

In the name of Allah the Merciful

All Praise be to Allah, and peace and blessings be upon our prophet Muhammad, his household members and his companions.

It a pleasure to welcome our esteemed guests, including researchers, intellectuals, and parties interested in education, to the virtual Education Forum 2021, under the theme of "Visions and Aspirations ... Beyond Challenges."

We, at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, have been keen to organize this annual forum, albeit virtually, as we strongly believe in the continuity of education, introducing everything new to our students, and pursuing their learning through modern educational technologies. Today we hold this forum, despite the continuation of the pandemic, to benefit from the expertise, ideas and experiences of our participating colleagues, as scientific research is regarded as a priority by the country for the role it plays in human development, believing that investing in people is the true and enduring investment that achieves comprehensive and sustainable development, because people are the goal of development and the tool for its delivery.

No doubt that the State of Qatar, represented by its wise leadership, seeks to develop the human capital, being the most important capital to develop. Human capital is the true wealth of a nation, and we aspire that such human capital will bring about a bright future through its proper nurturing, lofty morals, and advanced education, and invest their potentials to chart its steps and meet such requirements needed for the comprehensive development towards Qatar Vision 2030, and promote the mission of education and knowledge, which we are honored to be among its custodians.

With the grace and help of Allah the Almighty, we have accomplished significant achievements, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, chief among which is the uninterrupted

continuation of learning using alternative technology-based learning solution, where our students have been able to continue their learning, and their tests have been administered across all stages and grade levels. Furthermore, many of them managed to enroll into universities.

Although the pandemic has hindered some activities, it has not curbed the enthusiasm of our students. We have seen them in the field of scientific research, participating with their research projects and continue to excel.

The honor bestowed upon the Ministry of Education and Higher Education by His Highness, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, through the Educational Excellence Award, is but one of such significant achievements that have been accomplished despite the circumstances the country is undergoing because of the pandemic. Furthermore, the tremendous concerted effort by all employees of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, without exception, has played a great role in the continuation of education across all stages and grade levels, in addition to the great role parents have played in supporting our efforts.

I pray to Allah the almighty to guide our steps toward the good of students, our communities, and our countries.

Dr. Mohammed bin Abdul Wahid Al-Hammadi

Minister of Education and Higher Education