

PRESS RELEASE

WISE RELEASES 2015 SURVEY RESULTS: CONNECTING EDUCATION TO THE REAL WORLD

In Survey Conducted By Gallup, WISE Community Calls For More Collaboration Between Schools And Employers

Doha, Qatar, 3 November, 2015 – The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) today released the results of its 2015 survey: *Connecting Education to the Real World*, targeting its global community. Measuring the effectiveness of education systems around the world, the respondents identify major gaps in how education systems are preparing students for work, and call for closer collaboration with employers and more emphasis on teacher quality.

Established in 2009 by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), WISE is a global initiative that helps build the future of education through innovation and collaboration. A testament to QF's commitment to realising the Qatar National Vision 2030, it also supports the country's journey toward establishing a knowledge-based economy.

The results of the 2015 WISE Education Survey, which is based on responses from 1,550 members of the WISE global community from 149 countries including Qatar, indicate that members are largely critical of the job that education systems are doing, including the key task of preparing students for the workforce.

Three-quarters of the diverse WISE community surveyed are dissatisfied with the overall education system in their countries. Only **34 per cent** of respondents believe his or her country's education system has improved in the past decade; **29 per cent** say it has worsened.

The lack of integration with employers is seen as a key challenge in post-secondary education.

Less than half of those surveyed believe the system is preparing university students for success in work.

Seven in ten (69 per cent) of the WISE community respondents say that preparing students for the world of work is the responsibility of the university, not employers. But only **39 per cent** believe universities in their countries are adequately preparing students for the workplace.

62 per cent of those surveyed identify lack of work or internship opportunities that prepare students for jobs as the top challenge in post-secondary education. They believe the best way to achieve better work readiness is through more collaboration between schools and employers, giving students ample opportunity to exercise the skills they learn in real world classrooms.

"We know that project-based learning can provide the dynamic, cross-curricular environment that engages and inspires students more deeply, and develops self-confidence. The collaborative, teamwork focuses on real-world problems and challenges can produce better outcomes than conventional approaches," commented Dr Asmaa Alfadala, Director of Research, WISE.

The quality of teachers at the primary and secondary levels is a key challenge.

A large majority of respondents recommend strengthening the teaching profession and harnessing technology to supplement and support high-quality teachers. They also called for fostering more collaboration between schools and employers.

When asked which of eight education challenges are the most problematic for primary and secondary schools in their countries, **60 per cent** of the community surveyed selected teacher quality.

Separately, **59 per cent** of respondents believe teachers are not treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

In terms of addressing teacher quality, **78 per cent** of WISE experts believe school systems in their countries would be better off if more funds were allocated to recruiting and retraining high quality teachers than on improving technology in schools.

But this was not an indication that the respondents do not value technology. 82 per cent say technology-based solutions can improve education in disadvantaged areas; **74 per cent** say technology helps all students learn better.

The WISE survey was conducted by Gallup, an American research-based, global performance-management consulting company. The respondents included teachers, students, recent graduates, education policy makers, and members of the private sector who are connected with WISE on education reform issues.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Gallup conducted the survey in August, 2015 via the web; the results are being released on the occasion of WISE 2015, 3-5 November, in Doha, Qatar.

The survey findings include results focusing on geographical regions, based on the views of the respondents from those regions. These regional-level findings reflect only the views of the individuals from those regions who participated in the survey.

For the full survey results, including further details on the key findings, and comments from international thought leaders, please consult the attached Executive Summary of the survey, which is also available at <http://www.wise-qatar.org/education-real-world-skills-gap>

For further information about WISE, please visit: www.wise-qatar.org.

About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

Qatar Foundation, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser launched the World Innovation Summit for Education in 2009. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate and purposeful action. WISE has established itself as a global reference in new approaches to education. As a testament to QF's commitment to a knowledge economy, WISE is promoting a range of on-going programs toward building the future of education through collaboration. The WISE 2015 Summit is taking place take place 3-5 November, in Doha.

About Qatar Foundation - Unlocking human potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development is a private non-profit organisation supporting the State of Qatar in the process of turning carbon-based economy to a knowledge economy by unlocking human capabilities, including the benefit of the State of Qatar and the entire world. Qatar Foundation was founded in 1995 on the initiative of a His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Qatar Foundation is committed to achieving its mission overall strategy for education, science, and community development through the establishment of the education sector that attracts world-class universities to Qatar to enable young people to acquire the skills and behaviors necessary for the knowledge-based economy. It also supports innovation and technology through innovative solutions derived from the basic scientific fields. The Foundation is also contributing to the creation of a developed society and the promotion of cultural life and the preservation of heritage and to meet the immediate needs of the community.

For all Qatar Foundation initiatives and projects, please visit the website: <http://www.qf.org.qa>