

# Director of the Government Communications Office Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor Al Thani to lead the State of Qatar delegation to Web Summit 2024 in Lisbon

Lisbon - November 8, 2024

Today, Web Summit is announcing that the State of Qatar's official delegation to Web Summit Lisbon, led by Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour bin Jabor Al Thani, Director of the Government Communications Office (GCO), will include some of the country's most promising startups, thought leaders on innovation, business, and national development, as well as the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA). The event, running from November 11-14, will welcome 70,000 founders, investors, and cultural icons from around the world.

Just as tech leaders fly to Web Summit Qatar from all over the world, Qatari companies are heading to Web Summit in Lisbon for global exposure, leveraging the event's international platform to connect with investors, partners, and industry leaders. Lisbon offers incredible access to the global market, fostering collaboration and innovation across borders.

Speakers from Qatar at Web Summit 2024 include Government Communications Office Director [Sheikh Jassim bin Mansour Al Thani](#); [HE Saad bin Ali Al Kharji - Chairman at Qatar Tourism](#); [Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Faisal Al Thani - CEO at Qatar Free Zones Authority](#); [Invest Qatar CEO Sheikh Ali bin Alwaleed Al-Thani](#) - who will speak alongside Qatar Development Bank CEO Abdulrahman Hesham Al-Sowaidi on the transformative power of foreign investment and public-private partnerships in driving economic development and diversification; [QIA Head of Technology, Media & Telecommunications Mohammed Al-Hardan](#) - it was announced in February 2024 that QIA was establishing a \$1 billion venture capital fund of funds aimed at attracting both international and regional VC firms. Al-Hardan will discuss how AI is transforming our workforce on Web Summit's Centre Stage. Joining the lineup of speakers, additionally, is [Fatima Al Kuwari](#) - Chief Human Resources & Sustainability Officer at Ooredoo.

[On Tuesday at a press conference at Web Summit's media village](#), Invest Qatar will announce its first cohort of startups selected through the Startup Qatar Investment Program. They will receive substantial funding and support. Chosen from around the world for their innovation and potential impact, the selected startups represent industries ranging from e-gaming to healthtech.

The Qatar delegation will be hosting a Pavillion on the Web Summit floor which will showcase the startups who have been accepted to the Startup Qatar Program. These startups will also present their businesses and talk about their experiences on the program on stage at 16:15 on Tuesday, November 12.

**Success of Web Summit Qatar 2024**

Last year's Web Summit Qatar exceeded expectations, drawing 15,000 attendees and hosting 1,000 startups - the largest number for an inaugural event - from over 118 countries. It marked the largest and most globally diverse startup gathering in the region, with participants connecting with investors and partners from Qatar, USA, Egypt, Brazil, Italy, Nigeria, UK, India and beyond. Among the startup cohort, nearly 200 hailed from Africa, and over 100 were part of the event's Impact program, which focuses on tech for good. Notably, nearly one-third of the attending startups were founded by women.

The global tech event attracted world leaders including HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar; Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan; entertainment icons such as Emmy-winning South African comedian Trevor Noah and Bollywood actress and singer Nora Fatehi; plus business leaders including WPP CEO Mark Read and Whoop founder and CEO Will Ahmed.

QIA launched a \$1 billion venture capital fund of funds aimed at attracting both international and regional VC firms, focusing on fintech, edtech, and healthcare sectors. Announced at Web Summit Qatar, this initiative seeks to enhance the startup ecosystem, and improve access to funding in Qatar and the wider Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

Many of the 1,000 startups who attended Web Summit Qatar have already received funding off the back of connections made at Web Summit Qatar. According to Crunchbase, a cumulative \$269 million has been raised by Blend, Colendi, OTO, YoLa Fresh, podeo., Kebotix, kofa.co, OpenOrigins, Winich Inc, Chowdeck to name a few. hapondo was recently acquired by Kuwaiti Protech who they met at Web Summit Qatar.

24 memoranda of understanding were signed at Web Summit Qatar 2024: and the event facilitated the successful registration of over 100 companies through the Qatar Financial Centre, marking a significant achievement. Additionally, the number of new companies registered with the Qatar Financial Centre surged by over 230 percent in the first half of 2024, reaching a total of 505 companies—a remarkable increase driven by their active engagement at Web Summit Qatar 2024. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology also launched the Digital Agenda 2030 live on stage, outlining a roadmap for a knowledge-based economy in Qatar.

Qatar also unveiled its startup investment program at Web Summit Qatar 2024, aiming to attract seed and growth-stage tech companies seeking to establish or expand operations in the country. The program, known as the "Startup Qatar Investment Program" is an initiative led by Invest Qatar and backed by a \$100 million fund.

### **What to expect for Web Summit Qatar 2025**

The second edition of Web Summit Qatar has already gained widespread traction. The event will gather over 20,000 attendees, more than 1,500 startups, 600 investors and 1,000 members of the media. Applications to the startup program have grown by 50percent, while country delegations are set to expand by 30percent year-over-year.

Web Summit Qatar will feature global innovators sharing insights and expertise across diverse fields. Speakers include Hosam Arab, CEO of Tabby, advancing financial freedom in Saudi Arabia; Sara Sabry, founder of the UAE's Deep Space Initiative and the first Arab and African woman in space; Yassine Saidi, Chief Product Officer at Under Armour; Kevin Mayer, Co-CEO of Candle Media, previously headed Disney's global streaming platforms; Joy Robins, Global Chief Advertising Officer of The New York Times; Betsabeh Madani Hermann, Global Head of Research at Philips; GV Ravishankar, Managing Director at India's Peak XV; Robby Yung, CEO of Animoca Brands; Noor Sweid, founder of Global Ventures in the UAE; Alex Reben, Artist in Residence at OpenAI; and Amani Alazzam, Jordan's Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy.

Some of the top partners at Web Summit 2025 will include TikTok, Shell, Qatar Airways, Snap, Microsoft, KPMG, Huawei, QNB, Palo Alto Networks, EY and Fortinet. They will exhibit alongside international trade delegations from Germany, India, Spain, Netherlands, Thailand, Bahrain, Portugal, Turkey, Pakistan and Oman.

#### **About Web Summit:**

Web Summit is a technology events company, 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, will launch in May 2025.

#### **About Web Summit 2024:**

Web Summit will return in 2024 with more than 70,000 attendees, including 1,000-plus investors and an all-time record of 3,000 startups. The event will have a fresh focus on promoting meaningful connections and communities through meetups, powered by Summit Engine, Web Summit's proprietary software. "This will be our biggest, but also our smallest, event yet", explained Web Summit founder and CEO Paddy Cosgrave. Web Summit will invite attendees to at least one curated meetup based on their interest and backgrounds.

Companies that will be partnering and speaking at this year's event include Microsoft, Meta, Alibaba.com, Adobe, Visa, KPMG, Signal, LVMH, SAP, Salesforce, Qualcomm and more. Web Summit will also host trade delegations from Italy, Ukraine, Brazil, the UAE, Kosovo, Latvia, Turkey, Qatar, Serbia, France and Austria, and welcome Ozempic creator and Europe's most valuable company, Novo Nordisk, to the event for the first time.

#### **Useful links:**

- [Web Summit website](#)
- [Web Summit Flickr](#)
- [Web Summit YouTube](#)