

## WISE ANNOUNCES NEW LEARNERS' VOICE COHORT FOR 2017-2018

### *25 Young Education Advocates to Focus on Refugee Issues*

**Doha, Qatar, August 29, 2017:** The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) has announced a new cohort of outstanding young people to participate in the 2017-2018 Learners' Voice program. Twenty-five young education advocates from 22 countries, with diverse backgrounds and disciplines, have been selected to join the international Learners' Voice community. The new cohort will engage in dialogue on pressing education issues including practical, action-oriented approaches to the crisis of global forced migration and displacement.

The WISE Learners' Voice program brings the voice of young people to the challenge of rethinking education, and equips them to take on leading roles in their fields and in the world of education. The program focuses on building their knowledge of education, as well as their communication, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills.

Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE, an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), remarked: "At WISE we are very excited to introduce the new cohort of the Learners' Voice Program for 2017-2018. The WISE team has worked hard to bring together this unique group of young people with diverse backgrounds and experiences, who share a commitment to education for individual empowerment and social change. Many of them have already faced life-changing experiences and challenges, whether as refugees themselves, or as teachers and advocates in diverse and difficult situations around the globe. I am confident that they and their peers will bring to the WISE community a new and vital energy towards building the future of education."

In addition to their participation at the 2017 WISE Summit in Doha this November, the newest Learners' Voice cohort will join two intensive residential sessions delivered by expert faculty members, as well as a variety of online and on-site activities. In a key component of the program, in January 2018, the Learners will form teams to conceive and design innovative projects that address critical education challenges. After thorough evaluation by the Learners' Voice team, selected projects will have an opportunity to pitch their proposals to an audience of potential investors, donors, and partners next year.

Maria Constanza Cardinali, a 2017-2018 Learner from Argentina, said: "I became interested in the WISE Learners' Voice program because I think education brings freedom. This program will help me rethink global perspectives by sharing, listening, and discussing education with experts and young people from diverse cultures. I hope to gain more awareness of global issues, and learn new skills for tackling the current challenges of education."

Bamperineza Sadiki, a 2017-2018 Learner from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, added: "Joining the WISE Learners' Voice program is a great opportunity for me, it also represents a brighter future for my community. I hope to gain project development skills so that I can bring education projects to marginalized communities, including my own."

**Ends**

## **About the WISE Learners' Voice Program**

The Learners' Voice Program was established in 2010 to engage the views and creative energies of young people in addressing pressing global education issues and challenges. The current Learners' Voice community comprises over 175 Learners from over 60 countries. They represent diverse backgrounds and disciplines but all share a passion for education. Together they represent a unique perspective within the WISE community.

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

The World Innovation Summit for Education 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, evidence-based thinking, debate, and purposeful action in education. Through the biennial summit, collaborative research and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. WISE 2017 will take place in Doha November 14-16 under the theme: **"Co-exist, Co-create: Learning to Live and Work Together"**.

## **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>