

## WISE COLLABORATION HELPS SCHOOL LEADERS AND TEACHERS MOTIVATE STUDENTS

*Workshop Series Designed to Improve Student Outcomes*

**Doha, Qatar, January 10, 2016** - The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) recently led a workshop as part of its Empowering Leaders of Learning (ELL) program, which is designed to support school leaders in improving student outcomes.

The ELL workshops, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Education Development Institute (EDI) of Qatar Foundation (QF), are part of a series presented over a period of eight months. The program is intended to strengthen leadership capabilities through working to improve specific areas in student learning. The program follows two separate tracks, one for the Ministry's 'Maharaty' independent primary schools; and one for the QF schools held in collaboration with EDI. The ELL program is made possible in part by ExxonMobil Qatar.

The workshop was led by Dr. Asmaa Al-Fadala, Director of Research, WISE, and by Dr. Simon Breakspear, Founder and CEO of the Australia-based Agile Schools. The objective is to support the participating school leaders with strategies and tools to improve teaching practices and student learning outcomes. The session encourages educators to pursue an evidence-informed focus and to apply research on effective teaching.

Dr. Al-Fadala commented: "This leadership training program is part of our commitment at WISE to help our school leaders and their teachers to identify specific issues and design action plans to improve student learning. We want to encourage school leaders to try new approaches, and to experiment creatively for better results. We are confident that empowering our school leaders to apply these tools and strategies and put their knowledge to work is the best way to progress."

As part of the session, the school leaders were given a set of tasks to carry out in their respective schools before the next workshop in March 2017. These tasks involve harnessing collaboration among committed teachers to define and understand specific learning difficulties students face, and to design creative ways to help them find solutions. Based on this collaboration, the participants will launch two 'sprints' in their schools; these experimental activities could include teacher team building, using student work samples and exercises to collect evidence and recognize concerns, and identifying improved new practices that can be emulated. Additionally, during the March workshop, participants will report and build on their experiences and efforts to engage teachers and students.

One-on-one coaching is also an important feature of the program. Each participant receives several coaching sessions throughout the course to consider feedback and help focus their process.

The ELL program reflects the continued goal of WISE, part of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), to support local schools in their efforts to improve. The program encourages principals and administrators to apply guidance and strategies, collaborate, and share experiences toward improved student learning outcomes.

#### **Image Captions:**

**Image 1:** Dr Simon Breakspear, Founder and CEO of the Australia-based Agile Schools, alongside a selection of school leaders during a recent WISE *Empowering Leaders of Learning* (ELL) workshop.

## **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 empowerment and collaboration.

#### **About Ministry of Education and Higher Education Maharaty:**

The Maharaty project (formerly known as LitNum) is an initiative founded by HE Sheikha Hind bint Hamad al-Thani, in 2014, and functions under the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Maharaty is a partnership between the ministry and 18 independent primary schools in Qatar established to help improve performance in Arabic and English literacy and numeracy through a number of initiatives.

Maharaty is a comprehensive program that has been designed to work with as many stakeholders as possible to ensure that the children are fully supported in their learning journey. This includes the development and provision of assessments, lesson plans and accompanying materials, school leadership, coordinator and

teacher training, one-to-one coaching for teachers in the schools, forums for principals, parents and school social workers, and participation in community events.

## **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>