

WISE'S 10TH EDITION ADDRESSES EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES WITH “GENERATION UNMUTE”

- *Hybrid Summit will look at reclaiming our future through education from December 7-10*
- *New youth-curated program set to address questions in global education*
- *300+ education leaders, practitioners and innovators will host 190+ sessions, virtually and in-person*
- *10 WISE research reports to be published in the leadup to the Summit*

Doha, Qatar - November 16, 2021: Official spokespeople from WISE, Qatar Foundation’s global initiative to transform education through innovation, met with members of the media for an exclusive press conference on the upcoming event, which will be hybrid for the first time.

The press conference introduced the curated WISE 2021 program, which will be returning to Doha on December 7-9 under the theme ‘Generation Unmute: Reclaiming our Future through Education’. It was attended by His Excellency Dr Ibrahim Bin Saleh Al-Naimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) and other officials from the WISE team: Dr. Ameena Abdul-Majeed, Director of Programs and Chief Curator of the Summit, Dr. Asmaa Al-Fadala, Director of Research and Content Development and Elyas Felfoul, Director of Policy Development and Partnerships. They introduced this year’s Summit approach and gave an overview of the program, as well as highlighting WISE’s long-term partnership with the Ministry of Education and their joint research. They also touched on local partnerships central to the Summit’s success, and the 2022 WISE Award cycle.

Commenting on the upcoming Summit, Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO of WISE, said: “It is paramount that we empower our younger populations to become voices of change and assume their role as advocates for education in all its forms. This year’s WISE Summit recognizes youth as rights-holders, who must not only be included in our dialogue about the future, but play a defining part in shaping public policy, engagement and sustainable progress following the disruption caused by COVID-19. It is also a step towards a future that balances creativity with a can-do attitude. The first hybrid WISE event is designed to forge connections and provoke a rethinking towards what is possible when we prioritize our collective future.”

Aiming to create a platform for youth, the Summit will introduce a new Youth Studio as a key stage for dialogue and discussion, curated by young changemakers to facilitate intergenerational dialogue. By addressing issues including climate education, fake news, students’ wellbeing and transitioning to the job market, WISE 2021 aims to provide the next generation with agency to find innovative solutions to today’s key global challenges.

For his part, His Excellency Dr Ibrahim Bin Saleh Al-Naimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, praised the WISE Summit as one of the creative and inspiring initiatives of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser and noted its continuity despite the far-

reaching impact of the pandemic. “The Summit represents an opportunity for our students, teachers, school administrators, academics, practitioners and academic leaders in Qatar to interact with their young peers from different countries around the world to discuss global education challenges, thus enhancing their benefit from the Summit,” added Dr Al-Naimi.

The Summit will bring together over 300 thought leaders in education, world-class experts, and influential young voices from around the globe to address current education challenges across more than 190 sessions, ranging from in-person to fully virtual and hybrid platforms. Global audiences will have the opportunity to participate in live sessions at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) as well as in online discussions via the WISE virtual platform.

A long-term partner and supporter of Qatar’s Ministry of Education, WISE will also release 10 new research reports in the leadup to this year’s Summit. Their authors will come together as part of several research presentations and ‘Meet the Authors’ events during the Summit to offer an in-depth look into their findings, many of which examine and use case studies specially from Qatar’s own education ecosystem.

Key speakers at WISE 2021 will include David Sengeh, Minister of Education in Sierra Leone; Gitanjali Rao, a 16-year-old innovator, author and STEM promoter; Sir Anthony Seldon, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buckingham, educator and contemporary historian; Yasmine Ouirhrane, founder, We Belong Europe; and Marc Brackett, founder and director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, among many others.

At a time when COVID-19 has led to the largest ever disruption of education, WISE 2021 will once again uphold education as an integral part of human capital, as well as a driver of long-term development. As such, the Summit will officially honor six global 2021 WISE Awards winners, selected in recognition of their innovative and impactful approach to educational challenges. In addition, applications for the 2022 WISE Awards cycle are now open and will continue to run until 17 January 2022 via the WISE Awards website: <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-works/wise-awards/>

Recognizing the need for new approaches to education, WISE 2021 promotes innovation and fruitful dialogue to strengthen progress towards a knowledge-based economy in line with Qatar’s national development priorities. Its work with local and global stakeholders continues to shape a far-reaching dialogue on the future of education as a key contributor to peace, prosperity, and development.

To register for participation in the Summit, visit: <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-2021/registration-summit/>

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Notes to Editors:

The WISE Prize for Education: Established in 2011, the WISE Prize for Education is the first award of its kind to recognize an individual or a team for an outstanding contribution to education. Its objective is to give visibility to education heroes around the world who have dedicated their lives to alleviating global education challenges. The laureate is announced at the global biennial Summit’s Opening Plenary Session and receives the WISE Prize medal and \$500,000 (USD).

The WISE Young Curators: Eight dynamic education changemakers from around the world will be curating their own content in WISE’s first ever Youth Studio. They come from India, Canada, Nigeria, Italy, Austria, Malaysia and – of course!– Qatar. More details to be announced soon.

The WISE Awards: Six projects are awarded for their innovative and impactful approaches to pressing education matters. This year’s diverse pool of projects come from all over the world and tackle different education challenges, from literacy to edtech and social and emotional learning.

This year’s six winners are: the *Delhi Government’s Happiness Curriculum*, creating time at school to develop mindfulness, critical thinking and other social and emotional skills; *Taleemabad*, a ‘city of education’ in Pakistan providing localized content using digital technologies; *Trauma Informed Schools* in Turkey to help young Syrian refugees and the community around them; *Onetab*, a solar-charged tablet developed by the UK and Nigeria-based company *Onebillion* to build literacy and numeracy schools in any country; *ProFuturo Digital Education Programme*, from the Telefonica and la Caixa foundations, creating a digital education program in areas without connectivity; and *Let’s All Learn to Read* is an innovative model for developing literacy in Colombia and Panama.

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About WISE:

WISE was established by the 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 2021** will take place in Doha and online, on December 7-9 under the theme: “**Generation Unmute: Reclaiming the Future Through Education**”.

About the 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 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, please visit: www.qf.org.qa