

HER HIGHNESS SHEIKHA MOZA BINT NASSER ATTENDS CLOSING CEREMONY OF WISH 2018

WISH 2018 concludes by announcing collaboration between World Innovation Summit for Health and World Health Organization to support nursing

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, attended the closing ceremony of the fourth World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) today, where delegates were encouraged to return to their communities and seek innovative ways of solving pressing health issues. The ceremony was also attended by a number of dignitaries, health ministers, and policymakers from around the world.

During the closing ceremony, WISH – an initiative of QF – in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), announced a global database of Chief Nursing Officers (CNOs). The database will become a digital communications platform for CNOs to share ideas and concerns with each other, wherever they are in the world.

The final day of the summit also featured a speech on tackling depression by a swimming legend, a call to action on the effects of climate change on health, and a message from the Director General of WHO.

Record-breaking Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps delivered a keynote speech on the subject of anxiety and depression, having suffered with mental health issues throughout his illustrious career. “I didn’t know it at the time, but four years ago, things were happening in my life that indirectly led to me standing on a stage in Qatar in front of some of the world’s leading healthcare experts today,” he said.

“As an athlete, I was taught to always be strong, to never show weakness, and push through any obstacle. At times my depression would overpower me and I’d put my head under the water and scream. In the end, I was lucky. I realized that it was ok to talk about it. As I started opening up and talking about my mental health challenges, I found strength, not vulnerability, and I realized that that it’s OK to not be OK.”

Other topics discussed on the second day of the summit included anxiety and depression, providing healthcare to remote areas, how healthcare systems plan for the long term, and safety in maternity.

Former President of Ireland and Chairperson of The Elders, Mary Robinson, was another keynote speaker on the second day, with her speech focusing on the ill-effects of climate change on global health. She also recalled previous Chairs, Desmond Tutu and Kofi Annan, and called for “a world where everyone enjoys the right to health, a thriving environment, and a peaceful planet to bequeath to subsequent generations.”

Away from the main speeches and panel discussions, the summit exhibition space continued to attract crowds. Delegates were offered the chance to record their ‘One WISH’ for the future of healthcare via a video message wall.

Day two focused heavily on the subject of nursing. A panel discussion was chaired by Lord Nigel Crisp, co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health in the UK Parliament's House of Lords. Lord Crisp is also co-chair of the 'Nursing Now' campaign, which aims to promote nurses' role in healthcare and nursing as a profession.

Sultana Afdhal, CEO, WISH, said: "WISH 2018 has shown that innovation in healthcare can take many forms, from the technology being introduced by young entrepreneurs to exceptional ideas that are being developed by academics, policymakers, NGOs, and the healthcare industry. We need to focus on putting the best ideas into practice."

In the closing ceremony, delegates of WISH 2018 were urged to continue working together after the summit and to build on learnings from the event to achieve the goal of a healthier world. Attendees were encouraged to engage communities and raise awareness of new developments and best practices in healthcare.

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About the World Innovation Summit for Health

The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) is a global healthcare community dedicated to capturing and disseminating the best evidence-based ideas and practices. WISH is an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) and is under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, its Chairperson.

The inaugural WISH Summit took place in Doha in 2013 and convened more than 1,000 global healthcare leaders. Through international summits and a range of ongoing initiatives, WISH is creating a global community of leading innovators in healthcare policy, research and industry.

Together, they are harnessing the power of innovation to overcome the world's most urgent healthcare challenges and inspire other stakeholders to action.

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, science and research, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, 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 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>