



INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION

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<http://www.mathunion.org>

**Press Release**

May 22, 2012

## **Heidelberg Laureate Forum**

### **Abel, Fields, and Turing Laureates Meet the Next Generation**

#### **Winners of the prestigious Abel Prize, Fields Medal, and Turing Award will meet ambitious young scientists – Established by the Klaus Tschira Stiftung**

The Klaus Tschira Stiftung will establish the “Heidelberg Laureate Forum” as an annual meeting bringing together winners of the most prestigious scientific awards in Mathematics (Abel Prize and Fields Medal) and Computer Science (Turing Award) with a select group of highly talented young researchers. The Forum has been initiated by the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS), the research institute of the Klaus Tschira Stiftung (KTS) – a German foundation, which promotes Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science. The Heidelberg Laureate Forum is modeled after the annual Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, established more than 60 years ago to bring forward new ideas. Klaus Tschira, founder and managing partner of the foundation states: “Meeting with the scientific leaders of Mathematics and Computer Science will be extremely inspiring and encouraging for the young scientists.”

The agreement on collaborating in the Heidelberg Laureate Forum between the organizers and the award-granting institutions (Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, International Mathematical Union, and Association for Computing Machinery) was signed in Oslo on May 22<sup>nd</sup> on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Abel Prize Ceremony.

Research in all fields requires both mathematical methods and computational tools, and the results enter all aspects of our daily lives. Mathematics and Computer Science are indispensable foundations of our technological world. The Turing Award has long been recognized as the highest scientific award worldwide in the field of Computer Science, and the same holds for the Fields Medal and the Abel Prize in Mathematics. And yet: While young researchers in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, and Economics have a chance to closely interact with the Nobel laureates of their fields in Lindau each year, no such opportunity has been existing for Mathematics and Computer Science – until now.

Starting in September 2013, the Heidelberg Laureate Forum will bring together winners of the Abel Prize, the Fields Medal, and the Turing Award with young scientists from all over the

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world. The Meeting is held in Heidelberg, where the Klaus Tschira Stiftung and the Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS) are located. It is organized in collaboration with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM; Turing Award), the International Mathematical Union (IMU; Fields Medal), and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA; Abel Prize). The first meeting of the Heidelberg Laureate Forum will take place during September 23-27, 2013.

Signing for the IMU, president Ingrid Daubechies expressed her delight at this initiative of the Klaus Tschira Stiftung, and her hope that this new forum will help foster enthusiasm for mathematics among the next generation. It is important for starting researchers to meet their “scientific heroes” and realize they are not unattainable personalities to keep on pedestals – mathematics, for all its abstractness, is a pursuit by living people, in which all the aspects of human communication and relations can play a role. We need to attract to and retain in mathematical research all the young bright minds that we can reach, eager to work enthusiastically to carry forward the whole living enterprise of mathematics.

The **Klaus Tschira Stiftung (KTS)** is a German foundation promoting the Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science. The Heidelberg Institute for Theoretical Studies (HITS) is the research institute of the Klaus Tschira Stiftung. Further information: [www.klaus-tschira-stiftung.de](http://www.klaus-tschira-stiftung.de); [www.h-its.org](http://www.h-its.org).

The **Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA)** has annually been awarding the Abel Prize for outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics since 2003. The prize amount is 6 million NOK (800,000 Euro). The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, founded in 1857, is a non-governmental, nation-wide, and interdisciplinary body which embraces all fields of learning. The Academy has 895 members, both Norwegian and foreign. Further information: <http://english.dnva.no>.

More than 70 countries are members of **IMU, the International Mathematical Union**. IMU promotes worldwide cooperation in mathematics, organizes the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), encourages and supports mathematical activities the world over contributing to the development of mathematical science in any of its aspects, pure, applied, or educational. Further information: [www.mathunion.org/](http://www.mathunion.org/).

**ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery**, is the world’s largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers, and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources, and address the field’s challenges. Further information: [www.acm.org/](http://www.acm.org/).

**Download the press release and pictures of the Oslo agreement signing:**  
[www.klaus-tschira-stiftung.de/presse/download/2012/signing\\_event\\_HLF.jpg](http://www.klaus-tschira-stiftung.de/presse/download/2012/signing_event_HLF.jpg).

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