



Note from the Board Chairman

Dear STEM Synergy Community,

As we close out 2025, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude reflecting on the extraordinary progress we have made together in strengthening and expanding STEM education and innovation across Ethiopia. This fourth quarter marked not only the culmination of another impactful year but also the celebration of a significant milestone: a full decade of STEM Synergy's leadership in advancing STEM education and organizing the National Science & Engineering Fair in the country.

Over the past ten years, we have witnessed firsthand how hands-on STEM education opportunities transform youth lives: sparking curiosity, building confidence, and equipping students with the skills to solve real-world challenges.

These achievements are possible because of the unwavering support from our dedicated partners, volunteers, donors, universities, government allies, and the passionate STEM Synergy team.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building a brighter, more inclusive, and sustainable future.

For further information or to support our work through donations, please visit our website:

<https://stemsynergy.org/>

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

Quarter in Review

The fourth quarter of 2025 marked a milestone period for STEM Synergy, highlighted by the successful implementation of the 10th National Science & Engineering Fair, which brought together over 210 students from across Ethiopia and showcased innovative solutions in AI, robotics, renewable energy, and agriculture. The quarter also featured strengthened institutional partnerships, including a renewed MoU with Haramaya University and expanded STEM training programs reaching secondary school students in multiple regions.

A major highlight was the launch of a Girls' STEM Camp in partnership with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University and Kotebe University of Education, with financial support from the DSGE Project Matrix Team. The program provided 70 high school girls with hands-on training in Digital Skills, Electronics, and Artificial Intelligence, combined with mentorship and practical project work to strengthen confidence and future-ready competencies.

In addition, STEM Synergy advanced its commitment to inclusive education through new scholarship and training initiatives in Harar in collaboration with the Professor Hailu Kinde Family Fund,

10th National Science & Engineering Fair

The 10th National Science & Engineering Fair, held from November 10–13, 2025 at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU), marked an important milestone in Ethiopia’s decade-long effort to promote innovation, problem-solving, and STEM excellence among young students.

As the country’s national platform for students’ innovation competition, the fair brought together more than 210 students across Ethiopia to present projects addressing real-world challenges in four major categories: Digital Technology, Agriculture & Environmental Solutions, Manufacturing & Industrial Solutions, and Robotics & Emerging Technologies.



The 2025 fair also marked STEM Synergy’s 10th year as a key organizer and sponsor, underscoring its sustained contribution to strengthening Ethiopia’s national STEM ecosystem.

The fair was officially inaugurated on November 10, 2025, in the presence of senior government officials, partner organizations, AASTU leaders, and STEM Synergy leadership team and distinguished guests.



In their keynote remarks, speakers emphasized the vital role of science and technology in national development and highlighted the fair as a platform that strengthens students’ creativity, confidence, and technical competency while promoting Ethiopia’s broader goals of digital transformation, agricultural modernization, and climate resilience.



Throughout the four-day event, students showcased innovative prototypes in AI, robotics, renewable energy, environmental solutions, and community-focused engineering, as well as agricultural and health applications.



2025 marked a decade of STEM Synergy's commitment to advancing science, engineering, and innovation through its leadership and support of the National Science & Engineering Fair. Over the years, STEM Synergy has played a pivotal role in mentoring young innovators, supporting regional science fairs, sponsoring national innovation awards, and providing technical, logistical, and coordination support to ensure the successful delivery and growth of the event nationwide.

The closing ceremony honored exceptional achievements of students across all competition categories, highlighting outstanding creativity,

innovation, and dedication. Winners were recognized with prizes sponsored by STEM Synergy, including laptops for first-place winners, tablets for second-place winners, and full Arduino kits for third-place winners. These awards served to motivate young innovators and further strengthen their engagement in STEM learning and problem-solving.

STEM Synergy awarded four fully funded university scholarships to outstanding Grade 12 students, two female and two male, in recognition of their excellent innovative project work. Supported through partnerships with volunteer groups, the scholarships cover full tuition and student stipends, providing recipients with the opportunity to pursue higher education and continue their journey in science, technology, engineering, and innovation.



Through mentorship, technical guidance, and the provision of project materials, STEM Synergy supported students from several STEM Centers, including AASTU and KUE, to successfully develop and present innovative projects at the National Science and Engineering Fair. Their outstanding

performance earned top rankings across multiple categories and special recognition for excellence, creativity, and innovation.

The 10th National Science & Engineering Fair had a significant national impact by strengthening students' practical STEM skills, science culture enhancement, fostering collaboration among institutions and industry partners.

The Fair also fostered inclusivity by encouraging greater participation of girls in STEM and highlighted the critical role of innovation to address real-world challenges, inspiring young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



Renewed Partnership with Haramaya University

In a significant step toward advancing STEM education, STEM Synergy and Haramaya University have renewed their strategic partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This renewal builds on a collaboration that began in 2019, when STEM Synergy supported the establishment of the university's STEM Center, a hub for hands-on learning, innovation, and youth development.

The renewed agreement prioritizes strengthening the operations of the STEM Center, expanding its outreach, and jointly developing initiatives in project planning and resource mobilization. By combining the academic and research strength of Haramaya University with the nationwide experience of STEM Synergy, which has supported the establishment and implementation of over 20 STEM Centers across Ethiopia, the partnership aims to scale sustainable, institutionalized programs that inspire and equip the next generation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

STEM Synergy and Haramaya University are committed to empowering youth to lead in STEM fields. Through this renewed partnership, we are building pathways for innovation and preparing the next generation to tackle national and global challenges with confidence and creativity.



The MoU was officially signed by Dr. Yisehak Yusuf, Vice President for Research and Community Engagement at Haramaya University, and Ato Abiyot Lakew, Country Director of STEM Synergy.

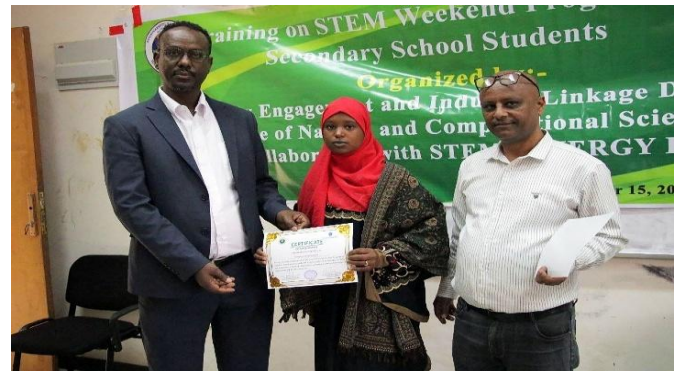
STEM outreach program in Maya City

STEM Synergy in collaboration with the Community Engagement Directorate of *Haramaya University*, completed an impactful five-week hands-on Level One STEM training program. The initiative targeted 100 secondary school students from four schools in Maya City (encompassing Haramaya, Awaday, and Adelle towns in the Oromia Region), with a strong focus on building practical abilities and sparking lasting interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



The program emphasized experimental learning, allowing students to bridge theoretical classroom knowledge with real-world applications through interactive experiments, projects, and problem-solving activities.

The Weekend STEM Training Program, held from November 15 to December 20, 2025, provided intensive, hands-on training in four core disciplines: Biology and Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, and Digital Literacy and Electronics.



Level One serves as the entry point for young innovators, laying a strong foundation in practical STEM skills. Those who successfully complete it progress to Level Two and Level Three, where learning becomes increasingly advanced and project-based. This structured pathway is designed to build skills step by step, guiding students from basic hands-on training to the design and execution of complex, real-world projects.



The partnership demonstrated a shared commitment to improving STEM education by offering practical trainings. The successful delivery of this program strengthened collaboration on the ground and created momentum for future joint initiatives.

Empowering the Next Generation of Girls in STEM

In collaboration with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) and Kotebe University of Education (KUE), STEM Synergy has successfully launched the three-month Girls STEM Camp at both centers. This program focuses on building proficiency in Digital Skills, Electronics, and Artificial Intelligence.

The program has intended to empower a total of 70 talented high school girls from Grades 9 and 10 across Addis Ababa, with 30 participants at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University and 40 participants at Kotebe University of Education.

The AASTU cohort officially welcomed its 30 students starting December 27, 2025, while the KUE program was launched on January 3, 2026, bringing together 40 students in a vibrant opening ceremony.



The AASTU launch featured inspiring remarks from Ato Abiyot Lakew, STEM Synergy Country Director; Dr. Abreham Debebe, Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer at AASTU; Dr. Kenatu Angassa, AASTU Community Engagement

Director; and Dr. Natnael Nigussie, AASTU STEM Center Coordinator.

At the KUE launch, remarks were delivered by Ato Abiyot Lakew, Dr. Tewodros Mulugeta, Vice President for Research and Community Engagement at KUE; Prof. Mirjana Pović, astrophysicist at the Space Science and Geospatial Institute; and Mr. Sintayehu Alemnew, KUE STEM Center Coordinator. Across both events, the speakers emphasized perseverance, curiosity, and the importance of women's leadership in STEM, encouraging the girls to confidently pursue STEM careers and recognize their potential as future innovators.



Both camps are conducted on weekends, running until March 22, 2026 at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University and March 29, 2026 at Kotebe University of Education. The programs deliver hands-on training in Digital Skills, Electronics, and Artificial Intelligence, complemented by mentorship sessions and practical projects designed to build confidence and future-ready competencies among participants.



STEM Synergy dedicated to closing the gender gap in STEM, fostering self-assurance among young girls, and equipping them with the skills needed to innovate and lead.



This initiative is generously supported by the Project Matrix of Diplomatic Spouses Group Ethiopia (DSGE), whose funding has enabled to benefit a total of 70 girls from secondary schools in Addis. We extend our sincere appreciation for their strong commitment to girls' education and empowerment.



Together with our partners, universities, and supporters we are cultivating a more inclusive and innovative STEM future for Ethiopia.

Grant Mobilization and Strategic Partnerships for Scaling STEM Synergy Programs in Ethiopia

To ensure the sustainability and expansion of its flagship programs, STEM Synergy pursued a targeted grant-seeking strategy, submitting competitive proposals to strategic partners and development agencies.

One of the key partnerships was with the Diplomatic Spouses Group Ethiopia (DSGE) – Project Matrix Team, through the financing of a Girls’ STEM Camp Program for secondary school students. This initiative was designed to expand access to practical STEM learning opportunities and strengthen fundamental skills among female secondary school students.

In addition, STEM Synergy is establishing a partnership with the Professor Hailu Kinde Family Fund, initiated in January 2026, to launch a scholarship and STEM training initiative in Harar, Ethiopia. The program integrates merit- and need-based financial support with project-based STEM education to build both access and long-term technical capacity among students. The initiative is scheduled for official launch in June 2026 across Aboker Secondary School, Second Model Elementary School, and Ras Mekonnen Elementary and Middle School, with student selection criteria currently being undergone.

STEM Synergy also submitted a comprehensive proposal under the Embassy of Finland’s Fund for Local Cooperation titled “Empowering Women through Solar Bakery Enterprises in Ethiopia.” The proposal focuses on advancing women’s economic empowerment and promoting technology-driven entrepreneurship through the expansion of its solar bakery model across different regions of Ethiopia.

In parallel, STEM Synergy, in collaboration with key national institutions, led a consortium application for the UK’s EthiopiAI Programme, alongside the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT), the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute (INSA), and Addis Ababa University. The proposal seeks to develop and deploy ethical artificial intelligence solutions aimed at addressing critical service delivery gaps in priority sectors, while contributing to the advancement of responsible AI innovation in Ethiopia.