



National Research Foundation
الهيئة الوطنية للبحث العلمي

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة التعليم العالي
والبحوث العلمي

Science Diplomacy with the Arab Peninsula; Opportunities for R&D Collaboration in Medical & Health Sciences

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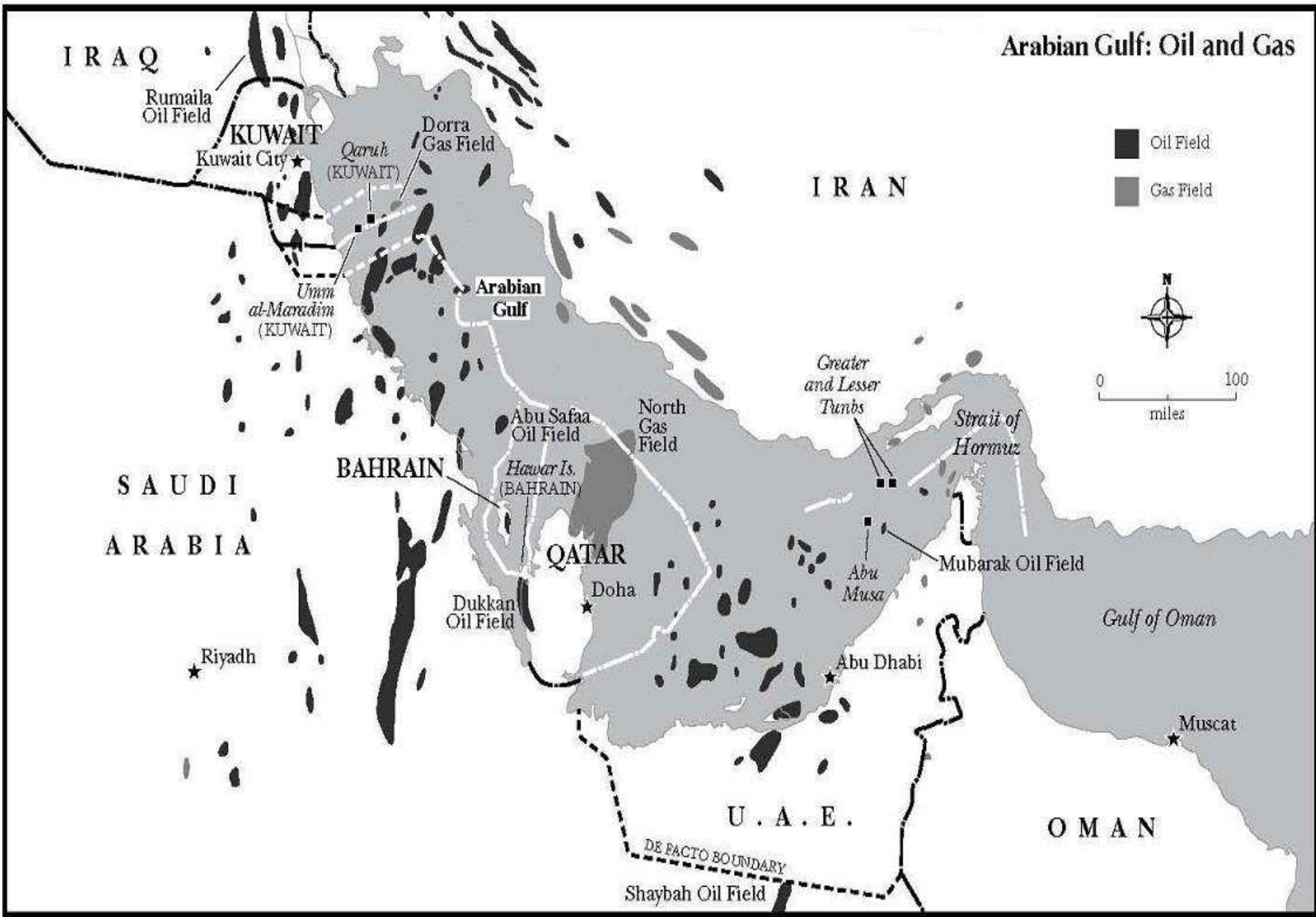
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Agenda

- ① Who are we?
- ① What do we want to achieve with respect to R&D and STI?
- ① What do we want from European partners?
- ① What do we need from European partners?
- ① What is our capability in Medical & Health Sciences research?
- ① What are the next steps?

Arabian Gulf: Oil and Gas

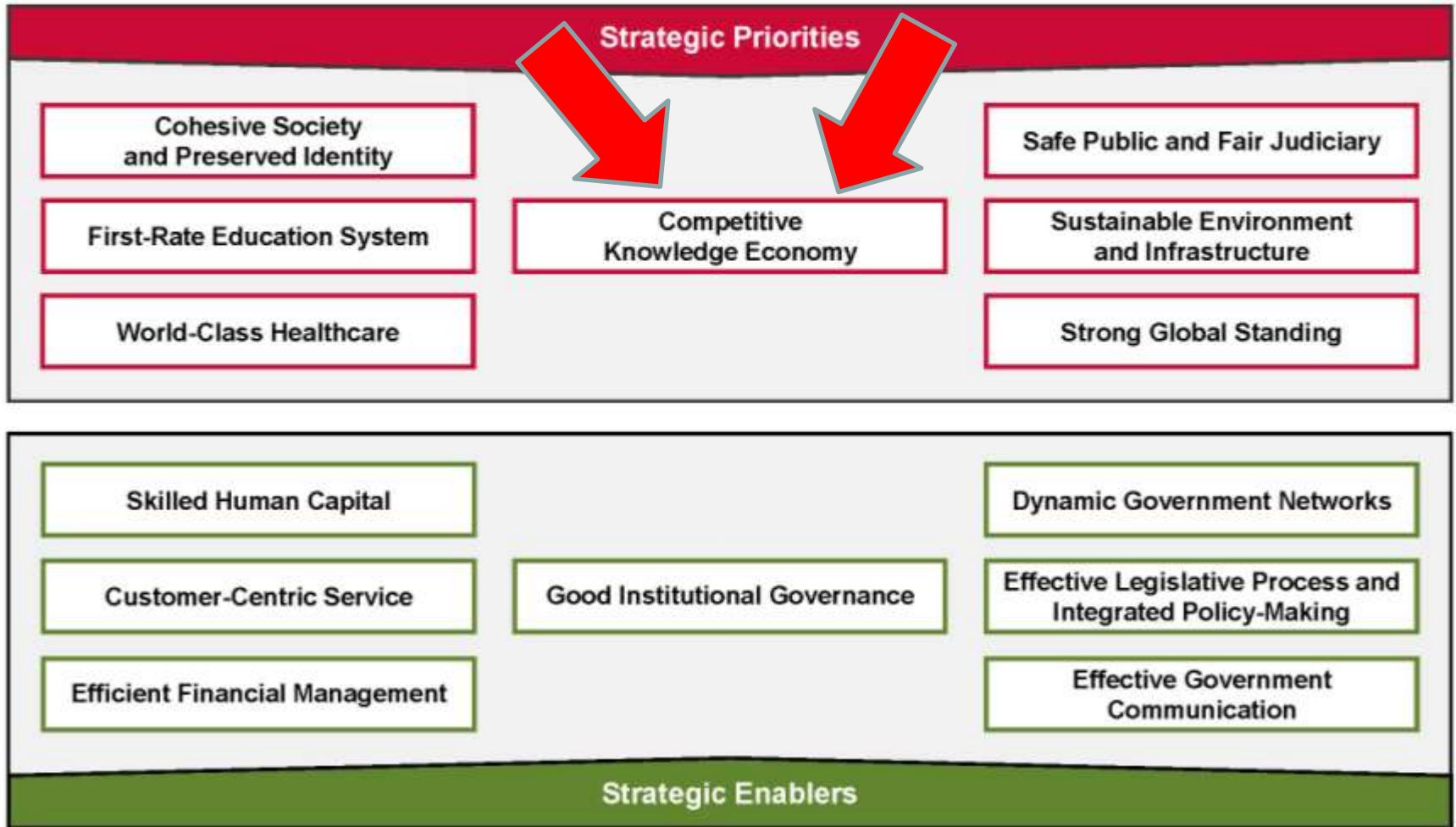




7 Strategic Priorities and 7 Strategic Enablers constitute the UAE Government Strategic Directions



UAE Government Strategic Directions





Major Direction	Sub-Directions
6 Improve the business environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enhance the ease of doing business across the UAE
7 Promote exports and enforce the UAE's position in international trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Diversify trading partners and composition of exports▪ Encourage high value-added industrial sectors through modern and effective policies
8 Promote and enhance innovation, research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Promote intellectual property (IP) development and protect IP rights▪ Enhance research and development capabilities that are aligned with national priorities, while focusing on the development of National capacities in this area▪ Encourage cooperation with the private sector and international institutions in innovation and applied research▪ Explore new channels of funding for research▪ Build and disseminate a database of research conducted within the UAE
9 Ensure consumer protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop policies to protect consumer rights



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National Research Foundation (NRF); who are we?

- Established in March 2008 as research & innovation capacity building and research funding agency
- Provides advice to government on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy
- Funds research in universities on a competitive basis
- Uses international peer reviews to select only the most competitive projects that must provide tangible benefits to the country
- Supports programs aimed at increasing *national* research & innovation capacity in UAE



NRF Guiding Principles

- ***Excellence:*** support high-quality and innovative research that is locally relevant and internationally recognized.
- ***Strategic direction:*** support research in areas of national priority that delivers the greatest benefits to the UAE.
- ***Accountability:*** use transparent processes consistent with international best-practice.
- ***Partnership:*** Encourage partnerships among universities, research institutes and centers, government, and industry at the local, national, and international level.



What do we want to achieve with respect to R&D and STI policy?

- ① Expand innovation opportunities, particularly in medical & health sciences.
- ① Participate in pre-competitive major R&D collaborations in medical & health sciences.
- ① Undertake high impact research in medical & health sciences with major research projects and infrastructures.
- ① Large scale projects operating as distributed models require leadership, standard setting, interoperability and the right framework for partnership; Europe is best placed to provide this.



What do we want to achieve with respect to R&D and STI policy?

- ① The distributed model of large scale R&D collaboration needs regional hubs and partners.
- ① NRF is able to provide regional leadership to bring local partners from the GCC and Arab Peninsula to join large scale collaborative medical & health science research projects
- ① Europe can provide leadership via the right policy environment with instruments, standards, protocols etc.
- ① Europe can create the new platform for medical & health science innovation; GCC can leverage off this.
- ① NRF can be the gateway to a regional hub for medical and health science research.



What do we want from European partners?

- To access the new emerging medical & health science pre-competitive research platforms, particularly bio banking and IT for Medicine.
- To address global health challenges together with European partners.
- To be involved in major research projects with the potential for game changing medical and health breakthroughs and innovations.
- Appreciation that NRF is committed to the same standards of research excellence that characterize European research.



What do we need from European partners?

- A strong coherent and transparent policy framework to support global challenge research in medical & health sciences.
- Instruments that enable global challenge research projects in medical & health sciences.
- Instruments that enable NRF to lead a regional hub of medical and health science researchers from GCC to participate in the EU medical, biological and health science infrastructures.



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What is our capability in Medical & Health Sciences Research?



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What are the next steps?

- ① Undertake a major event in Dubai next year
- ① This event will showcase the pre-competitive, innovation enhancing European infrastructure R&D platforms in bio banking and IT for Medicine to potential Arab Peninsula partners.
- ① High level commitment from Europe to participate in this event.



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THANK YOU...