

## Mathematics of Planet Earth – UNESCO, MPE and IMAGINARY organize interactive open source exhibitions in Africa

Paris/Heidelberg (5.7.2015). At the opening of the Mathematics of Planet Earth (MPE) exhibition in Heidelberg today, a new collaboration project was announced: UNESCO's International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) joins hands with the MPE initiative and IMAGINARY, to bring this successful exhibition to African countries. In a one year long project starting in fall 2015, the exhibition will be extended and translated to local languages and offered to partners in Africa. African universities, research institutes, schools and learned societies are invited to stage the exhibition. A highlight will be the Mathematics of Planet Earth exhibition at the first Next Einstein Forum, to be held in March 2016 in Dakar, Senegal. Further exhibitions are planned in countries like Gabon, Togo, Tanzania and Sudan.

In 2013, more than 140 academic institutions and scholarly societies have joined in a major world-wide initiative: Mathematics of Planet Earth (MPE). This effort highlights the contributions made by mathematics in the study of global planetary problems and their solutions and pushes for more research to come. Topics include migrations, climate change, sustainability, natural disasters and pandemics. The MPE year 2013 enjoyed the patronage of UNESCO and was endorsed by the International Council of Science (ICSU), the International Mathematical Union (IMU), the International Commission of Mathematical Instruction (ICMI), and the International Council of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM).

The international open source exhibition Mathematics of Planet Earth was launched on March 5, 2013 at UNESCO in Paris. It comprises physical hands-on modules, interactive touch screen exhibits, a picture gallery and a film station. The exhibition is made available for free through an open source platform coordinated by IMAGINARY, a non-profit initiative of the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach. Since 2008 IMAGINARY has coordinated more than 130 interactive mathematics exhibitions in 30 countries with several million visitors. The new project will strengthen ties with partners in Africa and show the exhibition for the first time in several African countries.

The exhibition in Heidelberg, Germany, is organized by the Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation and will be shown at the location Karlstorbahnhof from July 5 to August 2, 2015. The Next Einstein Forum will be held from March 8 to 10 in Dakar, Senegal.

Further information:

[www.mathofplanetearth.org](http://www.mathofplanetearth.org)

[www.imaginary.org](http://www.imaginary.org)

[www.mfo.de](http://www.mfo.de)

[www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/science-technology/basic-sciences/international-basic-sciences-programme/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/science-technology/basic-sciences/international-basic-sciences-programme/)

[www.imaginary.org/mpe](http://www.imaginary.org/mpe) (open source platform for the MPE exhibition)

[www.imaginary.org/event/mpe-mathematics-of-planet-earth-in-heidelberg](http://www.imaginary.org/event/mpe-mathematics-of-planet-earth-in-heidelberg) (exhibition in Heidelberg)

[www.nef.org](http://www.nef.org) (Next Einstein Forum)

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