



The International Symposium in Honor of Kurt A. Heller's Scientific Contributions on His 80th Birthday: From High Ability to Creativity in Talent Development and Excellence

On September 30, 2011, an international symposium entitled *From High Ability to Creativity in Talent Development and Excellence* was organized in honor of Professor emeritus Kurt A. Heller's 80th birthday and contributions to the fields of high ability, creativity and excellence. Three former graduate students of Professor Heller who are professors in Asia and Germany worked together to ensure the success of the event: Ernst Hany (University of Erfurt, Germany), Christoph Perleth (University of Rotstock, Germany), and Ai-Girl Tan (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore). The symposium and conference were held at the University of Erfurt. Ernst Hany provided the administrative and technical support. The international symposium was chaired by Ai-Girl Tan and was part of the programme of an annual conference of Arbeitskreises Begabungs forschung und Begabtenfrderung e.V (ABB) organized by Christoph Perleth. The publicity of the international symposium was released through the websites of the ABB and University of Erfurt. As a tradition, the ABB worked closely with an organization that promotes the study of excellence in mathematics and science (Verein mathematisch-naturwissenschaftlicher Excellence-Center an Schulen e.V. or MINT-EC). The audience of the symposium included members of these two organizations. Professor Heller has mentored eminent scholars of high ability in both China and Germany. Three of them who were founder and executive members of the International Research Association of Talent Development and Excellence (IRATDE) were in audience: Heidrun Stoeger (vice president), Albert Ziegler (secretary) and Jiannong Shi (treasurer).

The international program was divided into four parts, with alternate German and international presentations. The first part of the international symposium was led by the German team with an introduction of Professor Kurt A. Heller by Professor Ernst Hany, followed by a brief presentation of the outline of a book entitled "Excellence" edited by Albert Ziegler and Christoph Perleth, and a short message from Professor Kurt A. Heller. The edited book "Excellence" comprises 17 chapters (at the stage of writing) contributed by scholars who have worked with, supervised by, and known Kurt A. Heller. It was edited in honor of Kurt A. Heller's

contributions to the fields of high ability, creativity and excellence. The second part of the international symposium was led by the Asian team with two presentations: Creativity in excellence by Ai-Girl Tan (Singapore) and Self-regulation by Mayumi Oie (Japan). The third part was led by Heiner Rindermann (Chemnitz, Germany) on "Ergebnisse der Internationalen Mathematik-Olympiaden" and by Albert Ziegler (Erlangen- Nürnberg) on "Erziehung Hochbegabter." The fourth part was led by Jiannong Shi on "Gifted Studies and Education in China" and Langfeld (Äthiopien) on "Aktivierung von Bildungsreserven – Back to the grass roots."

Reported by Ai-Girl Tan, 2011