

2016 WISE AWARDS FINALISTS REVEALED

Fifteen Projects Chosen for Innovative and Impactful Approaches to Most Pressing Educational Challenges

Doha, Qatar, 5 May 2016 – The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) has revealed the names of the 15 2016 WISE Awards finalists. The awards are designed to identify and promote the most innovative and effective approaches to key global education challenges, and help to build a network of change-makers to inspire others around the world.

Selected by a pre-jury of international education experts, the 2016 WISE Awards finalists offer creative solutions in access, quality education, the teaching of STEM – science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – and entrepreneurial skills. Together, they address a wide range of issues that represent common global challenges.

This year's projects are Geekie; Ideas Box; Sports for Sharing; Smart Robot Coding School; Glowork; Tara Akshar Literacy Program; Lights for Learning; Partners for Possibility; Little Ripples; Jump Math; Youth for Technology Academy; Sonidos de la Tierra; 1Kgbox; Education for Growth and Value Creation in Lebanon; and From Puppets to Empowerment.

The WISE Awards finalist projects were selected according to strict criteria requiring them to demonstrate innovative thinking and a concrete, positive impact on their communities, as well as the potential to be replicated in other contexts and regions. The WISE Awards jury will determine the six winners; they will be announced in September 2016. In addition to publicity and networking opportunities, each winning project will receive \$20,000.

The pre-jury included Mr Kamel Braham, Program Leader at the World Bank Human Development Program for the Maghreb; Dr Rajika Bhandari, Director at the IIE Center for Academic Mobility Research, USA; Dr Joyce Akumaa Dongotey-Padi, the Executive Director of Mama Zimbi Foundation, a 2009 WISE Awards winner from Ghana; Mr Adel Boseli, Head of Incubation Department, Qatar Business Incubation Center; Dr Rana Dajani, Founder and Director, We Love Reading, and Associate Professor, the Hashemite University, 2014 WISE Awards Winner, Jordan; Professor Sara de Freitas, Pro Vice Chancellor of Learning and Teaching, Murdoch University, United Kingdom; Mr Xueqin Jiang, Deputy Principal, Tsinghua International School, China; Ms Sheetal Mehta, Trustee and Executive Director of K. C. Mahindra Education Trust (KCMET); Ms Anna Penido, Director, Inspirare Institute, Brazil; Mr Gabriel Sanchez Zinny, Founder and CEO, Kuepa, USA/Argentina; and Dr Florence Tobo Lobé the Founder and President of the Rubisadt Foundation in Cameroon.

Dr Tobo Lobé commented on her experience of being part of the pre-jury, saying: "I feel honoured and proud to have had the opportunity to assess enriching projects fostering peace, well-being and growth in communities worldwide. The WISE Awards are an excellent way to scale and update strategies for more beneficiaries and to build for better lives for worldwide citizens."

The World Innovation Summit for Education was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the guidance of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. For further information about WISE and the WISE Awards, please visit www.wise-qatar.org/wise-awards

-Ends-

NOTES TO EDITORS

The 2015 WISE Awards Finalists:

- Geekie, Brazil <http://www.geekie.com.br/>
- Ideas Box, France <http://www.librarieswithoutborders.org/index.php/news-and-events/lwb-news/item/291-the-ideas-box-a-portable-multi-media-kit-for-emergency-humanitarian-situations>
- Sports for Sharing, Mexico <http://en.educacionparacompartir.org/>
- Smart Robot Coding School, South Korea <http://robotcoding.io/page/index.html>
- Glowork, Saudi Arabia <https://www.glowork.net/>
- Tara Akshar Literacy Program, India <http://taraakshar.org/>
- Lights for Learning, Spain/Latin America <http://lucsparaaaprender.org/web/>
- Partners for Possibility, South Africa <http://www.pfp4sa.org/>
- Little Ripples, USA/Chad <http://littleripples.org/>
- Jump Math, USA <http://www.jumpmath.org/>
- Youth for Technology Academy, USA/Nigeria <http://www.youthfortechology.org/>
- Sonidos de la Tierra, Paraguay <http://www.sonidosdelatierra.org.py/>
- 1Kgbox, China <http://bigboxfactory.com/>
- Education for growth and value creation in Lebanon, Lebanon <http://www.prodeslebanon.org/>
- From puppets to empowerment, Bosnia and Herzegovina <http://genesibl.org/index.php/en/>

About the WISE Awards:

Each year the WISE Awards recognize and promote six successful innovative projects that are addressing global education challenges. Since 2009, WISE has received more than 2,800 applications from over 151 countries. Forty-two projects have been recognized around the world from a variety of sectors for their innovative character, their positive contribution and for scalability and adaptability. The six winning projects will be announced in September 2016.

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.