

HSci2010 – 7th International Conference Hands-on Science: Bridging the Science and Society Gap

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Foreword

In today's technology driven society science plays a fundamental role. A role that should be understood by all citizens as it affects all aspects of our lives and its fundamental to our development both economical social and human.

The school is and must keep being the main and major vehicle of science learning and of the understanding of its role, thus being crucial to the setting up of a sound and enlarged scientific literacy, at all levels, in our societies. More and more science and technology literacy is needed as citizens in their democratic right are, and will further be, called to make social and governance decisions that do demand that basic understanding.

Efforts must be pursued on approaching science to society. The school and science school education should play the most relevant role in this process.

We expect this conference to point out on the right directions on this process allowing an open friendly sharing of insights and giving participants, and all others that will be able to access the conference proceedings and the outcomes of the conference, tools to better develop their education and pedagogical tasks both at school and further out at different instance in their communities.

On behalf all participants and the members of the Hands-on Science Network I would like to thank and strongly congratulate local organizers for their excellent works in troubled times such as those we are living in today.

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Professor Manuel Filipe Pereira da Cunha Martins Costa