Topcon sponsors STeLA Forum
A better world through science and technology

Topcon was a sponsor of the 2008 STeLA Leadership Forum in Boston. The forum is organized by the Science and Technology Leadership Association (STeLA) whose goal is to develop future science and technology leaders.

STeLA was launched in 2006 by graduate students studying science and technology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University and Boston University. Shortly after its formation, some of the founding members returned to Japan, starting a branch there. The first leadership forum was held in Tokyo in 2007 with participants from the United States and Japan. The 2008 forum included university representatives from China.

Thirty-eight students participated in this year’s leadership lectures, exercises, discussions, case studies, and team projects in Boston. Masahiro Ono, a Ph.D. student at MIT and a STeLA forum organizer, said, “Although separated into different countries after the forum, the participants are united by a single determination to create a better world with the right use of science and technology.”

Ono said, “Active participation in the forum will prepare students to play leadership roles throughout their careers, contributing to solving global issues in which science and technology are crucial components.”

The forum focused on the problem of “neglected diseases”, tropical infections that are especially endemic in low-income populations in developing regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Ono said, “We learned from the talks, discussions and case studies that we are all stakeholders in global issues such as neglected diseases. We need to stand up and act if we really hope to solve problems.

“This once again reminded us of the objective of STeLA: develop leaders in science and technology who will direct and deeply influence global society. Our attitude is not to wait for a change, but to create change.”

Ono said, “The second STeLA Leadership Forum was a great success, and we feel that STeLA is gaining a strong momentum. We hope the forum will grow through the help of our sponsors like Topcon. All STeLA organizers and participants are deeply grateful for Topcon’s support.

“The 2008 event is over, but our mission is far from the end. We will keep growing and striving for a better future, where all people on this planet can live a happy life by sharing the benefit of science and technology.”

To read more about the 2008 forum, web.mit.edu/stela-mit.

LEFT: STeLA leadership forum participants in Boston. STeLA strives to bring together future leaders including scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, and policy makers from around the world.

RIGHT: Leadership Exercise. Students play the Beer Distribution Game, created by MIT professors in the 1960’s to demonstrate supply chain management principles using simulated issues encountered by a beer company.