



## R&D Program – Monthly Newsletter

The R&D Program was launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2017, announcing 24 initiatives within its scope. In this month's newsletter, we would like to share with you the **3 high priority initiatives** that will be launched in 2017 as well as the results of the **survey** that was sent with last month's newsletter issue.



### High-priority Initiatives

A long list of 24 initiatives have gone through an extensive prioritization process to ensure that the most impactful and feasible initiatives are selected and launched in 2017. The prioritization process has been designed by a team of local and international experts that have significant and relevant R&D experience in US, UK, KSA, etc. The key criteria of the prioritization process included (but not limited to) the overall impact on the ecosystem, feasibility of the initiative, impact on the R&D value chain etc. As a result of this process, the following initiatives have been identified as high priority initiatives to be launched in 2017:

#### High Priority Initiatives



##### International Collaboration

Developing a legal and standardized national framework to facilitate effective international collaborations (removing barriers); equipping local universities with a mechanism to establish international collaborations, and provide funding for universities to facilitate effective and attractive partnership proposals. (There are many elements of collaboration which include faculty exchange, joint curriculum development, joint degrees and data sharing).



##### Post-doc Training and Support Program

Provide universities with additional funds to specifically increase post-doc positions in KSA universities, and support post-doc training. This will emphasize the need to develop Post-Doc programs (including establishing a career path for post-doc candidates) to improve the attractiveness and appeal for local, returning and foreign PhD students.



##### National Innovation Fund

Building a long term "third stream" of funding to universities (in addition to core teaching and research funding) to support universities in developing capacity and capability for downstream phases of R&D (i.e. knowledge transfer, commercialization). Initially the objective would be to build capacity through core funding to all universities. Later, funding could be based on related performance and outcomes. Support for universities can also extend to providing consultancy and training.





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### Survey Results

More than 25% of the ecosystem stakeholders placed the following initiatives in their top 5 priorities:

xx%

Percent of survey participants who put this initiative as top 5 initiative



Already selected as a high priority initiative

#### Stakeholder's priorities

Research Capital Program

56%

University/ Industry Partnership Program

56%

Post-Doc Training and Support Program

56%

Technology & Innovation Centers

37%

PhD Scholarship Facilitation

33%

National Innovation Fund

30%

Technology Transfer Offices

26%

Start-up Support Program

26%

International Collaboration

26%





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## Survey Results

We would like to thank all of the participants for their valuable comments:

### R&D Challenges

Lack of sustainability of funds dedicated to research

Little support for research organizations

Very slow and inefficient purchasing system for equipment

Absence of Post-Doctoral Program (PDP)

No financial structure dedicated to provide enough financial support post-graduate program

Slow cycle of research fund & execution from opening call for project submission until the project closure

Lack of engagement and contribution of private sector

### Recommendations

Collaborate with international experts

Maximize industry's contribution to R&D

Utilize cross-disciplinary scientists to achieve innovative

Reach out to public to spread the message of R&D

### General Comments

*"Thanks for your valuable effort. Just want to emphasize on supporting young universities."*

*"They are excellent initiatives, but require thorough follow up."*

*"Initiatives have to be sponsored by steering committee and evaluated accordingly with a clear timeline."*

*"I hope that such initiatives would enable universities to play its inevitable role as think tanks supporting national development."*

