – saw the signing of a three-year collaboration agreement that reflects Qatar Foundation (QF) and Web Summit's collective belief in empowering and inspiring drivers of positive change.

Signed as Web Summit Qatar 2026 got under way at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center, the agreement will provide Qatar Foundation (QF) students and alumni with real-world volunteering experience and access to Web Summit's Volunteer Programme, which connects them to global innovation communities and opens up worldwide networking opportunities with tech founders, investors, and experts.

QF and Web Summit will also collaborate to study the economic, social, and technological impact of Web Summit Qatar, and of QF's involvement in the event, as it showcases to the world the Middle East's rising status as a hub of, and destination for, technology development.

Yousif Al-Naama, CEO of Qatar Foundation, said: "Volunteerism and human-centric innovation share the purpose of contributing to the growth, strength, and wellbeing of individuals and communities, and through this collaboration agreement, Qatar Foundation and Web Summit are bringing them together with the goal of deepening our nation's technology talent pool, empowering our youth, and benefiting our society.

"By collaborating with such a dynamic global organization as Web Summit, we are extending the opportunities for exposure to the world of technology innovation and



entrepreneurship that we offer our current students and our ever-growing alumni community. The access to networks of knowledge and expertise, and the experiences they will gain, through being part of Web Summit's Volunteer Programme will undoubtedly enrich their skills, expand their horizons, and magnify the impact they can bring to Qatar, the region, and the world.

“We are delighted to join forces with Web Summit through this multifaceted agreement that supports our Qatar Foundation ecosystem in driving forward innovation for human and social benefit, and in empowering our youth to be the leaders and drivers of positive change.”

Paddy Cosgrave, founder and CEO at Web Summit, said: “This partnership between Web Summit and Qatar Foundation doesn't just connect talent from the region to global tech ecosystems. It opens pathways in Doha, home to Web Summit Qatar, and in Lisbon, Rio, and Vancouver, bringing together two organizations that believe in fostering talent and ambition, and in connecting some of the brightest minds with opportunities.

“Through this partnership, hundreds of Qatar Foundation students and alumni will have access to every opportunity Web Summit has to offer on the volunteer programme, working alongside founders, investors, and speakers to grow their network and experience at pivotal moments in their careers. We have seen volunteers go on to build companies and return as founders. That journey, from learning to doing to building, is exactly what we want to enable.

“Qatar Foundation has built a world-class platform for education, research, and innovation, backing the next generation to push boundaries. We are proud to be undertaking this journey with Qatar Foundation.”

The collaboration will enable Web Summit Qatar's international attendees to visit and gain insight into QF's unique ecosystem of knowledge, and how its Education City campus integrates education, research and innovation, and inclusive community development platforms and opportunities. Academic collaborations – potentially including joint initiatives such as the Web Summit Academic Bursary Programme, which attracts leading academics and researchers to Web Summit events – and the expanded participation of experts from the QF community on Web Summit platforms also form part of the agreement.

Web Summit Qatar 2026 has welcomed attendees from over 120 countries, including over 900 investors, and is showcasing more than 1,600 technology startups from around the world. Taking place until 4 February, it places a major focus on key topics



surrounding Artificial Intelligence, with expert-led conversations exploring how its development is being steered and what this means for the future of jobs.

The summit is also examining how technology is reimagining the way in which content is created, shared, and consumed, the progress of quantum computing toward commercial adoption, and technology advancements in sectors such as finance, energy, health, manufacturing, and government. QF's Qatar Science & Technology Park, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Earthna Center for a Sustainable Future, the World Innovation Summit for Health, and WISE are among those participating at Web Summit Qatar 2026.

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Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization focused on education, research and innovation, and community development that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. Across its ecosystem comprising more than 50 entities, QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond through its work across progressive education, sustainability, artificial intelligence, precision healthcare, and social progress.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. This vision has evolved into a globally unique, multidisciplinary ecosystem of knowledge offering opportunities for lifelong learning, fostering innovation, and empowering people to be socially engaged citizens and drivers of positive change.

This diverse and interconnected ecosystem comprises a world-class education landscape spanning the full spectrum of learning from pre-school to post-doctoral level; research, innovation, and policy centers addressing global challenges; alongside community facilities for people of all ages to seek knowledge, embrace active lifestyles, and expand their horizons within QF's Education City, spanning 12 square kilometers in Doha, Qatar. Through a unique approach to multidisciplinary, global education, Education City represents Qatar Foundation's large-scale legacy investment focused on building human capacity for the future of Qatar, the region, and the world.



For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, please visit: www.qf.org.qa

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For any media inquiries, please contact: pressoffice@qf.org.qa

About Web Summit

Web Summit is the world's premier technology event series, bringing together a global community of founders, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and investors to connect and exchange ideas about the technology and trends shaping the world. Web Summit events – including Web Summit in Lisbon, Web Summit Rio in South America, Web Summit Vancouver in North America, Web Summit Qatar in the Middle East, and RISE in Asia – have gathered nearly one million people since Web Summit's beginnings as a 150-person conference in Dublin in 2009. Its newest event, Web Summit Vancouver, launched in May 2025.