

PRESS RELEASE

WISE 2014 ends today after three days of debate, exchange and networking under the theme “Imagine – Create – Learn: Creativity at the Heart of Education”

Doha, Qatar, November 6, 2014

The 2014 WISE Summit which was held in Doha, Qatar, November 4-6, was formally closed today by His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani, Chairman of WISE, following three days of sharing, debating and networking. Under the theme **“Imagine – Create – Learn: Creativity at the Heart of Education”**, WISE 2014 gathered more than 1,600 prominent education, corporate, political and social leaders from over 100 countries.

In his closing address H.E. Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani, Ph.D., Chairman of WISE, added: “For over six years WISE has facilitated collaboration in increasing access, quality and relevance at all levels of education around the world. This year’s summit highlighted the role of creativity in finding and implementing solutions. I am confident that the framework created by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, combined with the natural capacity for innovation of the many thousands of members of the WISE community, will continue to have a major impact upon individuals and societies.”

Before the plenary closing session, Ann Cotton gave her first Special Address as the 2014 WISE Prize for Education Laureate, in which she stated: “Education is the right of every child. It is fundamental to their development and their welfare. We have been gathered at the WISE Summit because every one of us knows and believes this. We have been here to learn and to imagine what is possible, and to unite to create a world that gives every child an extended, quality education. The WISE Prize, which I am honoured to have received, will help Camfed to transform the future of millions of girls in a way that today they cannot begin to imagine.”

The 2014 WISE Summit also saw the launch of the application period for the 2015 WISE Awards, which identify and promote education excellence by recognizing projects that are addressing key education challenges, and are having strong positive impact on individuals and in communities globally. Applications are invited from today until January 15, 2015.

<http://www.wise-qatar.org/awards>

The 2014 WISE Summit enabled education stakeholders from multiple sectors to be inspired by prominent thought leaders, connect and exchange ideas and innovations, paving the way for concrete actions in education on the global scale.

The seventh WISE Summit will be held in Doha, Qatar, November 3 – 5.

Other highlights of the 2014 WISE Summit included:

- For the first time, WISE held a special debate in partnership with WISH on Education and Well-being. The debate was moderated by Dr Harry Anthony Patrinos, Manager of Educational Global Practice at the World Bank Group.
- During the « Education Post-2015: The unfinished agenda » plenary session, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of the Education Above All Foundation, put forth a challenge to the world – governments, donors and civil society – to live up to its promises to the 58 million children who are denied a primary education.
- U.S. News & World Report, publisher of the Best Colleges rankings for 30 years, released the first U.S. News Best Arab Region Universities rankings. The new rankings include information on 91 higher education institutions across 16 countries in the Arab region.
- The LEGO Foundation and Ashoka announced the ten winning entries of the global “Re-imagine Learning Challenge”. The challenge is aimed at transforming the way the world learns. The ten Champions were chosen from more than 632 of the most innovative, impactful and sustainable learning projects from 63 countries.

To find out more about WISE initiative: www.wise-qatar.org

Contact media@wise-initiative.org

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 (WISE) in 2009. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate and purposeful action. WISE has established itself as a global reference in new approaches to education. Through both the annual Summit and a range of ongoing programs WISE is promoting innovation and building the future of education through collaboration.