

WISE ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM OF THE AMERICAS IN CANADA

WISE Brings Focus on EdTech and Innovation

Doha, Qatar, 13 July 2016: The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) recently took part in the International Economic Forum of the Americas (IEFA) in Montreal, Canada.

The three-day gathering brought together 4,000 international leaders under the theme ‘Shaping a New Era of Prosperity’. More than 200 speakers presented insights on major global economic issues, discussing their social, cultural, and political impacts.

In a roundtable discussion on technology and innovation in education, Stavros N Yiannouka, CEO, WISE, noted the dramatic potential of emerging technologies in extending education access to the most vulnerable and marginalised. Technology, he said, could only reach its full potential through strong teaching and leaders committed to transforming school systems. Mr Yiannouka praised the economic and leadership opportunities that creative projects and organisations are bringing to women and young people in vulnerable regions, and called for a wider recognition of the need for creativity and innovation in education management.

Also taking part were representatives of two WISE Award winning projects: Cecilia D’Oliveira, Associate Dean of Digital Learning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who led a team that developed the MIT OpenCourseWare, which shares freely teaching course materials that reach over 150 million people worldwide; and Mike Feerick, Founder of the ALISON courses, providing an online learning platform that enables worldwide users to gain employability skills.

Also participating were Robert Beauchemin, CEO of KnowledgeOne, which provides training and development solutions for businesses; and Alan Shepard, President and Vice-Chancellor, Concordia University, Montreal.

In a separate gathering at IEFA, Mr Yiannouka called for a renewed commitment among global leaders to empowerment through education at all levels. “Education is likely the most effective investment societies can make to tear down the walls of ignorance, fear, and demagoguery wherever they may arise,” he said.

WISE is an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). The IEFA event served an opportunity for WISE to bring its global work as an international education organisation before a wider audience.

Image Captions:

Image 1: Alan Shepard, Stavros Yiannouka, Cecilia D'Oliveira, Mike Feerick, and Robert Beauchemin at the International Economic Forum of the Americas (IEFA) in Montreal, Canada.

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About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

WISE 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 thinking, debate, and purposeful action. Through its authoritative research series and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. As a testament to QF's commitment to a knowledge economy, WISE is building the future of education through empowerment and collaboration.

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