

## PROFESSIONAL TRUST NEEDED TO POSITIVELY IMPACT GLOBAL EDUCATION

*Revised WISE-RSA Report Inspires International Best Practices Debate*

**Doha, Qatar, 29 March 2016** – Increased professional trust is needed to support teachers in the global education community, a recent meeting in London co-hosted by the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) and the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) revealed.

The gathering discussed the necessity of professional confidence to support the inclusion of innovative and effective teaching methods in primary and secondary school systems. The meeting also marked the release of the revised WISE-RSA report entitled ‘Creative Public Leadership: How School System Leaders Can Create the Conditions for System-wide Innovation’.

The event was chaired by Stavros Yiannouka, CEO, WISE. Mr Yiannouka introduced the organisation as an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, and discussed its commitment to innovation, action and partnership in education.

According to Mr Yiannouka, “unprecedented challenges” were becoming “more diverse, more complex, less sustainable, and less equal,” making reforms to the international education system more crucial than ever. He also emphasised the updated report’s focus on, “how to create public education systems that are conducive to widespread innovation and possess the capacities to adopt and scale innovations that are shown to work.”

The main authors of the report, Joe Hallgarten, Director of Creative Learning and Development at the RSA, and Valerie Hannon, Director and Co-Founder of the Innovation Unit, also attended the event and commented on their findings.

Mr Hallgarten remarked that the current reform models undervalue teacher professionalism, and that international aid in developing countries has become linked to those countries’ ability to “successfully adopt the features of more Westernised schooling paradigms.” He further called for change to be “built on teacher empowerment” that “values the broader outcomes of creativity, agency, and well-being, and which works deeply with civil society as partners in learning.”

Additionally, Ms Hannon spoke about the need to make a case for change by engaging ‘edupreneurs’ and others in the business community, to become partners in building education systems “in much more profound ways.”

During the session, a panel of experts considered the challenges of leading impactful research for concrete action and change, discussing ways to more effectively communicate and interact with policy makers, school leaders, educators and communities. The discussion featured authors of three reports in the WISE Research Series: David Whitebread of the University of Cambridge, lead author of Early Childhood Education; Janet Looney, Director of the European Institute for Education and Social Policy, co-

author of Learning and Well-being; and Asmaa Al-Fadala, author of K-12 Reform in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries, and Director of Research at WISE. Martin Bayliss, Principal of Holyhead School, in Birmingham, UK, also participated.

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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. Through its authoritative research series and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. As a testament to QF's commitment to a knowledge economy, WISE is building the future of education through empowerment and collaboration.

### **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>