

## **WISH SIGNS MOU WITH MENTAL HEALTH FRIENDS ASSOCIATION 'WEYAK'**

*WISH to collaborate with Weyak to promote mental health in Qatar*

**Doha, Qatar, March 20 2017:** The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mental Health Friends Association 'Weyak', to establish a cooperative framework to promote mental health in Qatar.

Weyak is a national voluntary association based in Doha, focused on fostering understanding of mental health issues with outreach activities within the local community and the Arab world. The agreement will allow the two organizations to exchange ideas and information of mental health issues on various platforms including websites, social media and community events. It will also help WISH and Weyak to expand their networks by sharing their affiliations with local and regional organizations, while creating more visibility of Weyak's community outreach within Qatar.

Mohammed Albinali, Executive Director, Weyak, said: "We are a local association and are delighted to collaborate with WISH and Qatar Foundation. We hope that through this MOU and through our cooperation with WISH, we can contribute the future of Qatar's residents and to a better world for all."

The collaboration aims to maximize outreach to a wider community base that enables WISH to carry out research, surveys and disseminate policy and research reports. Furthermore, WISH will partner with and support Weyak at its key mental health events throughout the year in Qatar, and utilize Weyak's network and expertise within the community to jointly develop support groups for caregivers and people with mental health issues.

Egbert Schillings, Chief Executive Officer, WISH, said: "Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation and founder of WISH is a strong champion of mental health causes. We have always embraced this key aspect of human health in our work and sought to educate both policymakers and the public. With Weyak as a partner, we can support the excellent work being done in the local community and in turn directly support the national mental health strategy."

WISH has a longstanding commitment to raising awareness of issues around mental health and developing evidence-based research to address related policy challenges, such as dementia and

autism. In June 2016, WISH partnered with the Atlanta-based Carter Centre Mental Health Program to implement the Rosalynn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Journalism (RCJF) in Qatar. Four Doha-based journalists were then selected to participate in the RCJF training that took place at the Carter Centre in Atlanta, Georgia, from September 12 to 14.

WISH, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), also held a meeting yesterday with the Advisory Board for The Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism in Qatar, chaired by Egbert Schillings. Members of the board include Dr. Salih Al-Marri, General Secretary Assistant for Health Affairs Office, Ministry of Public Health; Mohammed Albinali, Executive Director, Weyak; Everette E. Dennis, Dean of Northwestern University in Qatar; Dr. Javaid Sheikh, Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine Qatar; Dr. Suhaila Ghuloum, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Hamad Medical Corporation and Dr. Muhammad Waqar Azeem, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, Sidra Research and Medical Center.

The board discussed the current work of last year's fellows, the criteria for the second cohort of Qatar-based fellows and the applications process, and looked at ways of further improving the RCJF program for the benefit of Qatar.

### **Photo Captions**

**Image 1:** Mr. Mohammed Al-Binali, Executive Director, Weyak, and Egbert Schillings, Chief Executive Officer, WISH, sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a cooperative framework to promote mental health in Qatar.

**Image 2:** Mr. Mohammed Al-Binali, Executive Director, Weyak, and Egbert Schillings, Chief Executive Officer, WISH, sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a cooperative framework to promote mental health in Qatar.

**-ENDS-**

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

The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) is a global healthcare community dedicated to capturing and disseminating the best evidence-based ideas and practices. WISH is an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) and is under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, its Chairperson.



The inaugural WISH Summit took place in Doha in 2013 and convened more than 1,000 global healthcare leaders. Through international summits and a range of ongoing initiatives, WISH is creating a global community of leading innovators in healthcare policy, research and industry.

Together, they are harnessing the power of innovation to overcome the world's most urgent healthcare challenges and inspire other stakeholders to action.

### **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organization that is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

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 commercializing 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>