

## 2016 WISE Awards Finalists Revealed

*Fifteen projects have been chosen for their innovative and impactful approaches to today's most urgent challenges in education*

**May 4, 2016** – The World Innovation Summit for Education revealed today the names of the fifteen projects selected as 2016 WISE Awards Finalists. Inaugurated by Qatar Foundation in 2009, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, the WISE Awards identify and promote the most innovative and effective approaches to key global education challenges, and build a network of change-makers to inspire others around the world.

Selected by a pre-Jury of international education experts, the 2016 WISE Awards Finalists offer creative solutions in access, quality education, the teaching of STEM and entrepreneurial skills. Together they address a wide range of issues that represent common global challenges. The [members of pre-Jury](#) include Mr. Kamel Braham, Program Leader at World Bank Human Development Program for the Maghreb, Dr. Rajika Bhandari, Director, IIE Center for Academic Mobility Research, USA and Dr. Joyce Akumaa Dongotey-Padi, the Executive Director of Mama Zimbi Foundation, 2009 WISE Awards Winner from Ghana.

Dr. Florence Tobo Lobé, the Founder and President of the Rubisadt Foundation in Cameroon commented on her experience of being part of pre-Jury: *I feel honored and proud to have had the opportunity to assess enriching projects fostering peace, well-being and growth in communities worldwide. The previously scrutinized finalists are inspiring projects, addressing youth unemployment, fighting poverty, helping vulnerable children in refugee camps, addressing gender inequality with innovative practices to access quality, inclusive, equitable, sustainable and holistic education. The WISE Awards are an excellent way to scale and update strategies for more beneficiaries and for better lives worldwide.*

The WISE Awards Finalist projects were selected according to strict criteria. They had to demonstrate innovative thinking and a concrete positive impact on communities and societies, as well as the potential to be replicated in other contexts and regions.

Through onsite visits of the projects and/or detailed phone interviews with project representatives, independent education experts will assess the finalists in terms of innovation, impact, sustainability and scalability. Their findings and analysis will be compiled into Innovation Assessment Reports, which will serve as the basis for the WISE Awards Jury to determine the six winners.

For further information about WISE and the WISE Awards, please go to <http://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-awards> or visit the WISE Awards webpage: <http://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-awards-2015>

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### The 2016 WISE Awards Finalists:

- Geekie, Brazil <http://www.geekie.com.br/>
- Ideas Box, France <http://www.librarieswithoutborders.org/index.php/news-and-events/lwb-news/item/291-the-ideas-box-a-portable-multi-media-kit-for-emergency-humanitarian-situations>
- Sports for Sharing, Mexico <http://en.educacionparacompartir.org/>
- Smart Robot Coding School, South Korea <http://robotcoding.io/page/index.html>
- Glowork, Saudi Arabia <https://www.glowork.net/>
- Tara Akshar Literacy Program, India <http://taraakshar.org/>
- Lights for Learning, Spain/Latin America <http://lucsparaaaprender.org/web/>
- Partners for Possibility, South Africa <http://www.pfp4sa.org/>
- Little Ripples, USA/Chad <http://littleripples.org/>
- Jump Math, Canada <http://www.jumpmath.org/>
- Youth for Technology Foundation Academy, USA/Nigeria <http://www.youthfortechology.org/>
- Sonidos de la Tierra, Paraguay <http://www.sonidosdelatierra.org.py/>
- 1Kgbox, China <http://bigboxfactory.com/>
- Education for growth and value creation in Lebanon, Lebanon <http://www.prodeslebanon.org/>
- From puppets to empowerment, Bosnia and Herzegovina <http://genesisbl.org/index.php/en/>

### About the WISE Awards:

Each year the WISE Awards recognize and promote six successful innovative projects that are addressing global education challenges. Since 2009, WISE has received more than 2,800 applications from over 151 countries. Forty-two projects have been recognized around the world from a variety of sectors for their innovative character, their positive contribution and for scalability and adaptability. The six winning projects will be announced in September.

### 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 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 Summit, a range of ongoing programs supporting individuals and projects as well as evidence-based research WISE is promoting innovation and building the future of education through collaboration.

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