



To:

Zhan Wen-long
President
Office of the Chinese Physical Society
P.O. Box 603
Beijing 100190
P.R. China

Bad Honnef, April 12th, 2013

The Karlsruhe Course of Physics (KPK)

Dear Prof. Zhan,

I am taking the liberty to draw your attention to a disturbing development in the field of physics didactics in Germany. The development concerns a course developed by the former “Institute for Didactics in Physics” at the University of Karlsruhe (now Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, KIT) by Prof. F. Herrmann.

The “Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft” (German Physical Society, DPG) has received many critical remarks about this course which led me to the decision to request a detailed and comprehensive review by a panel of renowned physicists. The outcome of the review is documented in a written report (in German).

The findings point to substantial mistakes contradicting our internationally established knowledge of physics. The panel strongly recommends, that the course should not be used for teaching physics at schools.

I have been informed that the course is now also in use in your country, for example at the Jinshan-School in Shanghai. The teaching material is available in Chinese (http://www.physikdidaktik.uni-karlsruhe.de/index_ch.html).

I am very concerned about this development and I recommend that you take a closer look at the situation. As additional information I append a set of slides about the course presented to the council of the European Physical Society by our member of the executive board Prof. K.H. Meier.

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Should you need any additional information or support I will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joh. Stachel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prof. Johanna Stachel

PS: The review and additional material (all in German) is accessible under www.dpg-physik.de/veroeffentlichung/stellungnahmen_gutachter/index.html.

copied to:

Gu Dongmei, Associate Secretary General, Chinese Physical Society

Attachement:

- Slides presentation EPS