

MEDIA ALERT

WORLD INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR EDUCATION COLLABORATES WITH EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE TO CREATE SCHOOL LEADERS PROGRAMME

*‘Empowering Leaders Of Learning’ Is Launched With Intensive Two-Day Session On Leadership In
Teaching And Learning*

Doha, Qatar, January 17, 2016: The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), in collaboration with the Education Development Institute (EDI); initiatives of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), have collaborated to launch ‘Empowering Leaders of Learning’. A five-month programme, it has been designed to build and develop leadership capabilities and accelerate improvements in teaching and learning in Qatar.

Twenty-two senior leaders from QF schools were invited to take part in the inaugural two-day session, which was hosted at the Qatar National Convention Centre and made possible in part by ExxonMobil. The meeting was led by Dr Simon Breakspear, Founder and CEO of LearnLabs; an Australia-based project that equips participants with strategies and tools to drive sustainable change in teaching practices.

WISE was established in 2009 under the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation. ‘Empowering Leaders of Learning’ reflects WISE’s dedication to supporting school principals, assistant principals, and head teachers in Qatar, and, in-line with QF’s mission of unlocking human potential, aims to help build the future of education.

Sheikha Noof Ahmed Al-Thani, Executive Director of the Education Development Institute, commented: “At EDI we believe that this programme provides a valuable opportunity for our Qatar Foundation school leaders to be supported in fostering improvements in teaching effectiveness, which will ultimately improve students’ learning. This initial session has provided a solid foundation for our school leaders to implement systematic improvements, and we are very excited to progress with this programme.”

Dr Asmaa E. Al-Fadala, Director of Research at WISE, revealed: “The ‘Empowering Leaders of Learning’ workshop presents the senior members of the participating schools with a unique opportunity to improve their leadership skills with the powerful support of their peers. These intensive sessions help our education leaders to both develop effective new approaches in teaching and achieve their goals for positive change in their classrooms. These meetings will also help school leaders understand what drives resistance to change, and how to set a clear, evidence-based focus for improving teaching practice and student learning outcomes.”

To prepare for the two-day intensive session, the participants were given online tasks, including readings and videos, and were asked to identify an existing “improvement problem” to work on during the training. The programme is based on research in effective teaching strategies, behavioural design, and organisational learning. It is intended to integrate theory and practice with an explicit focus on supporting the improvement agenda that teams are already leading in their schools.

Over the coming months, participants will receive support through in-school coaching related to their unique change projects. They will take part in online ‘community of practice’ sessions to exchange ideas and share experiences with their peers. A second intensive session organised to take place from 1st to 2nd May will focus on developing leadership capabilities. The participants will create a leadership community of support for change, and will receive on-going coaching. By the end of the programme, senior academic participants will have developed the leadership capabilities and experience to support educators in continuously improving their practice. ap

Image Captions

Image 1: Participants of ‘Empowering Leaders of Learning’ gather to drive sustainable change in national teaching practices.

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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 empowerment and collaboration.

Dr Simon Breakspear is known internationally for his practical insights on learning innovation and system reform. As the founder and CEO of LearnLabs, a global learning research and design agency, Simon has advised educational leaders in more than ten countries, helping them to manage disruptive change, develop innovative capabilities and drive continuous improvement for better learning.