

## **FIVE EDTECH PROJECTS SELECTED TO JOIN 2016-2017 WISE ACCELERATOR**

*WISE Accelerator Supports Technology-Driven Projects Addressing Education Challenges*

**Doha, Qatar, 15 December 2016** - The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) has revealed the five projects that will join its 2016-2017 WISE Accelerator programme, and benefit from mentoring and access to networking.

Launched in 2014, the Accelerator programme is designed to support the development of young, innovative EdTech projects with high potential for scalability and positive impact in the field of education. The selected projects benefit from a year-long mentorship programme tailored to address their specific needs. The WISE Accelerator also helps connect the projects with an international network that creates opportunities for knowledge-sharing and identifying donor and investor support.

Kayrn Aguirre is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Kepler, a university network that brings high-quality affordable degrees to African youth, and a participant in the 2016 Accelerator cohort. "The programme has given Kepler access to incredible resources and expertise as we've explored strategies for growth," she explained.

WISE CEO Stavros N Yiannouka remarked: "These new projects selected for the WISE Accelerator programme are responding to urgent needs in a variety of settings. They reflect the values of WISE in supporting creative action and empowerment globally, and we are confident they will continue to thrive and grow."

The 2016-2017 cohort will officially join the WISE Accelerator at an engagement held by WISE, an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), early next year. They will be invited to take part in specific working sessions and offered unique networking opportunities. The Accelerator participants have responded to diverse issues such as teacher training, career guidance, access to quality education in refugee camps, and developing students' awareness of other cultures and teaching them tolerance and empathy through interactive games.

### **Image Captions:**

**Image 1:** 'Learn Syria', one of the five newly selected WISE Accelerator projects.

## ENDS

The selected projects for the 2016-2017 WISE Accelerator programme are:

- **Edykasyon.ph** (Philippines): Connects education and employment through the provision of online career guidance and information on academic tracks to help students in the Philippines develop a clear career path.  
<http://www.edukasyon.ph>
- **Chalk.com** (Canada): A curriculum management platform that allows teachers in Canada to develop their curriculum online and enables administrators to track the use of the curriculum.  
<http://www.chalk.com>
- **Aflatoun Education** (The Netherlands/global): An online and offline platform that enables teachers globally to continuously develop their teaching methods and lesson content particularly in the field of social and financial education. <http://www.aflatoun.org/>
- **Learn Syria** (Canada/Syria): Provides Syrian refugees in Turkey and Lebanon with the opportunity to continue their education through the use of the Rumie tablet, which is uploaded with curated educational materials.  
<https://www.rumie.org/learnsyria/>
- **Joko's World** (Australia): An interactive education mobile application that brings world cultures and intercultural understanding to the classroom through the use of games.  
<http://jokosworld.com/>

### Testimonies from former Accelerator participants:

“The programme has given Kepler access to incredible resources and expertise as we have explored strategies for growth. Mentors and researchers were able to provide tailored research on potential accreditation partnerships and share models around the hot topic of financing higher education in the developing world. They also provided an analysis of where Kepler might fit into the higher education landscape in several new countries.”

Kayrn Aguirre, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Kepler, a university network in Africa providing high-quality, affordable degrees to talented youth.

“WISE has supported us to be able to prove that groundbreaking innovation can come from any context, not just from the developed world. Thanks to the WISE Accelerator, we have grown from a locally focused organisation with great results to being able to scale our methodology to impact a region and implement a robust

roadmap for long-term growth and expansion. The fruit of such connections is seen in the new expansion projects we are now scoping for the next three to five years.”

Jo Besford, Director, Green Shoots, an NGO that focuses on Technology Assisted Learning within Maths at primary school level.

## About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

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 toward building the future of education. Through its authoritative research series and a range of on-going programmes, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. The biennial global WISE Summit brings together over 1,500 educators, thought leaders, and decision makers from education, the arts, business, politics, civil society, and the media.