

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
United Nations
New York

ACTION **JA**
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August 1, 2012

Your Excellency,

I am writing regarding the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Learners' Voice Program, a key feature of the WISE initiative.

As you know, WISE is an initiative of Qatar Foundation, whose Chairperson is Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. Her Highness began WISE in 2009 as a way to help build the future of education by harnessing the expertise of leaders and practitioners from multiple sectors around the globe.

A group of WISE Learners will attend the 11th Youth Assembly at the United Nations to be held August 1-3, 2012, in New York and would very much like to have the opportunity to meet and possibly interview you.

The WISE Learners' Voice Program (<http://www.wise-qatar.org/node/10334>) encourages students aged 18 to 25 to make their voices heard on the international stage.

The Learners' Voice community is currently made up of 49 students who played an active role in the 2010 and 2011 WISE Summits, taking part in debates as speakers, interviewing key participants, and reporting live on the events. Since the beginning of 2012, Learners' Voice has become a year-round program structured around a solid advocacy track, which allows the Learners to work collaboratively on a theme of global relevance: **Increasing Access to Education through Innovation**. The results of their findings will be presented at the next WISE Summit to be held November 13-15, 2012, in Doha, Qatar.

Five WISE Learners will be attending the 11th Youth Assembly as part of this research and will be speaking in a session. Your Excellency, I am writing to ask whether you might be available to meet them briefly and, secondly, to possibly participate in a very short, filmed interview about the importance of the role of young people in working toward meeting the MDGs. Proposed questions would be available in advance.

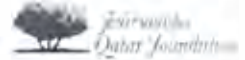
Qatar Foundation
P.O. Box: 5825
Doha, Qatar
Phone: +974 44540000
Email: wise@qf.org.qa
qf.org.qa



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I have asked our Learners Voice Program Coordinators, Mr. Ali Musa Mahmoud and Ms. Lana Asfour, who are accompanying these students at the Youth Assembly, to be in touch with your office to facilitate the arrangements, hoping that you will be able to join them. For your office's reference, their contacts are: +974 5506 8409 or +974 5550 4946. If you prefer, questions could be sent to you in advance.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will be willing to meet representatives of this global youth program.

With highest respect.

Sincerely,

Abdulla bin Ali Al-Thani, Ph.D.
Chairman of WISE
Qatar Foundation