2013
A Year in Review
The WISE Initiative

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), an initiative of Qatar Foundation, was established in 2009 under the patronage of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, based on the conviction that access to relevant, high-quality education is essential in preparing individuals and communities for the challenges of an uncertain future.

WISE supports new approaches and successful initiatives. Its ambition is to foster dialogue, facilitate cooperation and build partnerships in order to inspire and spread innovation in education.

WISE provides a global platform for the development of new ideas and solutions toward building the future of education. WISE is unique in taking a global, action-oriented, multi-sectoral approach to education.

As pointed out by His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Ali Al-Thani, Ph.D., Chairman of WISE: “WISE believes that lifelong access to high-quality education is the single most important way to enable individuals and communities to build secure and prosperous lives. A renewed spirit of partnership and cooperation among all stakeholders is essential to make this possible.”

Over the past five years, WISE has grown into a series of dynamic year-round programs which culminates in the annual Summit in Doha.

The WISE community includes nearly 50,000 members in 152 countries who are together seeking creative solutions that empower us to face the challenges ahead.

“We now have the momentum that comes with a conference of international stature and status. WISE is now a movement that is sustainably embedding innovation into education.”

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser at the 2013 WISE Summit
Learning is fundamental to each individual’s ability to connect with others, to participate in professional and civic life, and to live well.

Often, though, there is a widening gap between the learning we have and the learning we need to meet the challenges and aspirations of societies and individuals around the world.

Under the theme Reinventing Education for Life, the 2013 WISE Summit explored how innovation can close the gaps between education, learning and life. The theme reflects the need for education to be relevant to real-world challenges, and to respond to individuals’ aspirations within their communities.

Sessions on day 1 focused on “How to Bring Learning to Life”, i.e. how to ensure that learning is relevant to people’s everyday needs and aspirations and addresses real-world challenges and opportunities.

Other sessions on days 2 and 3 explored “How to Bring Life to Learning”, i.e. how international, national and local communities can provide and support lifelong learning that is accessible, lively and engaging.

The rich and varied program of the 2013 Summit included Plenary Sessions and Special Addresses, interactive Debates, Focus Sessions featuring first-hand accounts of successful projects, and guided Workshops. The program dealt with a range of issues such as literacy and numeracy and the role of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in school curricula today, the role “big data” could play in shaping education and the impact of massive open online courses (MOOCs), as well as the values that should accompany global citizenship.

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser’s global education initiatives were presented at the 2013 WISE Summit with the launch of “Education Above All”, a session on the first-year achievements of the “Educate A Child” initiative, and a debate on “Education in Insecurity and Conflict”.

Also, UNESCO, a WISE partner, presented a Special Plenary Session on “Educational Challenges in a Changing World”.

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Summit Key Figures

1,800 participants from 109 countries
110 speakers
75 sessions over 3 days
170 journalists from 38 countries

Attendees by Geographical Region

Attendees by Field

A Selection of Contributors to the Summit

1. Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser
Chairperson of Qatar Foundation

2. His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani, Ph.D.
Chairman of WISE

3. Irina Bokova
Director-General, UNESCO, Paris (photo credit: UNESCO / Michel Ravassard)

United Nations Special Envoy on Education, MP, and former Prime Minister, UK

5. Vicky Colbert
2013 WISE Prize for Education Laureate, Founder and Director of Fundación Escuela Nueva, Colombia

6. Dr. Madhav Chavan
CEO and President, Pra- tham Education Foundation, India; 2012 WISE Prize for Education Laureate

7. The Hon. Julia Gillard
Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, and former Prime Minister, Australia

8. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
Founder and Chairman, BRAC, Bangladesh; 2011 WISE Prize for Education Laureate

9. Ms Omotola Jalade-Ekeinde
Actress and philanthropist, Nigeria

10. Mr. John Fallon
Chief Executive, Pearson, UK

11. Ms Androulla Vassiliou
European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, Brussels

12. Dr. Edgar Morin
Philosopher and Sociologist, France

13. Ms Angelique Kidjo
Singer, Songwriter and Activist, Benin

14. Dr. Hans Rosling
“Edutainer” and Co-Founder, Gapminder Foundation; Professor of International Health, Karolinska Institute, Sweden

15. Ms Shirin Ebadi
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Iran

16. Shakira
Singer and Founder of Pies Descalzos Foundation, Colombia

All 2013 WISE Summit participants
Innovating & Education

“Teaching in local languages is fine, but if kids don’t learn English or French, they’ll be disconnected from the world.”

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
Closing Plenary session

“Education without purpose is like a frame without a painting.”

Comment from the audience

“The change in education is not only teaching students a curriculum but letting them design content for their own curriculum.”

Comment from the audience

Financing Education

“Even though the cost of education is high, the cost of ignoring the problem is infinite.”

Comment from the audience

“Education without purpose is like a frame without a painting.”

Dr. Tony Lake
Special Plenary Session on “Educating at the Extreme: Education Above all”

Teaching & Learning

“The real test for our education systems should be how autonomous our learners are and how well they work together.”

Comment from the audience

“Improving learning levels is not just education for all, but about learning for all, and it is feasible.”

Ms Annie Duflo
Debate on “Basic Literacy and Numeracy: Making Goals a Reality?”

Learning & Life

“What more worthwhile use could there be of our lives’ time than to improve the opportunity for the generations to follow?”

The Hon. Julia Gillard
Special Address

“Learning to live is the question. If, in a few countries, a new type of university, teacher training and educational system emerged, it would be enough for the example to spread.”

Dr. Edgar Morin
Special Address

“You can’t teach life. Life is the teacher.”

Dr. Madhav Chavan
Thematic Plenary Session on “Bringing Life to Learning”

“Education should be about reaching human potential, not preparing students for workforce success.”

Comment from the audience

ICTs / MOOCs / Big Data

“The hardware and software are great but we miss the humanware. We must focus on pedagogy.”

Prof. Pai Obanya
debate on “Can MOOCs Democratize Higher Education?”

“MOOCs are not the end game.”

Dr. George Siemens
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“Understanding the web is as important as learning to read, write and do math. (…) Kids see digital shaping their lives and schools not teaching it.”

Mr. Mark Surman
Focus Session on “The Web is the 4th Literacy”

“MOOCs are part of a shadow economy in education. They are responding to an unmet need.”

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Comment from the audience

Financing Education

“Even though the cost of education is high, the cost of ignoring the problem is infinite.”

Comment from the audience

“A shameful statistic: less than 1.5 percent of humanitarian aid goes to education.”

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Infographics

WISE circulates key figures and salient trends in education and learning around the world through infographics shared at the WISE Summit and posted on its website and social networks.

WHERE ARE THE 57 MILLION OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN?

HOW MUCH MONEY IS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE EDUCATION FOR ALL BY 2015?

US$ 26B = 10 DAYS

SCHOOLS SHOULD PRIORITIZE THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM), EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER SUBJECTS.

WISE creates polls to monitor perspectives and opinions on key education issues among hundreds of individuals.

MOOCs (MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES) WILL FUNDAMENTALLY DISRUPT THE WORLD OF TRADITIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION

Yes.
The modern economy requires this.
28 %

No.
All subjects have equal intrinsic value.
72 %

Yes, with the exception of top-tier institutions, the days of the traditional university are numbered
46 %

No. MOOCs can never deliver the same value as traditional higher education
54 %
Summit Highlights

Debate on “Can We Have Education Without Teachers?”
Themed free discussion in a “Common Ground” Space

Forum Session on “Towards 21st-Century Citizenship?”

Focus Session on “Learning to be Frugal, Flexible and Nature Friendly: Grassroots Innovations for Inclusive Education and Development”

Spotlight Session on “Exploring New Approaches to Learning through MOOCs in China”

WISE Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner featuring Angélique Kidjo and the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra

Debate on “What Data for What Purpose?”

Forum Session on “Succeeding by Daring to Fail”
The WISE Prize for Education recognizes an individual or a team for an outstanding, world-class contribution to education.

In 2013, the WISE Prize for Education was awarded to Ms Vicky Colbert of Colombia, Founder and Director of Fundación Escuela Nueva and co-creator of the Escuela Nueva education model. Initiated in 1975 in rural Colombia, Escuela Nueva – “New School” – is a learning model designed to address incomplete schooling, high dropout rates, weak school-community relationships and low teacher morale. It has been widely adapted to urban and migrant populations and applied in 16 countries, reaching over five million children.

“Participatory education is the only way to change behavior.”

Vicky Colbert

2013 WISE Prize for Education

Every year, the WISE Awards identify and promote six innovative projects that have had a transformative social impact. In 2013, the six awarded projects were:

ALISON (Advance Learning Information Systems Online) is an online learning platform enabling users worldwide to gain employment skills through free, self-paced multimedia courses. Alison, based in Ireland, reaches two million registered learners with some 300,000 course graduates.

www.alison.com

iThra Youth Initiative of King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture is an innovative and hands-on education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) reaching some 15,000 secondary students in Saudi Arabia.

ithrayouth.net

PEAS (Promoting Equality in African Schools) creates high-quality, sustainable secondary schools that contribute to long-term social change, poverty reduction and empowerment among youth in Uganda and Zambia.

www.peas.org.uk

The Kotahitanga seeks to address what the New Zealand government has identified as the major challenge facing education today: continuing social, economic and political disparities between the descendants of Anglo-European peoples and indigenous Maoris.

www.tekotahitanga.tki.org.nz

The Medersat.com program in Morocco guarantees a year of pre-school education in poor rural areas, followed by a six-year curriculum. In remote areas, the program aims to provide quality education that is in harmony with the local culture.

www.fondationbmce.org

Pathways to Education works to ensure that all young people graduate and realize their full potential. Created in 2001 to help youth living in poverty graduate from high school and access post-secondary education and employment, it now operates across Canada, helping over 4,000 students.

www.pathwayscanada.ca

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser presenting the 2013 WISE Prize for Education to Ms Vicky Colbert

The 2013 WISE Awards
WISE Learners’ Voice Program

WISE Learners’ Voice brings the all-important views of students to the issue of rethinking education. Since 2013, Learners have followed a unique, year-long Executive Education Program that includes residential sessions and other online and on-site activities. Learners are invited to develop a project that addresses a critical issue in education. Selected projects were presented at the WISE Summit.

In January 2014, a new group of 36 Learners began a year-long program with the first residential session in Doha.

Key Moments in 2013

Residential Session in Qatar
Asian Youth Forum and the 46th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors at the Asian Development Bank, India
Technology for Higher Education Conference, Qatar
Wheelock College Inaugural International Conference, Boston, USA
WISE/British Council collaborative event on future models of learning, UK

“The Learners’ Voice program continues to evolve as an effective voice for young people in the education debate.”

His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani, Ph.D.
Chairman of WISE

More info on WISE Learners’ Voice Program
Follow the making of the Book on the author’s blog: learning-reimagined.com

WISE Books

The WISE Books inspire, support, and spread innovative thinking and improved practices in education. The next WISE Book - Learning (Re)Imagined: How the Connected Society is Transforming Learning - will focus on the link between technology and learning, and the potential for transformation in education.

The project has taken author Graham Brown-Martin and photographer Newsha Tavakolian around the globe to meet thought leaders and investigate case studies from Silicon Valley to Ghana, Lebanon, China, Singapore, Brazil, Jordan, Dubai, the UK, and India.

“Despite breathless evangelizing on the use of technology to improve learning, the reality we see is technology being used to reinforce an obsolete 19th-century model of teaching practice, rather than a transformative process of equipping people with the skills, knowledge and awareness to meet the challenges ahead.”

Graham Brown-Martin
WISE Haiti Task Force

The WISE Haiti Task Force was created at the 2010 WISE Summit to assist in the reconstruction of the Haitian education system, deeply ravaged by the January 2010 earthquake. It works closely with its local partner, FOKAL (Foundation for Knowledge and Liberty), led by former Haitian Prime Minister Michèle Pierre-Louis. The Task Force is engaged in several complementary activities in cooperation with the public authorities: supporting local best practices, mentoring actions, developing an online hub to connect innovative local initiatives, as well as advocacy and mediation for international fundraising. These efforts represent a valuable model for rebuilding education under emergency conditions.

Projects Supported in 2013

Ten projects were supported in 2013 through an applications and selection process:

- Renewed support for six projects awarded in 2012, to allow them to strengthen their models and replicate their expertise and innovation in the country’s public schools.
- Four new projects addressing access to education among disadvantaged children, issues of education and culture, integration of agriculture, nutrition, environment and education, and teacher training and support.

Learning World

WISE also contributes to knowledge about education through the weekly TV magazine Learning World, produced in partnership with leading international channel Euronews.

Designed to inform and entertain, each 10-minute episode features three stories on innovative educational practices from around the world that are making a difference.

Key figures in 2013

- Broadcast on Euronews 16 times a week in 13 languages
- Available to 392 million households in 155 countries
- Over 140 reports in 60 countries
- 500,000 visits on the Learning World page on Euronews.com and over 700,000 page views

John Mahaffie, futurist and author, being interviewed at the WISE Summit
170 journalists from 38 countries representing 117 titles covered the WISE Summit, the WISE Prize for Education and other WISE Programs.

China
“The WISE Summit itself, together with the WISE Prize for Education, the WISE Awards and other programs, is undoubtedly the leading example of global collaboration in educational innovation.”

France
“WISE is an exchange of practices. This is a Summit that gives priority to experience as much as, if not more than, science. Social entrepreneurs and policy makers come together and discuss what they do rather than discoursing on what should be done … WISE is a Davos of education and the [WISE] Awards are the Oscars of teaching.”

Qatar
“Education leaders gather in Doha”

Brazil
“The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) is one of the most recognized international events in the [education] field”

Qatar
“Vicky Colbert from Colombia has been presented by the Gulf state of Qatar with the ‘Nobel Prize for education’.”

UAE
“Qatar has been at the forefront of initiating global education dialogue and has actively supported innovation in education by hosting top educators in Doha every year.”

India
“WISE is an international platform that aims at creative thinking and purposeful action to build the future of education.”

USA
“Ms. Colbert has won awards over the years, most recently the WISE Prize for Education awarded by the World Innovation Summit for Education in Doha, Qatar in October. The prize is an annual award, funded by Qatar Foundation, that recognizes innovative contributions to international education.”

United Kingdom
“(The WISE Prize for Education) has been likened to a Nobel Prize for education.”

Turkey
“The WISE Prize for Education is “The most prestigious award in the field of education”.

Spain
“WISE 2013 banks on low-cost education. From October 29 to 31, the 2013 Summit gathers together more than 1,000 legislators, business leaders and innovation leaders for one of the major global events in education.”

Russia
“In an interview, Olga Roitblat [Rector of the Institution for Development of Regional Education (TOGIRRO) in Tyumen who participated at WISE] told Gazeta.ru that WISE is “globalization in action… We have learned a number of useful ideas and practices that can be applied in Russia and should be implemented in our system.”

France
Headline: “WISE, the Davos of education, begins in Doha.”

Germany
“The ambitious objective of the WISE platform is to create a sort of permanent think tank as a global reference for a new approach to overcoming the obstacles to quality education in both rich and developing countries.”
Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that supports the transition of Qatar from a carbon economy to one based on the development of knowledge. It was established in 2005 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the Father Amir. Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser is Qatar Foundation’s Chairperson and driving force.

Headquartered in Education City on the western edge of Doha, Qatar Foundation is structured around three pillars of activity: Education, Science and Research, and associated Community Development.

Qatar Foundation brings all levels of world-class education to Qatar with nearly 4,000 students of 90 nationalities, providing work experience and career opportunities so that young people can develop the skills required for building the nation’s new economy and society.