

## WISE'S DOHA LEARNING DAYS INSPIRE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN 'GENERATION UNMUTE'

- *community members joined fun, informal learning activities in the two day event.*
- *7 local partners contributed to the third edition of the experiential learning festival*

**Doha, Qatar - November 21, 2021.** The Doha Learning Days (DLD), an immersive community event hosted by Qatar Foundation's education think tank WISE, returned on November 18 and 19 with various pop-up locations across Doha.

Delivered in partnership with STUDIO 5/6 (Ministry of Communications and Information Technology), Qatar Sports For All Federation (QSFA), Qatar Reads, Doha Debates, Generation Amazing, Qatar Academy and Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar, DLD brought together local community members of all ages to engage in experiential, informal learning.

Dr. Ameena Abdul-Majeed, Director of Programs and Content, WISE, said: "We are delighted to present Doha Learning Days as a space for community and collaboration, among organizations and individuals, to help strengthen the local learning ecosystem. Together with our partners, we wanted to inspire and invite an array of perspectives to seek innovation through fun and family-friendly activities. This is especially important for the youngest members of our community, who can now come together after a long period of separation to enjoy explorative learning in the company of their friends and peers."

With less than three weeks to go until WISE 2021 kicks off its first-ever hybrid edition on December 7-9, DLD set the tone for this year's WISE theme 'Generation Unmute: Reclaiming our Future through Education'.

Curated for youth and families, activities centered around promoting creative self-expression as a catalyst for local innovation. **Studio 5/6**, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology's maker space initiative, empowered the community to create and innovate through a variety of tech-based challenges that aimed to increase knowledge and skills in digital fabrication and emerging technologies. These included using its MakeyMakey invention kit and pocket sized coding robot OZOBOT to complete a series of tasks, as well as using 3Doodler pens to create a 3D flag festival.

Meanwhile, **Qatar Sports For All Federation (QSFA)**, a member of the Ministry of Sports and Youth (MSY), led an outdoor exercise session at Aspire Park, inspiring fun community-building through movement. Mr. Abdullah Al-Dosari, Director of Events and Activities at the QSFA, stressed the Federation's keenness in encouraging all segments of society to practice sports and take advantage of its positive impact for all age groups.

Tapping into creative self-expression, **Dadu, Children's Museum of Qatar** organized a hands-on workshop on how to make biodegradable plastic, teaching sustainability through play. After learning how to make the biodegradable plastic, participating children were able to expand their creativity to make their own ornaments and toys.

A reading corner set up by **Qatar Reads**, a Qatar Foundation initiative, inspired book discussions and storytelling among DLD participants. Throughout the month of November, Qatar Reads also collaborated with WISE on the virtual Family Reading Program, bringing together 800 children across Qatar under a creative call to action.

**Doha Debates** and **Generation Amazing teamed up** to facilitate real-time video conversations between DLD participants and youth in Uganda's Nakivale refugee camp via Doha Debates' Doha Portal, a curated space for learning, questioning and connection. Amjad Atallah, Managing Director of Doha Debates, highlighted the importance of facilitating these interactive and powerful conversations, which provide an opportunity for young refugees in Nakivale to have a cross-cultural exchange with DLD participants and to discuss Generation Unmute.

**Qatar Academy's** Activists in Action led an impassioned call for sustainability with a petition to support the ban of single-use plastic bags in the country. Their DLD booth spoke to young changemakers and global citizens in the local community, who were able to sharpen their life-long leadership skills.

For more information and to register for WISE 2021, visit: <https://www.wise-qatar.org/wise-2021/registration-summit/>

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#### Notes to Editors:

**The WISE Prize for Education:** Established in 2011, the WISE Prize for Education is the first award of its kind to recognize an individual or a team for an outstanding contribution to education. Its objective is to give visibility to education heroes around the world who have dedicated their lives to alleviating global education challenges. The laureate is announced at the global biennial Summit's Opening Plenary Session and receives the WISE Prize medal and \$500,000 (USD).

**The WISE Young Curators:** Eight dynamic education changemakers from around the world will be curating their own content in WISE's first ever Youth Studio. They come from India, Canada, Nigeria, Italy, Austria, Malaysia and – of course! – Qatar. More details to be announced soon.

**The WISE Awards:** Six projects are awarded for their innovative and impactful approaches to pressing education matters. This year's diverse pool of projects come from all over the world and tackle different education challenges, from literacy to edtech and social and emotional learning.

This year's six winners are: the *Delhi Government's Happiness Curriculum*, creating time at school to develop mindfulness, critical thinking and other social and emotional skills; *Taleemabad*, a 'city of education' in Pakistan providing localized content using digital technologies; *Trauma Informed Schools* in Turkey to help young Syrian refugees and the community around them; *Onetab*, a solar-charged tablet developed by the UK and Nigeria-based company *Onebillion* to build literacy and numeracy schools in any country; *ProFuturo Digital Education Programme*, from the Telefonica and la Caixa foundations, creating a digital education program in areas without connectivity; and *Let's All Learn to Read* is an innovative model for developing literacy in Colombia and Panama.

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#### About WISE:

WISE was established by the 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 2021 will take place in Doha and online, on December 7-9 under the theme: “**Generation Unmute: Reclaiming the Future Through Education**”.

#### About the 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, research and development, and community development. QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, 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, please visit: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)