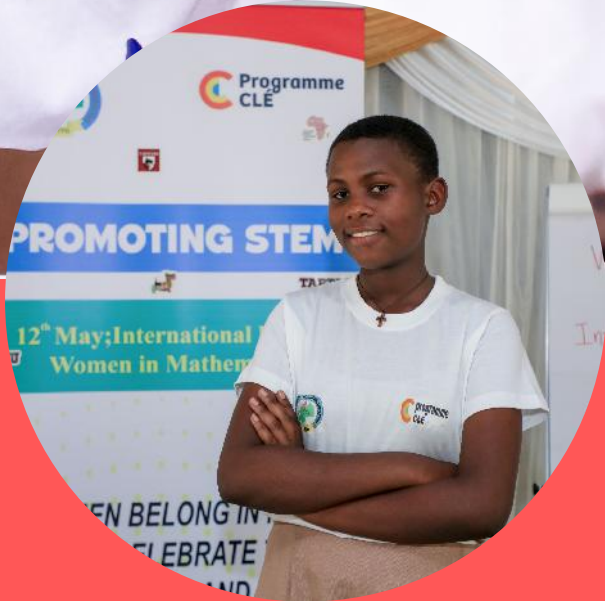




Global Affairs
Canada



STEMMAGAZINE



***Spreading the Love for STEM by Honoring
Female Mathematicians' Accomplishments***

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WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear esteemed Readers,

We extend a warm welcome to STEM Magazine, where we celebrate and explore the world of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Our publication is devoted to inspiring and empowering students to pursue education in these fields.

FIYO firmly believes that the future of our planet relies on STEM education. We are committed to providing exceptional insights that will help to further illuminate the organization's initiatives in promoting STEM education.

A big round of applause to our rockstar partners for backing this initiative! But, we are not done yet and we need your help to keep this magazine rolling out every quarter.

Moses GAHIGI
Executive Director

ABOUT FIYO

Fight Illiteracy Youth Organization (FIYO) is an education-focused organization which pursues a rights based approach in achieving its mission. The organization was founded in 2003.



It is registered as a Rwandan Non Governmental Organization through Ministerial Order No. 146/08.11 of 25th November 2009 that was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Rwanda no.12 of 22 March 2010.

THEMATIC AREAS

- EDUCATION
- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
- POLICY RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

- PEACE BUILDING
- GENDER
- ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

For more information please visit our website <https://fiyorwanda.rw>

EDUCATION PROGRAM



Education is the largest program of the organization. Under this program, formal and informal education projects/activities have been simultaneously undertaken. Some of the flagship projects undertaken include;

- **PROMOTING STEM Courses** in both primary and secondary to encourage students especially girls to pursue STEM careers.
- **Public Speaking and Debate program:** FIYO is actively engaged in organizing debate sessions between schools to promote a culture of critical thinking, public speaking and raising self-esteem especially for girls.

OVERVIEW

FIYO believes that in order to have a prosperous society, education has to be the major pillar to the development of the country.

FIYO's mission is to improve the quality of education through contributing to training of teachers, building the capacity of Parent Teachers Association (PTAs) and providing adequate resources to schools.

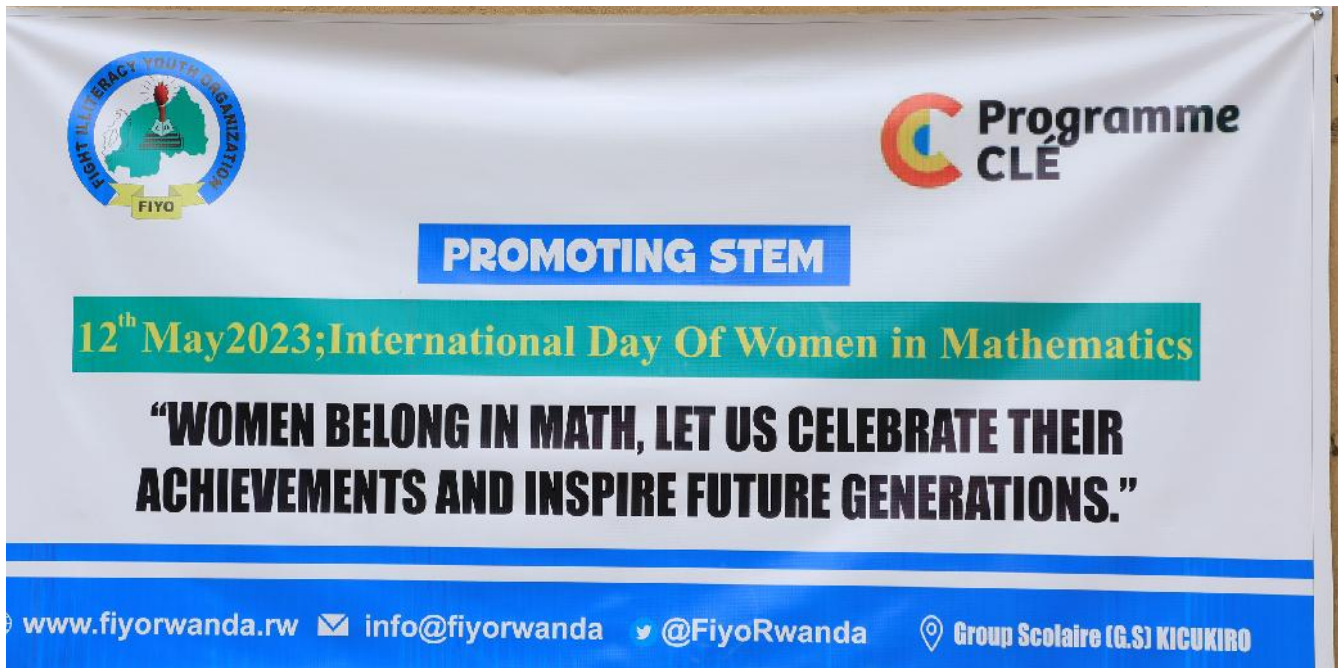
STEM PROMOTION PROGRAM



FIYO has organized activities in several districts, including Kicukiro, Gasabo, Nyarugenge, Kamonyi, and Gicumbi to promote STEM education. Various initiatives has been put up by FIYO to promote STEM in schools and they include;

- **Sensitization campaigns:** Through theater and Drama, FIYO organizes sensitization campaigns to encourage students to be engaged in STEM courses.
- **Formation of STEM clubs:** FIYO forms STEM clubs in schools to get students more interested in STEM Subjects. These Clubs offer an opportunity to students to network and discover more about STEM fields.
- **Role models and testimonial sessions:** FIYO invites successful women and men to speak about their careers and their journey in STEM careers. Role models can inspire students to enroll in STEM fields.
- **Study tours to different institutions related to STEM fields:** the main goal for the study tours is to relate STEM subjects in our daily lives. They also help students to learn about the different career opportunities that are available in STEM fields. Tours are made to industries, companies, factories, universities and colleges related to STEM fields.
- **Making STEM resources available to students** to ease the access and participation of students, these resources helps the students to acquire hands on experiments.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN MATHEMATICS WITH A MATH TOURNAMENT



On May 12th, the world celebrates Women in Mathematics and acknowledges the vital contributions women have made throughout history to the field of Mathematics.

To commemorate this occasion, FIYO with the support from CLE program organized a Math tournament involving 15 schools, aimed at inspiring future generations of mathematicians.

The event provided an opportunity for students to meet and interact with role models from diverse institutions, including the Rwandan Association of Women in Science and Engineering (RAWISE), the Rwanda TVET Board (RTB), the Rwanda Education Board (REB), and the College of Science and Technology (KIST) and many other partners in the education and STEM sector.

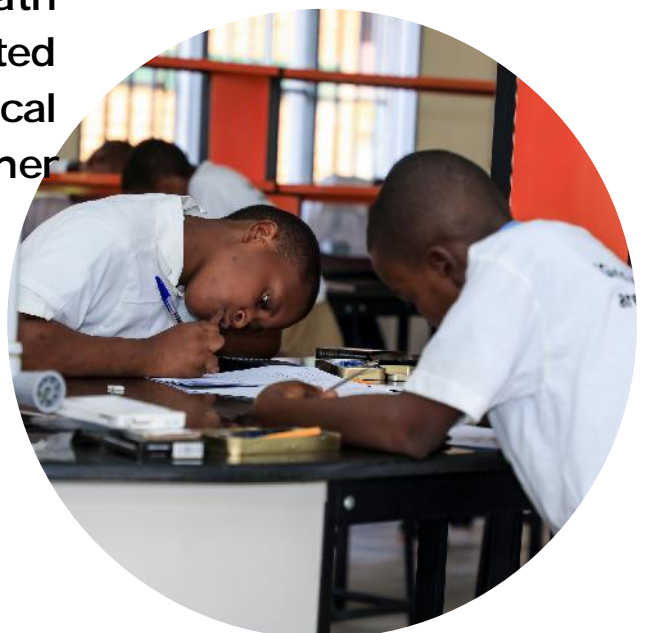
FIYO commemorates this day to pay tribute to the accomplishments of women in STEM careers. By doing so, we aim to inspire future generations, challenge stereotypes, and provide tangible role models.

ABOUT THE EVENT



The event took place at Groupe Scolaire de KICUKIRO. the school representative extended a warm welcome to all participants and guests. He thanked FIYO and it's partners for organizing such an event to promote STEM and choosing their school as the host. He concluded his remarks by wishing them a delightful celebration.

The event also featured inter-school math competitions, where students competed for prizes including books, mathematical sets, school bags, water bottles, and other essential school equipment.



Opening Remarks from Guests.

FIYO's Executive Director, Moses GAHIGI, highlighted that the competition's objective is to advance STEM education in the country, with the ultimate aim of empowering young people to create employment opportunities for others, rather than merely seeking them.



He continued by stating that it's essential to encourage children to perceive STEM subjects as equivalent to other fields. Today, we highlight Mathematics in observance of International Day of Women in Mathematics, inspiring girls to embrace these subjects and close the gender gap in STEM fields. The aim is to increase female representation, and we need to overcome the fear of pursuing careers in these areas.

Mr. Geoffrey RUTAGAMBWA, the RTB representative, emphasized the significance of mathematics in fostering innovation and integration of new ideas and technology. He cited real-life examples to illustrate how mathematics is an essential attribute in our daily lives. For instance, the chairs we were seated on required accurate measurements and calculations from the carpenter to determine the appropriate length and width.



He further mentioned that the government is planning to build a new TVET facility at the district level to increase enrollment in technical and vocational education.

ALINE DORIMANA, a representative from **RAWISE**, an organization dedicated to empowering Rwandan women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and decision-making, was in attendance at the event. During her speech, she conveyed that while mathematics may be presented as complicated for children based on their educational background, it can become more manageable when presented in conjunction with real-life situations.



Aline DORIMANA from RAWISE spills the tea on her testimonial journey

Jolyane Berube, the Country Director of the CLE program, which supported FIYO in implementing the program in Rwanda, stated that a student's proficiency in mathematics correlates with their overall performance in other subjects.



Jolyane BERUBE, the Country Director of CLE program giving her remarks

She emphasized that one of CLE's top priorities is promoting STEM education for girls and women to empower them. Mathematics serves as the foundation for performance in various disciplines, including culinary and construction. Even fields such as music and arts utilize mathematical concepts. It's essential to overcome the barriers created by the environment to ensure the acquisition of basic mathematical skills.

Mr. Andrew KWIZERA, from Rwanda Education Board (REB), stated that the Ministry of Education remains committed to advancing STEM education through its sector strategic priorities from 2018 to 2024. While some progress has been made, he acknowledged that more work needs to be done.

Efforts are being made to promote STEM subjects by training teachers, distributing toolkits, and reducing school fees for students who perform well in Science. The aim is to encourage parents and students to embrace STEM and empower them in the field.



Mr. Andrew KWIZERA delivered his keynote address to the students, serving as the esteemed guest of honor.



According to him, "There has been a significant increase in student engagement in STEM subjects, indicating the Ministry's success in curbing school dropouts and aligning the lesson quality with the demands of the labor market."



Open Interaction between Students and Role Models

Following the event, a Q&A session was held for the students. The panelists, GEOFREY from RTB and ALINE DORIMANA from RAWISE, fielded questions. The first inquiry was from KESSY MUGABE, who asked why there still exists a societal stigma surrounding STEM fields especially to girls.



In her response, ALINE DORIMANA from RAWISE said that "it's a responsibility from different stakeholders such as; Teachers, Parents, Non-Governmental Organizations, Schools and Government Institutions to guide and provide career guidance regardless of the stereotypes that the society has towards STEM courses.

PHILEMON NUJUJE a student from G.S KIMISAGARA also asked a question that why is it still more expensive for the TVET schools?



In his response, GEOFREY from RTB responded by saying that "the reason as to why TVET schools are still expensive is that they materials and resources required in the TVET school are also expensive but he gave an assurance to the students that the government is trying to put out in place subsidies to help lower the tuition fees and become affordable to each individual trying to pursue a career in TVET.

Rewards and Participation Certificates

The event concluded by awarding the best students that out performed others in the tournament, the three best students were from Camp Kigali, G.S Kicukiro and G.S KIMISANGE.

Students were told to keep training and revising because FIYO will be organizing these events each year. It was emphasized that STEM competitions will continue being organized by FIYO and it's partners at school and district level.



The best three students were given different awards including; a school bag, books, Geometry and a bottle of water from Carnegie Mellon University Africa.



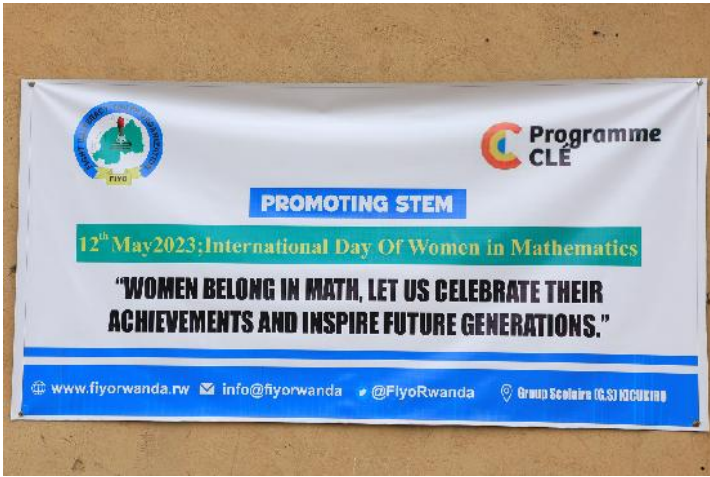
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF PARTNERS



FIYO would like to appreciate and acknowledge the tremendous support of its partners to support the program;

- **CLE Program;** FIYO would like to thank CLE program in supporting us in terms of capacity building and improving the quality and attractiveness of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs and also promoting inclusive learning environments
- **Rwanda Basic Education REB:** FIYO appreciate the partnership it had with a Government Institution established in 2020 by the presidential order and the mission of the Institution to promote quality education in basic, specialized and adult schools.
- **Rwanda TVET Board (RTB):** FIYO appreciates RTB for a fruitful partnership whereby they collaborate with the Institution to promote quality education in Technical and Vocational education and training
- **Carnegie Mellon University Africa:** FIYO also thank Carnegie Mellon University Africa for providing rewards to the students that excelled in Mathematics tournament and for more partnership ahead
- **Rwandan Association of Women in Science and Engineering RAWISE:** FIYO appreciated RAWISE for the inspiration sessions between STEM role models and students
- **AKAZI KANOZE ACCESS:** Akazi Kanoze Access is a local NGO that partners with FIYO in empowering the Youth with skills and career readiness

EVENT IN PICTURES







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