



## PRESS RELEASE

### WISE releases 2015 Survey results: *Connecting education to the real world*

In the survey conducted by Gallup, members of the global WISE community call for more collaboration between schools and the world of work

**Doha, Qatar, November 3, 2015**

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), the leading global initiative driving innovation and collaboration in education, today released the results of a survey of its global community regarding the effectiveness of education systems around the world. The survey respondents identify major gaps in how education systems are preparing students for work, and call for closer collaboration with employers and more emphasis on teacher quality.

The 2015 WISE Education Survey: *Connecting education to the real world*, conducted by Gallup, is based on responses from 1,550 members of the WISE global community from 149 countries. The survey respondents are teachers, students, recent graduates, education policy makers, and members of the private sector who are connected with WISE on education reform issues.

The survey indicates that respondents are largely critical of the job education systems are doing, including the key task of preparing students for the workforce.

**Three-quarters** of the diverse WISE community surveyed are dissatisfied with the overall education system in their countries. Only **34%** of respondents believe his or her country's education system has improved in the past decade; **29%** say it has worsened.

**The lack of integration with employers is seen as a key challenge in post-secondary education.**

**Less than half** of those surveyed believe the system is preparing university students for success in work.

**Seven in ten (69%)** of the WISE community respondents say that preparing students for the world of work is the responsibility of the university, not employers. But only **39%** believe universities in their countries are adequately preparing students for the workplace.

**62%** of those surveyed identify lack of work or internship opportunities that prepare students for jobs as the top challenge in post-secondary education. They believe the best way to achieve better work readiness is through more collaboration between schools and employers, giving students ample opportunity to exercise the skills they learn in real world classrooms.

**The quality of teachers at the primary and secondary levels is a key challenge.**

A large majority of respondents recommend strengthening the teaching profession and harnessing technology to supplement and support high-quality teachers. They also called for fostering more collaboration between schools and employers.

When asked which of eight education challenges are the most problematic for primary and secondary schools in their countries, **60%** of the community surveyed selected teacher quality.

Separately, **59%** of respondents believe teachers are not treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

In terms of addressing teacher quality, **78%** of WISE experts believe school systems in their countries would be better off if more funds were allocated to recruiting and retraining high quality teachers than on improving technology in schools.

**But this was not an indication that the respondents don't value technology. 82%** say technology-based solutions can improve education in disadvantaged areas; **74%** say technology helps all students learn better.

**-Ends-**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Gallup conducted the survey in August, 2015 via the web; the results are being released on the occasion of WISE 2015, 3-5 November, in Doha, Qatar.

The survey findings include results focusing on geographical regions, based on the views of the respondents from those regions. These regional-level findings reflect only the views of the individuals from those regions who participated in the survey.

For the full survey results, including further details on the key findings, and comments from international thought leaders, please consult the attached Executive Summary of the survey, which is also available at xxx

For further information about WISE, please visit: [www.wise-qatar.org](http://www.wise-qatar.org).

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

Qatar Foundation, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser launched the World Innovation Summit for Education in 2009. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate and purposeful action. Through the Summit and a range of ongoing programs, WISE has established itself as a global reference in new approaches to education, promoting innovation and partnership. The WISE Summit will take place 3 to 5 November 2015, in Doha.