

WORLD INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR HEALTH RECORDS LARGEST ATTENDANCE TO DATE

2018 edition of QF initiative's summit sparked debate on health and humanitarian topics

Nearly 2,200 healthcare experts participated in the 2018 edition of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), an initiative of Qatar Foundation (QF). With Qatar National Convention Centre hosting a capacity crowd of local and international healthcare experts, innovators, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and ministers, this year's summit, held on November 13-14, was the largest to date.

Sultana Afdhal, CEO, WISH, said: "We were pleased not only with the high level of attendance at WISH 2018, but also with the amount of engagement taking place between delegates – both during formal panel discussion sessions and informally throughout the summit.

"I was particularly delighted to have the opportunity to showcase the role Qatar is playing in encouraging innovation in healthcare to the gathered global healthcare experts, and to welcome senior representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) to the summit for the first time, namely Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the director of the WHO Africa region, and Dr. Ahmed Al Mandhari the newly-appointed director of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region, which is the region that covers Qatar."

"With the support of QF, WISH will continue to be at the heart of the global exchange of knowledge, innovation and fruitful collaborations relating to healthcare. Between now and our next summit in 2020, we look forward to working with local and international partners to take the learnings from WISH 2018 and play our part in building a healthier world."

Delegates at WISH 2018 represented more countries – 116 – than ever before, and this year also saw an increase in the number of expert panels to 22, covering areas such as health in conflict settings, maternal health, healthy cities, design in health, viral hepatitis, and artificial intelligence.

WISH 2018 keynote speeches were delivered by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and chairperson of 'The Elders', who focused on the effects of climate change on health; David Miliband, President of the International Rescue Committee, who talked about the importance of eradicating child malnutrition from conflict-ridden regions of the world; and swimmer Michael Phelps, the world's most decorated Olympian, who encouraged open and stigma-free communication about mental health.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States, shared video messages of special appreciation and encouragement with summit participants.

For further information about WISH, please visit www.wish.org.qa and @WISHQatar on social media.

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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 www.qf.org.qa