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**International forum on early childhood education in Berlin declares:
STEM can do more! Good STEM education empowers children to
take sustainable action**

Today in Berlin, 120 education experts from 30 countries have presented an international position paper: “Using Science to Do Social Good – STEM Education for Sustainable Development.” These experts support a shift in the STEM education sector (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) toward recognition of societal context and incorporation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. To guarantee a livable future for everyone, future education systems will need to provide STEM education that promotes critical thinking and conscientious action.

Berlin, December 6, 2019. Academic, policy, and civil society representatives from international STEM education initiatives have gathered at the second edition of the “International Dialogue on STEM Education“ (IDoS) in Berlin on 5 and 6 December. Among the participants at the 2019 conference is **Prof. Andreas Schleicher, Director of Education and Skills at the OECD**. At the same time the UN Climate Conference in Madrid seeks political solutions to man-made climate change, guests at IDoS are examining how STEM education can enable children to make sustainable contributions to society.

“If you look around at what is going on in the world, the need for cross-generational cooperation is clear. Equally clear is that STEM education will form the foundation of the 21st century,” said **Dr. Nathalie von Siemens, Managing Director at Siemens Stiftung**, which puts on the conference along with the foundation “**Haus der kleinen Forscher**” (**Little Scientists’ House**). She adds: “The challenge of the century for our education system is creating pedagogical concepts in STEM education that do more than teach knowledge – they must also teach problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, and social skills.”

This kind of STEM education helps children take control of their own fate in a complex world, growing up to be conscientious adults who seek answers for global challenges that stave off local and global consequences.

The debate surrounding fake news and scientific skepticism is another area where the role of good STEM education becomes clear: “Scientific findings allow us to make objective decisions. We want to give children this awareness right from the beginning,” said **Michael Fritz, Executive Manager of “Haus der kleinen Forscher.”** “The best approach is inquiry-based learning.”

Attachend you will find the conference schedule and the position paper “Using Science to Do Social Good – STEM Education for Sustainable Development”. Five pictures of the conference can be downloaded at the following link:

<https://daten.haus-der-kleinen-forscher.de/index.php/s/YiRYQXJGnNEepj9>

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Please note that the image is only authorized for single use in connection with IDoS 2019.
Source: René Arnold / © Siemens Stiftung / Stiftung Haus der kleinen Forscher.

Bild 1: Michael Fritz, Executive Manager of "Haus der kleinen Forscher", Dr. Nathalie von Siemens, Managing Director at Siemens Stiftung, and Prof. Hans Bacher, chair of the IDoS-programme committee, support the position paper (from left to right).

Bild 2: Opening Panel on the first day of the conference with moderator Melinda Crane, Mayte Morales Arce, Chair of the Programme Committee, Walter Hirche, Chair of the Education Committee, German Commission for UNESCO, Nyokabi Njuguna, Executive Director, Impacting Youth Trust, Vito Cecere, Director for Research and Academic Relations Policy and Cultural Relations Policy, Federal Foreign Office und Dr Dagmar Wolf, Senior Vice President, Robert Bosch Stiftung (from left to right).

Bild 3: Group picture of all participants

Bild 4 und 5: Conference participants in conversation

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About the "International Dialogue on STEM Education"

The "International Dialogue on STEM Education" (IDoS) is a joint conference put on by "Haus der kleinen Forscher" and Siemens Stiftung. The conference takes place at the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH offices in Berlin on December 5 and 6. Around 120 international guests from the fields of academics, policy, and civil society join representatives of leading global initiatives in STEM education for sustainable development to address the following question: "How do we empower children through STEM education to contribute to creating sustainable societies?"

IDoS takes place under the auspices of the German Commission for UNESCO. Further partners and sponsors are the German Federal Foreign Office, Robert Bosch Stiftung, and the OECD.

About the foundation "Haus der kleinen Forscher"

The nonprofit "Haus der kleinen Forscher" focuses on early childhood education in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). Their goal is to prepare young children for the future and to ensure that their actions have long-lasting impact. Together with its network partners, the

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foundation provides a professional development program in Germany that supports pedagogical staff working with preschool and school-age children in facilitating exploration, inquiry, and learning. "Haus der kleinen Forscher" improves educational opportunities, fosters interest in STEM subjects, and professionalizes pedagogical staff for this purpose. The foundation's partners are the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, Siemens Stiftung, Dietmar Hopp Stiftung, and Deutsche Telekom Stiftung. "Haus der kleinen Forscher" receives funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Learn more about the education initiative "Haus der kleinen Forscher:" haus-der-kleinen-forscher.de

About Siemens Stiftung

As a nonprofit foundation, Siemens Stiftung promotes sustainable social development, which is crucially dependent on access to basic services, high-quality education, and an understanding of culture. Siemens Stiftung's project work supports people in taking the initiative to responsibly address current challenges. The geographical focus of the foundation's work is on regions in Africa and Latin America as well as Germany and other European countries. Siemens Stiftung develops solutions and programs with partners and implements them together, with technological and social innovation playing a central role. Our actions are impact-oriented and conducted in a transparent manner.

Learn more about Siemens Stiftung: siemens-stiftung.org

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