

**MEDIA ALERT****WISE announces new cohort for its 2016-2017 Learners' Voice Program**

*Doha, Qatar, September 15, 2016*

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) has announced the new cohort of outstanding young people who will be participating in the 2016-2017 **Learners' Voice program**. Thirty-one young education advocates from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, coming from 25 different countries, have been selected to join the international Learners' Voice community and engage in global dialogue on pressing issues in education.

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 programme focuses on building their knowledge of education, as well as their communication, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills.

In addition to their participation at the WISE Summit 2017, the Learners will participate in two intensive residential sessions delivered by expert faculties, as well as in a variety of online and on-site activities. In a key component of the program, due to start January 2017, the Learners will form teams in order 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 at the WISE Summit 2017 in Doha, Qatar.

*"WISE is very excited to introduce the new cohort of the Learners' Voice Program for 2016-17. The WISE team has worked hard to bring together a group of young people with diverse backgrounds and experience who nevertheless share a commitment to education as a means of individual empowerment and social transformation. A number of them were refugees and immigrants to new countries, and have already faced life-changing experiences and challenges. I am confident that they and their peers will bring to the WISE community powerful perspectives toward building the future of education,"* said Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE.

For further information about WISE and the WISE Awards, please go to <https://www.wise-qatar.org/learners-voice-7>

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**About the 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 150 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):

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 and a range of on-going programs, WISE is promoting innovation and building the future of education through collaboration.

## Additional relevant quotes from the Learners' Voice:

*"I am very excited being a part of Learners' Voice. It's like being appreciated for something you have done, something which seems ordinary but important for you and your community. Being selected as a participant for Learners' Voice is both an accomplishment and challenge for me – with the expectation of helping to tackle a serious challenge to your country's development. My country is suffering a huge generational gap in education consequence of a prolonged civil crisis; and our system needs reform with the collective effort of all. That is why the Learners' Voice Program is so important to me."*, **Blojay PS Doe, Liberia**

*"I expect a full year packed with learning, from the mentors, facilitators, from the Learner's Voice Team and from my fellow learners. I am looking forward to the trainings and the sharing from the experts in the field of education from all over the world."*, **Guill Marc D. Mariano, Philippines**

*"From Learners' Voice, I expect learning opportunities, international exposure, and maybe investment opportunities for our project. I want to be an entrepreneur, running and managing my own business, and I am sure Learners' Voice will put me on the path to reach that."*, **Omar Rabie, Egypt**

*"I am super excited to be selected as a participant, and it means a busy and meaningful year ahead of me. It also means that my endeavor and efforts has been recognized by such a prestigious organization. I can't wait to start my journey at Learners' Voice program."*, **Jiqi Yang, China/Canada**

*"I applied to the WISE Learners' Voice Program because I want to solve some of the world's biggest challenges in education. What gives me tremendous energies to move in that direction comes from my early childhood frustrations with my dyslexia. The educative system is outdated and full of inequalities, from neurological variations such as dyslexia or ADHD to gender or geographical inequalities. I believe the WISE Learners' Voice Program will give me the necessary tools to boost my dreams into reality.*

*The WISE Learners' Voice Program is a unique opportunity to bring new and fresh ideas to the table and be listened. By meeting other driven individuals and receiving mentorship from some of the best professionals in the field I expect to transform some of my goals into reality and get engaged into projects that transform the world's education."*, **Oriol Pueyo, Spain**