



## **Bahir Dar University Starts STEM Education for School Students**

It is recalled that Bahir Dar University started the summer outreach program for talented students in 2012 and the training was hands on practical laboratory work and conducted in laboratories found in the university compound. The university also provides short term trainings and support project works for some selected school students during the whole academic year.

The Bahir Dar STEM Incubation Center is constructed by the support of Mr. Mark Gelfand, an American Philanthropist who supports STEM Education to maximize the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics students with a motto” Inside every child is a scientist”. The center is found in Dilchibo Elementary school compound near Textile Factory.

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and usually refers to education in one or more of those disciplines. STEM initiatives started as a way to promote education in these related areas so that students would be prepared to study STEM fields in colleges/Universities and pursue STEM-related careers.

The center includes

- A laboratory complex consisting of 12 laboratory rooms, meeting hall, administrative offices, library, store and toilets.
- An open air technology park that will contain STEM based project works for further improvement and transfer of knowledge.

The major objective of the center is to provide hands on practical laboratory based STEM education for school students and teachers. Students selected from summer outreach program are the major beneficiaries of the center. They can get unlimited library, internet, and laboratory accesses. Students' group and individual based project works are also supported by this center.

### **Bahir Dar STEM Incubation Center's Vision**

- To be internationally competent STEM center

### **Bahir Dar STEM Incubation Center Mission**

- To provide competent students with high learning experience, that mainly focuses on hands on activity in science, mathematics and engineering laboratories.
- To be assessment and standardization center for school education.
- To establish school based Technology park.
- To establish School- University-Industry linkage.

### **Bahir Dar STEM Incubation Center Objectives**

- Training and project advising for talented students.
- Organizing and supporting a variety of school clubs.
- Provision of laboratory based education for school students.
- Provision of short term training for school teachers.
- School based technology park establishment.
- Assessment and standardization of school education.
- Incubating school students' project work and creativity.
- Administration of various extracurricular activities to students such as science fairs or Olympiads, aptitude tests and other competitions.
- Summer Outreach program training.
- Provision of media based education to community.