

QF'S WISE LAUNCHES RESEARCH RELEVANT TO QATAR

Three New Reports on School Leadership, Childhood, and Autism

Doha, Qatar, November 7, 2017 – The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) has released three new research reports that focus on issues with direct impact on the development of education in Qatar, including school leadership, early childhood, and education for people with autism.

The three reports are especially relevant to Qatar and are available on the WISE website in both English and Arabic. The new reports form part of a larger series to be launched at the upcoming 2017 WISE Summit, set to take place from November 14-16.

The first report, titled *'Developing Agile Leaders of Learning: School leadership policy for dynamic times,'* was produced in partnership between WISE and Learn Labs, Australia. It evolved from the Empowering Leaders of Learning program which WISE presented, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and with Qatar Foundation's (QF's) Education Development Institute, over an eight-month period. The objective of the workshop series is to strengthen capabilities among Qatar's school leaders through strategies, collaboration, and sharing experiences ultimately towards improved student learning. Selected participants benefit from one-on-one coaching sessions to provide feedback and to refine leadership practices. School leaders and teachers identify issues, lead change in teaching practices, and design iterative action plans to motivate students, and ultimately improve outcomes.

The authors of the report are Dr. Simon Breakspear, Executive Director, Learn Labs, Australia; Amelia Peterson, fellow and postgraduate, Harvard University; Dr. Asmaa Alfadala, Director of Research and Content Development, WISE; and Muhammad Salman Bin Mohamed Khair, Senior Research Associate, WISE. The authors will present a two-day 'master class' on Agile Leadership from November 13-14, during the upcoming Doha Learning Week, prior to the global WISE Summit.

The second report, *'Early Childhood Development in Qatar: Status and opportunities for the future,'* was produced by WISE colleagues at the World Bank. The lead authors of the report are Samira Nikaein Towfighian, Education Specialist, the World Bank; and Lindsay Adams, Consultant, the World Bank. The report makes recommendations to strengthen the policy environment for early childhood development, improve the coverage and scope of programs, and establish a comprehensive quality assurance system for continuous improvement.

A third WISE report, produced in partnership with the University of Birmingham, UK, is titled *'Meeting the Needs of Pupils with Autism in Qatar: Moving forward'.* The lead author is Dr Karen Guldberg, reader in autism studies and Director of the Autism Centre for Education and Research, University of Birmingham. The first study of its kind in Qatar, this research

investigates how to improve autism education through a contextual enquiry and consultation with stakeholders. Given the country's supportive leadership, a knowledgeable community of parents and specialists, the findings indicate great potential to transform autism education.

For further information about WISE, an initiative of QF, and its reports, please visit www.wise-qatar.org

ENDS

About the WISE Research series:

The WISE Research reports, produced in collaboration with recognized experts from around the world, address pressing global education issues and reflect the priorities of the Qatar National Research Strategy. The reports feature action-oriented recommendations and policy guidance for all education stakeholders, offering concrete, improved practices in specific contexts. The 2017 WISE research series addresses topics including school leadership and collaborative professionalism, design thinking, apprenticeship, disability, early childhood education, and migration, among others.

As a resource for the latest thinking, the WISE reports encourage discussion at the 2017 global WISE summit and spark further research. The reports are available on the WISE website and through the mobile app. A limited number of printed editions in English will be available at [WISE 2017](#), 14-16 November. Selected reports will also be available in Arabic editions.

About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

The World Innovation Summit for Education was established by 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 2017 will take place in Doha November 14-16 under the theme: "Co-Exist, Co-Creat: Learning to Live and Work Together".

Discover the 2017 reports: <http://www.wise-qatar.org/2017-wise-research>

For further information about WISE, visit www.wise-qatar.org

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, science and research, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, 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, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>