

## WINNERS OF THE 2016 WISE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

*WISE Awards Recognise Six Innovative Initiatives Addressing Key Education Challenges*

**Doha, Qatar, 1 October 2016** - The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), a leading international initiative driving innovation and collaboration in education, has announced the six winning projects of the 2016 WISE Awards.

Since 2009, the WISE Awards have identified and promoted some of the most innovative and effective practices in tackling urgent global education challenges.

Each year, recipients of the WISE Awards join a network of other successful and pioneering projects through which they gain global visibility and are given an opportunity to collaborate through various platforms, such as WISE Communications, WISE Publications and the WISE Summit. Projects also receive \$20,000 (US) and are celebrated at the WISE Summit and other WISE events.

Independent education consultants from Parthenon-EY assess the applicants and a jury comprising international education experts then evaluates 15 shortlisted projects that aim to build a network of change-makers and inspire others around the world.

Dr Abdulaziz Al-Horr, CEO of Qatar Finance and Business Academy, is one of the 10 education authorities who form the WISE Awards Jury. "The 2016 WISE Awards embody the notion of 'education as empowerment'," he explained. "Each of the winning projects can be seen as a tool to overcome some of the world's biggest education challenges. They are reaching out to refugees, they are supporting struggling students, and they are changing lives through vocational training. We are confident that this recognition will support these projects in promoting new ideas and practices, and in building a better future for all."

Parthenon-EY Managing Director Ashwin Assomull also commented: "This is the fourth year that Parthenon-EY has worked with WISE and it is always a fascinating project. Our team conducts the on-the-ground due diligence assessment of finalists based on WISE's metrics of impact, innovation, and capacity for growth. We develop detailed reports for the WISE jury, who make the decision."

Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE, said: "We are happy to introduce these projects to a wider audience through the WISE Awards. They reflect the values of WISE in supporting a range of education priorities, and meeting important needs in diverse communities. We are confident that they are strong models that will inspire others to help build a more secure and prosperous future for individuals and societies everywhere through education."

WISE, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), in supporting the achievement of WISE Awards winners is promoting innovation and building the future of education through collaboration in Qatar and worldwide.

For further information about WISE and the WISE Awards, please go to <http://www.wise-qatar.org> or <http://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-awards-2016>

## **Image Caption:**

**Image 1:** Ideas Box, one of the six winning projects in the 2016 WISE Awards.

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About the WISE Awards:**

Each year the WISE Awards recognize and promote six successful innovative projects that are addressing global education challenges. Since 2009, WISE has received more than 2,850 applications from over 150 countries. To this day, forty-eight projects have been recognized around the world from a variety of sectors for their innovative character, their positive contribution and for scalability and adaptability. Jury members include such personalities as Ms Claudia Costin, Senior Director for Education at The World Bank Group, Dr. Nick Burnett, Director of Results for Development, Ms Aicha Bah Diallo, Chair, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) and former Minister for Education, Guinea as well as Mr Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE.

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

Qatar Foundation, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser established the World Innovation Summit for Education in 2009. WISE is an international, multi-sectorial platform for creative thinking, debate and purposeful action. WISE has established itself as a global reference in new approaches to education. Through both the biannual Summit and a range of on-going programs WISE is promoting innovation and building the future of education through collaboration.

### **About Parthenon & award-winning process:**

Parthenon-EY is a leading consultancy and has served as an advisor to the education sector since inception in 1991. Parthenon-EY has worked with WISE since 2012 on a range of projects, including the Awards, the WISE Accelerator, and a WISE Report, and Parthenon-EY leaders have spoken at the WISE Summit and other WISE events. The Parthenon Group Singapore Pte Ltd is a subsidiary of Ernst & Young Solutions LLP and is a member firm of the global EY organization.

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## About the WISE Awards winning projects:

1. **Tara Akshar Literacy Program** (India) is a 56-day computerized adult literacy program that teaches women to read, write, and do basic arithmetic using the Laubach method. It has produced approximately 190,000 successful graduates to date, and those who go on to vocational employment are noted to earn two times as much.

<http://www.wise-qatar.org/tara-akshar-literacy-program-india>

2. **Education for Growth and Value Creation** (Lebanon) provides vocational education and training in tourism for women in rural Lebanon. It is the first of its kind in Lebanon and has reached more than 12,000 women. 90% of its graduates receive full-time employment, earning 50% over other hospitality graduates

<http://www.wise-qatar.org/education-growth-and-value-creation-lebanon>

3. **JUMP Math** (Canada) uses an innovative 'guided discovery' approach to mathematics teaching at the primary school level. It has been implemented in Canada and the USA, and replicated in Spain and Bulgaria. In the 2015-2016 academic year approximately 170,000 students used it.

<http://www.wise-qatar.org/jump-math-canada>

4. **Geekie – Personalized Learning for All** (Brazil) is an adaptive e-learning platform that creates customized study plans for students taking the *Exam Nacional do Ensino Médio* (ENEM). Supported by the Ministry of Education, approximately 5 million students across 4,800 schools in Brazil have used at least one of Geekie's products.

<http://www.wise-qatar.org/geekie-personalized-learning-all-brazil>

5. **Ideas Box** (France), a 2014 WISE Accelerator project, is a mobile education unit that provides education infrastructure and resources for displaced and vulnerable populations. Each box can be disassembled into modules, creating spaces that serve 50-70 students. It currently has 20 boxes dispatched across the world in both camps and low-income urban areas where access to education is limited

<http://www.wise-qatar.org/ideas-box-france>

6. **Little Ripples** (the United States of America) provides community-based early childhood education for 3 to 5 year old children in refugee camps in Chad. It is considered innovative in

its provision of early childhood education, which is rarely implemented in refugee camps. It currently serves over 530 children and has trained 21 teachers.

A representative of one of this year's winning projects, Little Ripples, reacted to the news about the Award, "The recognition that comes from receiving this WISE Award gives us a platform through which we can better advocate for the empowerment of refugees to be the main agents of change in their own communities."

<http://www.wise-qatar.org/little-ripples-culturally-inspired-pre-school-united-states-of-america>