



### Message from the Chairman

Dear STEM Synergy friends and partners, STEM Synergy remains at the forefront of STEM Education advocacy in Ethiopia. In the first half of 2024, we have expanded our network and collaborated with other like-minded organizations. We have hosted facility visits from the US Embassy and been invited to participate in the Ethiopian Tamrit Exhibition – where we had the opportunity to share our programs and projects with the Ethiopian Prime Minister. The team did all of this while continuing to support coding and robotics training and while introducing another solar bakery unit in Wolaita. I am very proud of what the team has accomplished so far this year.

I invite you to read this newsletter and learn about the truly remarkable achievements this organization has made this year. I also invite you to visit our website, [www.stemsynergy.org](https://stemsynergy.org/), to learn more about our mission. Please support our organization and our mission by donating today at <https://stemsynergy.org/>



Dr. Nate Woods, PhD  
Board of Directors, Chairman  
STEM Synergy International

### Quarter in Review

In this 1Q & 2Q of the 2024 budget year, STEM Synergy Ethiopia undertook proactive initiatives as directed by the Board of Directors (BoDs). With a strategic focus on boosting visibility and meeting key objectives, STEM Synergy launched outreach efforts to foster collaboration and promote its activities. The organization connected with various stakeholders, including NGOs, local and international businesses, and embassies, while also using social media to promote interventions. The significant achievements made in this quarter were conducting STEM Short term trainings; participating in the Ethiopia Tamirt 2024 Expo and transferring of a solar bakery unit to youth and women in Diguna Fango, Welaita-Ethiopia, aimed at economic empowerment, in collaboration with interested groups willing to partially cover the transfer cost.

## Expanding Partnership and Networking

During the first quarter of the 2024 budget year, STEM Synergy Ethiopia actively engaged in establishing and strengthening connections and partnerships with local and international business companies, NGOs, and embassies operating in Ethiopia. To enhance visibility and foster collaboration, the organization conducted meetings and networking events with business leaders, presenting its mission and projects to explore potential partnerships and sponsorships.

To this end, the organization has established connections with 30 embassies, 11 foreign and 12 local business companies, and 5 NGOs operating in Ethiopia. These efforts aim to create collaboration opportunities to scale up the impact of STEM-related activities and facilitate technology transfer to empower youth and women.

STEM Synergy also partnered with local NGOs, Hidaya Development Association and Jerusalem Children Community Development Organization, to submit grant proposals as a consortium of three organizations. This collaboration aims to strengthen our efforts to secure funding and enhance our collaborative work.

The Chairman of the STEM Synergy Board of Directors, along with the Country Representative and Project Manager, had an enriching discussion with Mr. Luke Strimer, Regional Environment Assistant at the Embassy of the United States of America. We explored potential

collaborations to promote the transfer of solar bakery units to entrepreneurs, aiming to positively impact the community and environment. Mr. Strimer expressed enthusiasm for the project's potential to reduce GHG emissions, deforestation, and indoor pollution caused by traditional fuel sources. We are grateful for Luke's promised support in making connections to expand the project's reach and scale up its impact.

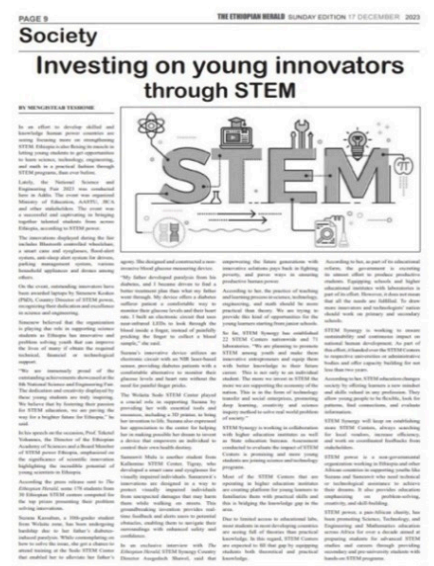


The country office also sincerely appreciated the visit from Mr. Michael Woods, father of Dr. Nate Woods (Chairman of the Board of Directors), and his ongoing monthly donations since February 2023. These contributions are crucial in providing essential resources for the planned STEM trainings, creating valuable opportunities for young Ethiopians.



STEM synergy's intervention was published on the famous government magazine named Ethiopian Herald and the article highlighted the incredible impact that the organization has been doing on young innovators and STEM education.

The article under the topic “investing on Young Innovators through STEM” briefed some of the incredible inventions made by students from different STEM centers across the country, such as a noninvasive blood glucose measuring device, a smart eyeglass for visually impaired individuals, and many more. These students are using concepts and principles of STEM to solve real-world problems and improve their lives and communities.



## Participating in Ethiopia Tamrit (Made in Ethiopia) 2024 Expo

Upon invitation from the Ministry of Industry, STEM Synergy participated in the Ethiopia Tamrit 2024 Expo, displaying a range of remarkable innovations developed by our talented coding and robotics students. These included an Automated Filling, Packaging, Labeling, and Placing Machine, which utilizes sensors, robotic arm actuators, and drive control to enhance manufacturing efficiency; a Smart Stick for Blind Persons, aimed at improving accessibility and independence for visually impaired individuals; a Smart Parking System that simplifies parking management; an ATM Machine designed for secure and convenient financial transactions; and a Robot Car with Path Tracking and Obstacle Detection, pioneering the future of transportation.

Our students had the honor of presenting these innovations to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, highlighting their ingenuity and technical skills.



We are delighted that our students' innovative solutions showcased at Ethiopia Tamrit 2024 highlight the creativity and skill of our coding and robotics students at STEM Synergy. Their impressive work exemplifies our commitment to nurturing a new generation of innovators, fully equipped to tackle real-world problems.

At STEM Synergy, we believe that equipping young minds with cutting-edge skills and knowledge is essential for the advancement of society. Our programs are designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and technical expertise, ensuring that students are well-

prepared to tackle societal problems. By providing hands-on experience with real-world applications, such as those demonstrated at the Ethiopia Tamrit 2024 Expo, we aim to inspire and cultivate a passion for innovation.



Our ultimate vision is to see these young innovators and scientists become leaders in their fields, driving progress, fostering sustainable development, and making meaningful contributions to the global community.



So, STEM Synergy will continue to develop and expand its programs, ensuring that more students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. We are dedicated to continuously enhancing our curriculum, incorporating the latest technological advancements, and fostering partnerships with industry leaders and educational institutions. By doing so, we aim to create a robust ecosystem that supports the growth of future innovators and scientists.



Empowering Communities: Solar Bakery Technology Transfer.

We are thrilled to announce the successful transfer of our solar bakery machine to the EMUABENAN Bakery Union in Wolayta! This milestone marks a significant step towards sustainable development and community empowerment.

To ensure the effective utilization of the solar bakery machine, extensive training has been provided to all members of the EMUABENAN Bakery Union. This training encompasses operational and maintenance procedures, baking techniques, as well as business management and entrepreneurship skills.



The trainings have empowered EMUABENAN Bakery Union members with the skills and confidence to operate the solar bakery and manage their business efficiently. Our goal is to foster self-sufficiency, enabling the community to sustain and grow their enterprise independently.



At STEM Synergy, we believe in the transformative power of STEM solutions. By incorporating solar energy into baking, we are not only curbing energy poverty but also promoting environmental sustainability and lessen reliance on traditional energy sources.

We are committed to ongoing support and collaboration with the EMUABENAN Bakery Union, ensuring they continue to flourish. This initiative is a testament to our dedication to empowering communities and fostering economic development through innovative solutions.



STEM Synergy is dedicated to expanding our solar bakery initiative by transferring this innovative technology to more entrepreneurs in sun-rich, off-grid areas of the country. We aim to support those who are passionate about starting or enhancing their bakery businesses. By collaborating with potential donors, we will ensure these entrepreneurs receive the necessary resources, training, and support to succeed.

Our mission is to provide sustainable energy solutions, promote environmental responsibility, and foster economic growth and self-sufficiency in underserved communities, creating a lasting positive impact on their livelihoods.

Enhancing STEM Culture.

From June 13th to 14th, 2024, Debre Berhan University, in collaboration with STEM Synergy Ethiopia, hosted the 4th Annual Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Conference. This prestigious event brought together young minds and educators from across the region to present their innovative projects and ideas, promoting excellence in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education.



The conference featured a diverse array of participants, including students and teachers from primary to university levels, who demonstrated their creativity and technical acumen in various competition categories.



Young innovators in the STEM for Kids (grades 1-8) captivated audiences with their imaginative projects, while high school students presented innovative software solutions and projects.



Graduating STEM field students were praised for their academic achievements and innovative contributions, reflecting their commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and applications.

Additionally, University STEM teachers were honored for their impactful research and mentorship efforts, which have nurtured critical thinking and inspired the next generation of STEM professionals.



The 4th Annual STI Conference was a testament to the vibrant and dynamic STEM community in Ethiopia. By bringing together students and educators from various educational levels, the event fostered a spirit of collaboration and innovation. The awards ceremony highlighted the importance of recognizing and nurturing talent from a young age, encouraging students to pursue careers in STEM fields and contribute to the nation's development.



Final remarks and call to action

As we reflect on our commitment to advancing STEM education in Ethiopia, STEM Synergy stands firm in our belief that investing in the knowledge and skills of our youth is crucial for the future prosperity of our nation. Our efforts to ignite curiosity and sustain passion for STEM among young minds have already shown promising results, enhancing academic achievements and nurturing innovation.

However, the success of these initiatives hinges on your support. We are gearing up for a diverse range of programs in 2017 (E.C.), including Summer Outreaches, Coding, Robotics, Website Development, STEM Girls Camp, STEM Teachers and School Leaders Training, Entrepreneurship, Financial Management, Project Management training, and the National Science Fair.

Your contribution—whether big or small—can make a profound impact on the lives of aspiring learners. Together, let's make a lasting difference and pave the way for a brighter future through STEM education.

STEM Synergy, Inc. is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by US Law. US Federal Tax ID 30-0874817

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