

**MEDIA ALERT****WORLD INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR EDUCATION CONCLUDES FIRST RESIDENTIAL SESSION OF LEARNERS'  
VOICE PROGRAM 2015-16**

*Held in Doha, The Session Included Workshops On Leadership And Communications Skills*

**Doha, Qatar, 19 January 2016:** The 2015-16 World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Learners' Voice Program officially kicked off last week, bringing together 33 young learners from around the world, including three Qataris, for an intensive, ten-day residential session at the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha.

The residential session sought to provide learners with a foundational understanding of key concepts and evolving trends in education, and delivered expert training 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 education projects throughout the year-long programme.

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

During the Doha session, the learners examined pressing issues in education and explored innovative approaches. The participants began planning collaborative group projects which identify innovative education solutions to opportunities across the sectors of health, environment, technology, and the arts. As well as various online activities, the learners will participate in a second residential session in Madrid, 30 May to 10 June 2016, where they will participate in workshops on social entrepreneurship and project development. Selected projects will have an opportunity to pitch their proposals to an audience of potential investors, donors, and partners in the fall.

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 facing diverse communities. The 2015-16 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 partners Banco Santander through its Universities Global Division.

**Image Captions**

**Image 1:** The 2015-2016 WISE Learners' Voice cohort with WISE CEO Stavros Yiannouka, along with the wider WISE team and session facilitators, during the just-concluded first residential session held at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

ENDS

**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>

# wise

world innovation summit for education  
مؤتمر القمة العالمي للابتكار في التعليم

an initiative of مؤسسة قطر  
Qatar Foundation 

**WISE House, Villa 7 & 8**  
**Qatar Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 5825 - Doha, Qatar**

—  
[info@wise.org.qa](mailto:info@wise.org.qa)  
[www.wise-qatar.org](http://www.wise-qatar.org)

—  
[facebook.com/wiseqatar](https://facebook.com/wiseqatar)  
[@wise\\_tweets](https://twitter.com/wise_tweets)