

Press Release
Munich, 03/17/2010
Education & Welfare

The Siemens Stiftung student competition becomes an official project of the UN's "Education for Sustainable Development" Decade

As part of the education fair didacta in Cologne on March 17th 2010 the Siemens Stiftung's student competition in math, science and technology will be made one of the official projects of the UN's "Education for Sustainable Development" Decade. The German Commission for UNESCO awards this title to initiatives that are exemplary in conveying the concepts of sustainable thought and action.

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The United Nations have undertaken to make increased efforts to promote the idea of sustainability in the education systems of all member states between 2005 and 2014. Within this context the national UN committee every year awards education projects that sensitize children, young people and adults about the consequences of their own actions. "The Decade projects do exemplary work. They convey knowledge and expertise on the sustainable development of our society and spread the idea of 'learning to be sustainable'," explains Prof. Gerhard de Haan, President of the National Committee for Implementation of the UN Decade in Germany.

The selected projects contribute to the development of strategies for meeting future challenges. This is also an aim pursued by the Siemens Stiftung with its Germany-wide student competition with this year's theme "Energy Geniuses of the Future – Ideas for Improved Efficiency". The competition has been held since 2007 and comes with prize money totaling Euro 111,000.

350 high school students across Germany took part in this year's competition. A total of 102 projects were entered. The task presented to students was to develop innovative, scientific and creative solutions for the efficient use of energy. The competition was open to all interested students of grades 11-12 (G8) and 11-13 (G9) at schools of general education and technical secondary schools in Germany.

The students are assisted through all phases of the competition by coordinating teachers. Three partner universities of the competition – the Institute of Technology of North-Rhine Westphalia in Aachen (Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule – RWTH), the Berlin University of Technology (Technische Universität Berlin) and the Munich University of Technology (Technische Universität München – TUM) provide the members of the jury and guarantee high-quality and neutral assessment of the projects.

At the start of March the best students presented their research projects to the jury in three regional heats. The three best student teams per region then present their projects to the Siemens Stiftung in Munich in the national final from March 20th to 22nd 2010. The award ceremony to choose the national winner held on March 22nd.

Last year the media portal of the Foundation was awarded a prize as a Decade project. Over 4,000 registered users from over 20 countries take advantage of this education platform.

For further information on the student competition go to:
www.siemens-stiftung.org/schuelerwettbewerb

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For the portal of the UN Decade for “Education for Sustainable Development” go to: www.bne-portal.de

The **Siemens Stiftung** was founded in September 2008 as a charitable foundation constituted under civil law, 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. The task of the Siemens Stiftung 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 as well as arts and culture. The Siemens Stiftung’s work is largely operational, i.e. it mainly initiates its own projects and implements these. Further information at www.siemens-stiftung.org