



# R&D Program – Monthly Newsletter

From December 2017 to February 2018, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has undertaken key activities to realize the Ministry's objective to launch and provide stewardship for a bold, integrated set of transformative science and technology-related initiatives, aligned to Vision 2030.

## MOE R&D Program

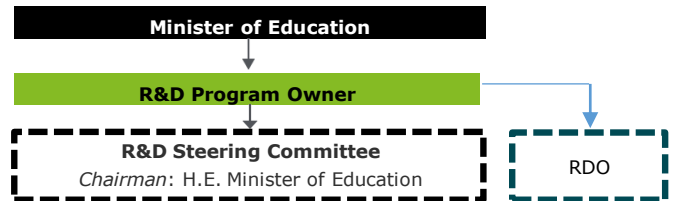
The MOE R&D Steering Committee was formally constituted in December 2017, with a second meeting held in February 2018. The Committee is chaired by H.E. The Minister Dr. Ahmed Al-Issa.

The establishment of the Steering Committee marks a major milestone, as it will be the forum for coordination across the R&D ecosystem and to advance capacity-building initiatives.

Simultaneously, H.E. The Minister will imminently be launching the Research & Development Office (RDO) within the MOE. The RDO will act as the secretariat for the steering committee, ensuring planning and delivery of the full portfolio of priority R&D initiatives.

*Key issues addressed to date by the Steering Committee include:*

- R&D capabilities & priorities of public universities
- R&D needs of the government and private sector
- Progress on the high-priority initiatives identified for accelerated implementation by the MOE



### Members of the MOE R&D Steering Committee

H.E. Minister of Education	H.E. Rector of KAU	SABIC VP of Tech & Innovation
H.E. Rector of KFUPM	KACST VP for Scientific Research Support	ARAMCO Director of R&D
H.E. Rector of UQU	Chairman of RCJY	Director General of MOE VRO
H.E. Rector of KSU	KAUST Interim President	Three local and international R&D experts

## R&D Stakeholder Engagement

Over the course of December and January, the MOE has engaged with a diverse group of stakeholders from the public universities, private sector, and other MOE-affiliated bodies to both better understand pressing challenges faced in the R&D ecosystem, as well as inform them about the mandate and priority initiatives that the MOE will be undertaking in 2018.





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Three strategic initiatives have been prioritized by the MOE for immediate implementation in 2018.



## Post-Doctoral Program



The MOE Post-Doctoral Program will support outstanding early career researchers in MOE public universities via three-year post-doctoral appointments, thereby developing the research capabilities of our universities.

- A total of 100 three-year Fellowships will be awarded in 2018, for post-doctoral research in STEM disciplines. Further fellowships will be awarded in 2019 and 2020.
- Request for proposals will be issued in March 2018, with a five-week submission period.
- An MOE panel will adjudicate awards in April 2018, for appointment of Fellows to the 2018-19 academic year.
- Awards will support post-doc positions in research labs, research consumables, and university funding for a post-doctoral training program.



## Research Capital Fund



The Research Capital Fund will provide MOE public universities with funding to maintain and upgrade existing research infrastructure and to procure cutting-edge technology.

- MOE Public universities will be eligible for "Floor Funding" to maintain existing infrastructure. This grant will be allocated based on the institution's R&D intensity.
- "Strategic Funding" will also be provided (on a competitive basis), for universities to procure "game changing" research equipment.
- Research Capital Fund details and allocations will be communicated to all qualifying public universities in March.



## International Collaboration Conference



The MOE International Collaboration Conference will offer a platform for academic & industry researchers to explore developing international partnerships to enhance R&D capacity in KSA.

- The Conference will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2018, with approximately 200 invitees expected to attend.
- The Conference will cover five priority research fields, aligned to Vision 2030.
- The event will seek to foster tangible collaboration agreements between Saudi researchers and international research entities.
- An International Collaboration Fund will be established to select and finance a number of joint research proposals.