

3 JANUARY 2016

## **WORLD INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR EDUCATION HOLDS FIRST RESIDENTIAL SESSION OF THE LEARNERS' VOICE PROGRAM 2015-16**

*The Program Will Be Held in Doha and Includes Workshops on Leadership and Communications Skills*

**Doha, Qatar, 3 January 2016:** For the third consecutive year, the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Learners' Voice Program will host a residential session in Doha, bringing together 33 young learners, including three Qataris, for an intensive ten-day workshop on education leadership at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

The 2015-16 students, who began their journey at the November WISE Summit, will attend the first of two core residential sessions from 4th to 12th January 2016, which are designed to impart a foundational understanding of key concepts and evolving trends in education, as well as knowledge of pressing global education challenges.

WISE, a global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), is closely aligned to QF's mission of helping to transform Qatar into a knowledge-based economy, and through its youth-empowerment initiative it brings the voice of young people to the challenge of rethinking education.

Specialists from the Yale World Fellows Program will hold a series of dynamic workshops in leadership and communication skills. The focus on education, leadership, and communication is designed to support the participants as they research and develop a variety of innovative projects throughout the year-long programme. The second residential session of the Learners' Voice Program will be held in June in Madrid.

The 2015-16 learners were chosen from over 1,300 applications submitted from around the world. Learners' Voice has had a lasting impact on its participants as it has evolved to include residential sessions, online activities and the development of group projects. A successful story is that of the Orenda Project developed during the 2013-14 Learners' Voice Program by four students from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar (GU-Q) and one student from the UK's University of Warwick. The Orenda Project is based on the concept of co-creation as a way to increase access to education and works directly with target populations to establish schools in a sustainable, community-driven way.

The Learners' Voice Program was established in 2010 as an initiative of WISE with the intention of engaging the perspectives and creative energies of young people in debates around important education issues and challenges. This year's learners, aged 18-25, collectively represent 29 countries, and will benefit from the expertise of the WISE team and global education specialists including faculty from Yale University and Babson College. The Learners' Voice Program is supported by its partners Banco Santander through its Universities Global Division.

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### **About the World Innovation Summit for Education:**

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. WISE is 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.

**About Santander Universities Global Division:**

Banco Santander, through its Santander Universities Global Division, maintains more than 1100 collaborative agreements with universities and research centers worldwide. Since 1996, Santander Universities has been the focus of the bank's social action with an investment of over 1 billion Euros in various initiatives and university projects. Further information is available at [www.santander.com/universidades](http://www.santander.com/universidades)

**About 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>