



Welcome Address of the President of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

Professor Dr. Patrick Cramer

At the Opening Ceremony of the 10th Heidelberg Laureate Forum

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New Auditorium Heidelberg University

– Check against delivery –

Ladies and Gentlemen,

So many talents from all over the world – here, at the University of Heidelberg! People who are endowed with a specific talent recognize each other and meet. These encounters multiply their opportunities. They can lead to something unexpected, exciting, extraordinary. And they can change the world.

The Heidelberg Laureate Forum takes such talent promotion to the extreme: young researchers meet their icons. It's so inspiring to be with you today!

I would like to welcome all the young scientists. We need your talent, we need your questions, we need your contributions! Developing your talent requires courage. It means that you explore your limits. You have to be curious and open-minded. It is not an easy process, but the only one that lets you grow.

Also, I would like to welcome all the highly decorated and established scientists. You have come to Heidelberg to meet the next generation. Thank you for listening, for sharing your experiences and for your advice.

Mathematics and computer science are of central importance also to the Max Planck Society. Two of our institutes are dedicated to mathematics. We also have computer science institutes and institutes that explore the interface between artificial and biological intelligence.

You can use your talent to explore these endless opportunities. However, your talent comes with responsibility. What do I mean?



We live in the information age. Some of you have shaped it; others, also present here, will shape its future. It is up to you to also consider ethical and societal issues, as you actually do during this conference. Your discussions can have a real impact and I encourage you to engage in them.

Now have a great week at Heidelberg! In the early 1990s, I studied in this beautiful city, and at that time I never thought where science would take me. Let me therefore end with my most important message to the young fellows: everything is possible.