

WISE SHOWCASES WORK OF AWARD-WINNING EDUCATION LAUREATE TO AMERICAN AUDIENCE

Washington Event Presents Work of WISE to High-Level International Audience

Doha, Qatar, 1 May 2016 – The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) recently hosted a high-level working luncheon, honouring the WISE Prize for Education Laureate, Dr Sakena Yacoobi, at the 'Newseum' in Washington, DC.

The event, focusing on Dr Yacoobi's work as the winner of the WISE Prize For Education, was hosted by Mr Andrew Rotherham, co-founder of Bellwether Education Partners, and by Mr Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE. It also provided an excellent opportunity to bring the work of WISE, an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), to the attention of an audience of high-level international stakeholders.

Dr Yacoobi, a US citizen who founded the 'Afghan Institute of Learning' (AIL), has worked diligently for over 20 years to bring education to those suffering from the effects of war, displacement and oppression under Taliban rule in her native Afghanistan.

During the event, Dr Yacoobi shared her personal experiences and described the diverse strategies AIL uses to provide access to education and crucial healthcare services for young people and their families. In addition, the organisation endeavours to provide training programmes to educate communities about general health, hygiene and nutrition.

Engaging guests in an informal conversation, Mr Yiannouka praised Dr Yacoobi for her creative dedication and personal courage in spite of the many difficult circumstances she has encountered. He added that Dr Yacoobi is an inspiration for all who are committed to empowerment through education.

Among the local guests were Ms Mary Landrieu, former Senator from Louisiana; Mr John Engler, President of the Business Roundtable and former Governor of Michigan; Mr Roger Nozaki of the US Department of Education; Ms Katherine Haley of the Philanthropy Roundtable; Mr Giuseppe Basili of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation; and Ms Krishanti Vignarajah of the White House.

Also in attendance were Ms Sara Al-Saadi from the Embassy of the State of Qatar in the United States, and other diplomatic representatives and US government officials, as well as several senior representatives of the US media.

Image Captions:

Image 1: The WISE Prize for Education Laureate Dr Sakena Yacoobi with Ms Mary Landrieu, former Senator from Louisiana.

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About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

WISE was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate, and purposeful action. Through its authoritative research series and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. As a testament to QF's commitment to a knowledge economy, WISE is building the future of education through empowerment and collaboration.

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Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>