

WISE AND EDTECHXGLOBAL LAUNCH FIRST GLOBAL INDEX OF MAKERS AND SHAKERS IN EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

EdTech Index Celebrates World's Most Innovative Thought Leaders

Doha, Qatar, 7 June 2016 – The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) and EdTechXGlobal have launched the first comprehensive global listing of ground-breaking innovators in education technology.

The 'Makers and Shakers of Education Technology Index' celebrates 50 of the most innovative EdTech thought leaders working across four geographical regions: Europe, the Americas, MENA, and Asia. The 2016 Index honours those luminaries who have introduced creative ways of learning through play, construction, or interactive design; using digital technologies and informed by the needs of modern labour markets.

The initial list of 'Makers and Shakers' was managed by WISE, an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), and EdTechXGlobal, the organisers of the leading education technology-focused conference EdTechXEurope.

The final list of 50 was selected by 15 members of a global advisory committee, comprised of industry leaders from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Google for Education, IDEO, IBIS Capital, Kaizen Private Equity, Learn Capital, LinkedIn, Times Higher Education, and TES Global.

The advisory committee assessed each proposed name against criteria such as individual vision, disruptive innovation, and impact and contribution to education. The 'Makers' are defined as rising stars of education technology, innovating and pushing boundaries for future success; the 'Shakers' are considered to be established leaders in their regions, inspiring worldwide EdTech change.

Stavros N Yiannouka, CEO, WISE, said: "Through this Index, WISE seeks to support creative individuals who are working hard to achieve positive socio-economic impact through education."

"This is the first Index of its kind to recognise success across four geographical regions, but as the EdTech market grows into a global community, we believe it's important to champion innovators and leaders regardless of location," said Benjamin Vedrenne Cloquet, Co-Founder, EdTechXEurope.

"The global EdTech community is working towards the same goal of improving education and making it more accessible through technology. These thought leaders have all demonstrated their commitment to achieving this goal," he added.

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About the Makers and Shakers Education Technology Index:

The WISE and EdTechXGlobal teams preselected 25 names per region for the 'Makers of Education and Technology' and the 'Shakers of Education and Technology' categories. The role of the Advisory Committee was to score each proposed name based on the below criteria. A ranking was then generated to list the final 50 'Makers and Shakers'.

Each criterion was scored from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest score. These were:

- **Individual vision.** The individual demonstrates a powerful and unique vision for the role of technology in education.
- **Disruptive innovation.** The initiative(s) launched by the individual is a creative and disruptive solution to an education challenge, showing innovation in its use of technology, design, methodology and/or practice. The actor is offering new ways of learning and distinguishes himself/herself from other actors in similar fields.
- **Impact and contribution to education.** The impact of the individual in the field of EdTech has been recognized and documented as having a positive impact on its beneficiaries and society at large.

The advisory panel that selected the Makers and Shakers for the Index were:

Americas

Ms Sandy Speicher, Managing Director of the Education Practice, IDEO (USA)

Mr Henry Hipps, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (USA)

Mr Luis Pinto, Global Operations Partner, Learn Capital (USA)

Europe

Ms Liz Sproat, Head of Education, EMEA, Google for Education (UK)

Ms Brigitte Ricou-Bellan, Managing Director, Digital, TES Global (UK)

Mr Benjamin Vedrenne Cloquet, Co-Founder, EdTechXGlobal (France)

Mr Charles McIntyre, CEO, IBIS Capital (UK)

Mr Ross Hall, Director of Education Strategy, Ashoka (UK)

Mr Charles Hardy, Education Engagement Lead, EMEA, LinkedIn (UK)

Mr John Gill, Editor, Times Higher Education (UK)

MENA

Mr Stavros N Yiannouka, CEO, World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), Qatar Foundation (Cyprus/Qatar)

Mr Ravi Raman, Vice President and Associate Publisher, Business Week MENA (UAE)

Asia

Dr Xuening Liu, CEO, JMDedu (China)

Mr Sandeep Aneja, Managing Director, Kaizen Private Equity (India)

Mr Takashi Onogawa, Deputy Manager, Mitsui & Co. (Japan)

About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

Qatar Foundation (QF), 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. Through the Summit and a range of ongoing programmes, WISE has established itself as a global reference in new approaches to education, promoting innovation and partnership.

About EdTechXGlobal:

EdTechXGlobal connects the global EdTech community through an insight, investment and annual thought leadership event series, EdTechXEurope in London and EdTechXAsia in Singapore. The EdTechXGlobal summits bring together executive level investors, innovators, and industry influencers from worldwide education technology companies. Through extensive networking opportunities, the conferences in London and Singapore also aim to connect leading foundations, higher-education institutions, policy makers, and thought leaders from the industry as well.