

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time 11.00am AEST

Date 28 APRIL 2015

THE BHP BILLITON FOUNDATION HELPS GIRLS TO CHOOSE MATHS

BHP Billiton Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Mackenzie, today helped launch a A\$22 million partnership with the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) to increase the representation of women in the field of mathematics.

Mr Mackenzie joined AMSI Director Professor Geoff Prince, Senator the Hon Scott Ryan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education and Training, and maths and science teachers and academics in officially launching the '*Choose Maths*' program at The University of Melbourne.

The funding will be provided by the BHP Billiton Foundation over five years and will help to influence the perception of mathematics among girls and young women and address a decline in Australians studying maths and entering STEM related careers.

"Australian industry knows that STEM professionals are vital to our future prosperity, national productivity and global competitiveness. For the resources industry this is especially true," Mr Mackenzie said.

"BHP Billiton employs 123,000 people worldwide, many of them STEM professionals, so we share the responsibility to make sure there is a pipeline of young people who choose to study STEM subjects.

"Any increase in STEM participation is good news but an increase in female representation is especially valuable because of the undeniable benefits of diversity.

"AMSI is a leader in the field of mathematics and I'm proud that we're partnering in the development of this targeted and holistic program to address the gender dynamic in the teaching and learning of maths."

Core components of the '*Choose Maths*' program include professional development for teachers in 120 schools and additional resources for schools across the country, a national women in mathematics careers awareness campaign, scholarships and networking support for women in maths and an awards program to recognise excellence in teaching and learning.

AMSI Director Professor Geoff Prince said the Choose Maths program would draw on research-based strategies to create a pipeline of female talent and help address the gender wage gap.

"The low participation of girls and women in the study of the mathematical sciences and in the quantitative professions is a significant national social and economic challenge," Professor Prince said.

"This landmark five-year project, undertaken by the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute and funded by the BHP Billiton Foundation, aims to build self-sustaining education communities where girls and young women share equally in the rewarding careers and rich life experiences that mathematics offers."

BHP Billiton Finance Senior Manager, Fiona Avery said she chose maths at school thanks to the support and encouragement of educators and it was great to see the effort made to promote maths subjects for girls and young women.

"In the past assumptions have been made that boys are better at things like maths, when actually it has been shown that if people believe in you, give you confidence and tell you that you can do it, you are more likely to succeed. If you're not given that opportunity, you never get the chance to prove it. So anything that just gives you that nudge will surely encourage more girls and give them the confidence to choose these subjects," Ms Avery said.

About the BHP Billiton Foundation's Support for STEM

- BHP Billiton through its charity, the BHP Billiton Foundation, is committed to supporting the advancement of education through:
 - Supporting activities that promote improved graduation rates and employability of marginalised and disadvantaged groups; and
 - Increased profile, interest and uptake of STEM amongst primary, secondary and tertiary students; and the application and deployment of new science and engineering technologies.
- To date the BHP Billiton Foundation and the BHP Billiton Sustainable Communities has committed to support more than \$55 million in STEM related projects.
- Major STEM projects supported by the Foundation aim to address the issues limiting uptake and poor academic achievement in a holistic manner across a student's educational continuum. Projects focus on teacher professional development, mentoring and support to students and changing stereotypes and behaviours of parents, teachers and community more broadly to recognise the importance of STEM related subjects and professions. Activities are implemented across primary, secondary and tertiary intuitions.
- BHP Billiton Foundation investment in STEM is designed to not only promote improved interest and achievement in STEM related subjects and professions, but also to increase diversity in these areas by focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in a project designed delivered by CSIRO and girls in a project designed and delivered by AMSI.
- STEM investment not only focusses on improving academic achievement but also promotes the recognition of students and teachers that excel in STEM through the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards, the Science Olympiads and an awards component in both the CSIRO and AMSI projects.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: www.bhpbilliton.com.

Media Relations

Australia

Emily Perry
Tel: +61 3 9609 2800 Mobile: +61 477 325 803
email: Emily.Perry@bhpbilliton.com

Paul Hitchins
Tel: + 61 3 9609 2592 Mobile: + 61 419 315 001
email: Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com

Eleanor Nichols
Tel: +61 3 9609 2360 Mobile: +61 407 064 748
email: Eleanor.Nichols@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom

Ruban Yogarajah
Tel: +44 20 7802 4033 Mobile: +44 7827 082 022
email: Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com

Jennifer White
Tel: +44 20 7802 7462 Mobile: +44 7827 253 764
email: Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com

Americas

Ruban Yogarajah
Tel: +44 20 7802 4033 Mobile: +44 7827 082 022
email: Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077
Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 16, 171 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

Investor Relations

Australia

Tara Dines
Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 499 249 005
email: Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com

Andrew Gunn
Tel: +61 3 9609 3575 Mobile: +61 402 087 354
email: Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom and South Africa

Jonathan Price
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7990 527 726
email: Jonathan.H.Price@bhpbilliton.com

Dean Simon
Tel: +44 20 7802 7461 Mobile: +44 7717 511 193
email: Dean.Simon@bhpbilliton.com

Americas

James Agar
Tel: +1 212 310 1421 Mobile: +1 347 882 3011
email: James.Agar@bhpbilliton.com

Joseph Suarez
Tel: +1 212 310 1422 Mobile: +1 646 400 3803
email: Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209
Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place
London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom
Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

Members of the BHP Billiton Group which is headquartered in Australia