Lindau, 3 September 2021

Press Release

Second Lindau Online Sciathon to start – 48 hours for scientists to cooperate globally and find solutions for demanding challenges

- Lindau Online Sciathon 2021 from 10 to 12 September – sciathon.org
- 30 virtual group projects work in four scientific topic categories
- Updates about the competition via Social Media: #Sciathon
- Public livestream and access for journalists to the event
- Registration for press talk on 10 September, 15 hrs. CEST
- Presentation of Sciathon results on 12 October

Next Friday, an opening event at 16.30 hrs. CEST will be the starting signal for intense 48 hours for all participants of the Lindau Online Sciathon 2021. Scientists worldwide will work in 30 groups on their projects. All groups are led by those Lindau Alumni who pitched the respective project idea for the competition. Other Lindau Alumni and young economists selected for the 7th Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences (2022) participate in the groups. Find an overview of all projects here.

Based on the principle of a hackathon, in which an IT-oriented group develops a creative software solution within a pre-defined period of time, scientists will address a current scientific problem during the event. The first Lindau Online Sciathon took place in summer 2020. Because of the wide interest and the promising results, the Council for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings decided to host a second edition of the competition. This year four topic categories are the framework for the project ideas:

- Emerging Threats and New Tools in Global Health
- Energy and Climate
- Unknown Frontiers in Physics
- How can Open Science Improve the Public’s Trust in Science?

These topics are based on the panel discussions which were part of the 70th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting (27 June – 2 July 2021), this year’s digitally conducted anniversary meeting. The organisers work closely with a Scientific Chair in each topic in the evaluation of the projects: Eminent virologist Stefan H. E. Kaufmann will act as the chair person for the topic “Emerging Health Threats and New Tools”, Heiner Linke, member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science is running “Energy and Climate”, former ERC president Helga Nowotny is responsible for
“Open Science” and the topic “Unknown Frontiers in Physics” has Burkhard Fricke (former Vice-President of the Council) as chair.

The Scientific Chairs will lead an expert jury who will determine the winners of the Sciathon based on criteria such as the creativity of the idea, the feasibility as well as the quality and relevance of the project.

Public Streaming

The opening and the closing ceremony will be streamed live on sciathon.org. A great opportunity, also for potential future young scientists to get a glimpse of the opportunities for the Lindau Meetings community. This also applies to the presentation of the results on 12 October when the Sciathon winners 2021 will be announced. After evaluation by the expert jury, the best group in every category as well as the three best project groups overall, will receive prize money.

Press Talk with Successful Participants From 2020

On 10 September, 15.00 hrs. CEST, journalists and science bloggers have the chance to virtually meet successful participants of the first Sciathon and learn more about the progress of their excellent projects. Last year these group leaders successfully convinced the Sciathon jury and their projects were ranked on the first places: Michael Mărgineanu and his team proposed the Lindau Mentoring Hub that will soon be launched in collaboration with the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings. Nicholas Clifton and his group developed the browser extension AuthentiSci. This plug-in allows scientists to score the validity of scientific information in media articles, a helpful tool for everybody to verify online content. Two of the group members, Ana Alonso Serrano and Shama Sograte Idrissi, will take part in the press talk. The group of Ángela I. Barreda Gómez created “The Fables of LauraBee” to communicate the urgency of climate change to children. The video produced during the Sciathon 2020 is being developed into a book, to be distributed during COP26 this autumn.

To participate in the press talk please send us an e-mail to register.

For questions and contact to project groups during or after the Sciathon the communications team is at your disposal:

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About the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings

Since their foundation in 1951, the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings have developed into a unique international scientific forum. The annual Meetings provide an opportunity for an exchange between different generations, cultures and disciplines. The theme of the Lindau Meetings alternates between Physics, Chemistry or Physiology and Medicine – the three Nobel Prize scientific disciplines. Every five years an interdisciplinary Meeting takes place, while the Lindau Meeting on Economic Sciences is held every three years. Through the medium of various declarations (2020 for Open Science, 2015 on Climate Change, 1955 against the Use of Nuclear Weapons,) the scientists have repeatedly joined in the public debate with political appeals.

It was the Lindau physicians Franz Karl Hein and Gustav Wilhelm Parade who approached Count Lennart Bernadotte af Wisborg with the idea of a conference of Nobel Laureates and proceeded to jointly implement this with him – since 1953 with the participation of young scientists. Some 35,000 students, PhD candidates and post-docs have since taken part. Their experience of the Meeting may be literally once-in-a-lifetime, but they remain permanent members of the Lindau Alumni Network and ambassadors for scientific dialogue.

All year long the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings continue to pursue their “Mission Education” aimed at emphasising the importance of science and advocating science and research. This is also the purpose of the Lindau Online Mediatheque as a learning platform with teaching materials for schools.

Further Information

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