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Startup Genome & Qatar Development Bank Partner to Grow Qatar's Startup Ecosystem

QDB and Startup Genome unite to research and develop entrepreneurial advances in Qatar

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — MARCH 10, 2022 — <u>Startup Genome</u> and <u>Qatar Development Bank</u> (QDB) announced a collaboration that involves research and cooperation on multiple levels to further support and accelerate the impressive growth of Qatar's dynamic startup ecosystem.

With more than 100 clients across six continents in 45+ countries to date, Startup Genome is the leading research and policy advisory organization for governments and private institutions committed to advancing their startup ecosystems. Startup Genome's Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER), the world's most comprehensive and widely-read research on startups, will highlight Qatar's startup ecosystem in the 2022 edition of the report. QDB's new partnership with Startup Genome will create more opportunities for local startups to get national and international exposure.

"Qatar has been investing steadily in its entrepreneurs and innovators as an engine of economic growth and sustainable career opportunities for its people," shares JF Gauthier, Founder and CEO of Startup Genome. "We are delighted to partner with QDB to extend Qatar's momentum as a rising startup hub."

Commenting on the significance of this partnership, QDB's Acting CEO Mr. Abdulrahman Hesham Al Sowaidi said: "This new partnership with Startup Genome is

important for QDB to place Qatar on the global map of entrepreneurial ecosystems. It is in line with our strategy of enhancing economic diversification, facilitating growth opportunities, and opening up regional and international markets for the private sector. We are committed to leverage QDB's distinguished partnerships, such as the one we have with Startup Genome, to enable Qatari entrepreneurs to attract opportunities and expand their footprint internationally".

QDB has continued to support the development of a robust local entrepreneurial ecosystem to contribute to Qatar's economic diversification through globally-competitive small and medium enterprises. Owned by the State of Qatar, QDB is headquartered in Doha, stimulating a vibrant and diversified private sector, in order to build a knowledge-based integrated economy and pivot from Qatar's dependence on the hydrocarbon industry. The bank supports the development of the local private sector through financing solutions, advisory services, entrepreneurial training and mentorship programs to inspire the Qatari youth to innovate and compete in the global market.

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