

## WORLD INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR EDUCATION LEARNERS' VOICE PROGRAMME BEGINS ITS SECOND SESSION IN MADRID

*The Programme Is Building Tomorrow's Education Leaders Through Disruptive Thinking And Social Entrepreneurship*

**Doha, Qatar, 10 June 2015:** The second residential session for the 2014-2015 WISE Learners' Voice Programme is taking place this month in Madrid, Spain. Part of a year-long Executive Education programme, the session engages a group of 33 learners, including a number of Qataris, in a series of dynamic workshops on social entrepreneurship and disruptive thinking led by faculty from Babson College, Boston, USA, and the Madrid-based Studio Banana. The WISE Learners' Voice programme is supported by Banco Santander, through Santander Universities, whose headquarters is in Madrid. The first residential session in the 2014/2015 WISE Learners' Voice Programme took place earlier this year in Doha.

WISE was inaugurated by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. The youth-empowerment initiative helps bring the voice of young people to the building of tomorrow's education, and is a testament to QF's commitment to support the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the country's journey toward establishing a knowledge-based economy.

The WISE Learners' Voice Programme brings the perspectives of young people to the challenge of rethinking education, and equips them to take on leading roles in their fields and in the world of education. The initiative is based on the idea that when learners are co-creators of their learning environments, they become active participants invested as stakeholders in the progress of their communities. The programme focuses on building their knowledge of education and social entrepreneurship, as well as their leadership and communication skills.

In a key component of the programme, the learners form teams to conceive and design grass-roots projects that address critical education challenges. The students collaborate with the Learners' Voice team and visiting faculty to support the development of their projects. This year, the projects address challenges as diverse as accessibility and special needs education to character-building and mobile learning methods.

"When I first heard about the WISE Learners' Voice Programme and its objectives, I knew it was something I had to pursue. As a constant seeker of knowledge and a strong believer in the power of education, I have always wanted to give those who do not have the basic right of education a chance to have one, but I never knew how. The WISE Learners' Voice Programme gives me the ideal venue to take an active part in the debate and do what I have passionately believed in for a long time," said Ahmed Fahad Al-Qahtani, a Qatari participant from the 2014-2015 programme.

Selected projects will be presented at the 2015 WISE Summit, from 3 to 5 November in Qatar.

### **Photo1**

The 2014-2015 WISE Learners' Voice and team at Banco Santander's headquarters in Madrid with Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE, and Salvador Medina, Senior Vice-President Banco Santander.

### **Photo 2**

Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE (right) met with H.E. Jesus Posada, President of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, on the occasion of the WISE Learners residential session in Madrid.

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### **About the 2014-15 Learners' Cohort**

The 2014-15 Learners' Voice cohort consists of 33 Learners representing 26 countries:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Italy, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Vietnam, and Yemen.

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

Qatar Foundation, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, established 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. Through both the annual Summit and a range of ongoing programs WISE is promoting innovation and building the future of education through collaboration. WISE 2015 will take place 3-5 November in Doha.

### **About Santander Universities**

Banco Santander supports this activity through its Santander Universities corporate area ([www.santander.com/universities](http://www.santander.com/universities)). For over 18 years, the bank has been working with universities and academic institutions through an initiative which is unique in the world and that distinguishes it from the rest of the bank and financial institutions. Banco Santander maintains a stable alliance with close to 1,200 academic institutions from all over the world, among them, Qatar Foundation, and until 2018 a total of EUR 1,700 million will be allocated in support of higher education projects.