

Press Release

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Arts & Culture

The Siemens Stiftung was Cooperation Partner at the Berlin Conference in Preparation for the Second UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education in Seoul, Korea**Contact:****Project Management**

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Experts from throughout Europe demand greater research, quality and participation in arts education. This was the result of the “Arts Education – Culture Counts” conference held in Berlin from November 30 to December 1, 2009. The conference was organized by the German UNESCO Commission and Prof. Liebau of the Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen-Nürnberg in cooperation with the Siemens Stiftung.

Mid-term reports from European countries showed that the general framework for arts education has developed positively since the first UNESCO World Conference in Lisbon in 2006. Amongst other things, it has been possible to step up the collaboration between relevant bodies and institutions responsible for arts and education. Civil-society and business initiatives for arts education have also risen considerably in the past few years.

The Siemens Stiftung sponsored the Berlin Conference held at Magnus Haus to support the German UNESCO Commission and the UNESCO Chair on Arts and Culture in Education in the preparation of contributions from relevant experts – representatives from European ministries, the EU and UNESCO Commissions, partners and those in political posts from Germany and the European expert networks – with a view to UNESCO’s second world conference on “Arts Education” to be held in Seoul (May 2010). The Siemens Stiftung has set itself the goal of promoting international dialogue on the status and development perspectives of arts education – for instance with its “kiss – Culture in Schools and Universities” project. This stipend program for students of art and music education has been successfully testing new ways to convey contemporary art in schools since 2004. By seeking new perspectives for active promotion through cooperations the Siemens Stiftung wishes to make a sustainable commitment to arts education in Europe that contributes to the growth of each individual and the development of modern societies.

The **Siemens Stiftung** was founded in September 2008 as a charitable foundation headquartered in Munich and endowed by Siemens AG with foundation capital of Euro 390m. The Foundation thereby continues the company’s over 160-year tradition of social commitment. Its task is to find answers to global social challenges, highlight opportunities and provide aid for self-help in emergencies. In line with the Foundation’s mission the focus of its activities are social commitment, education, technology, research and innovation as well as arts and culture. The Siemens Stiftung is operational.

Further information at www.siemens-stiftung.org.