

WISE JOINS PANEL ON INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN PARIS

QF Member Participates in the Inaugural Conference of Paris of the International Economic Forum of the Americas

Doha, Qatar, December 20, 2017 - The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), recently participated in a panel discussion examining the role of innovation and technology in education. The event was hosted by the International Economic Forum of the Americas (IEFA) at its inaugural Conference of Paris, under the title: 'Reshaping Globalization, Managing Disruption'.

Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE, spoke on the panel, titled 'Innovation and Technology: Fostering Inclusive Growth', which was moderated by Andrew W. Wyckoff, Director for Science, Technology and Innovation, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Also participating were Ophra Rebière, Vice President and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Sanofi; Louis Audet, President and CEO, Cogeco Inc. and Cogeco Communications; Bernard Spitz, President, French Insurance Federation and President, International and Europe, Mouvement des Entreprises de France.

The panelists discussed how the rapid spread of innovative technologies in a wide range of sectors has led to a dramatic increase in highly specialized knowledge, creating more complex technical and economic interstate relations. They considered the pressure in the private sector to create a culture of innovation, and ways to ensure equitable global access to the most innovative technologies. The panelists also explored how to avoid creating technological gaps among countries at different stages of their development.

Mr. Yiannouka reminded the delegates of the importance of reviving the teaching of reason: "We need an education that teaches us how to think and how to reason. We need to acknowledge that the search for the truth involves competing ideas; the best way to resolve that competition of ideas is through reasoned discourse and through listening to each other. We need to assert the ethical values on which a good education is founded."

He added: "Clearly there is work to be done. I don't fully buy the skills gap story; I think to a certain extent the private sector wants to shift the responsibility to train people for work onto the public education system. I believe they should be doing a lot of that."

The IEFA's conferences bring together senior government leaders and heads of state, specialists, union leaders, representatives of private and public sectors, academics, and civil society to discuss issues, share experiences, and provide access to information. The IEFA calls for open and unrestricted dialogue on the complex issues of the globalization process, focusing on the issue of widening inequality. The Conference of Paris considers the role of Europe, and the need for a globalization that is more inclusive, more balanced, and more humane.

WISE was established in 2009 under the leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation. Its participation in the Paris event, in line with QF's ethos of inspiring positive change in local communities and beyond, aims to help build the future of education.

Image Captions:

Image1: WISE participates in a panel discussion on innovation and technology at IEFA's inaugural Conference of Paris.

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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. 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. Over 2,000 delegates and speakers attended the 2017 Summit in Doha, November 14-16, under the theme: "Co-Exist, Co-Create: Learning to Live and Work Together". For further information about WISE, visit www.wise-qatar.org

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global research and development challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>



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