

**UMAP Vice President Forum 2008**  
**Higher Education for Sustainable Development**  
**Colima Declaration,**

WE, the participants of the UMAP Vice President Forum 2008, “Higher Education for Sustainable Development,” held in the city and port of Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of April:

- **recalling** the Tokyo Declaration of 2005;
- **agreeing** that globalization is the hallmark of the context of the modern university, especially concerning the world system for the creation of knowledge;
- **acknowledging** that the year 2014 marks the end of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development established by the United Nations, aimed at ensuring that nations understand and learn about the values, the behaviour and the lifestyle that are necessary for the future of sustainability and the transformation of our society;
- **understanding** that higher education for sustainable development must constitute an approach towards international education, by means of building vision and mission statements; consultation and ownership; networking and partnership; capacity building and training, research and innovation; communication and information technologies, and monitoring and assessment;
- **believing** that one of the roles of international education involves learning about global issues, after-care systems, abiding by the “Kyoto Protocol” and, in general, all those roles which contribute to preserving the natural, global and healthy environment;
- **agreeing** that globalization not only provides a great opportunity for higher education cooperation, but also for imperative cooperation among institutions at all levels, so as to overcome the divide; therefore

WE DECLARE, THAT

1. We ratify our commitment to promoting international university exchange and instilling into our students the knowledge of the economic, social and cultural systems in Asia and the Pacific;
2. We recognize that UMAP will be the platform for the intellectual and economic diversity among students of the 21st century in Asia and the Pacific through high-quality joint programs.
3. We encourage scientific cooperation, the openness of research areas and the establishment of strategic alliances, in order to make a greater contribution to sustainable development, always abiding by the principle of the universities’ social responsibility.
4. We refer to the agenda suggested by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), which involves the creation of monitoring systems aimed at

managing and protecting our natural resources from climate change; preserving biodiversity, developing rural and urban areas, reducing poverty, encouraging social responsibility, promoting cultural diversity and education for all, the free flow of information, human rights, gender equality and peace.

5. We agree that it is urgent to promote the humanities and humanism applied to all fields of knowledge with a view to ensuring the comprehensive education of students.
6. We encourage and support our governments' initiatives, to establish any environmental agenda for the years to come, and suggest the following:
  - Allocating funds to projects that actively involve education for the preservation of the environment.
  - Launching Education for Sustainable Development programs at all education levels, in the field of research and technological development, including non-formal education.

In view of the above, we reaffirm the importance of the 16th APEC Leadership Summit, which will be held in November 2008 in Peru and will contribute to establishing closer links between UMAP and APEC in particular, and we shall ensure that this Declaration contributes to the Summit's deliberations.

**Mr. Miguel Ángel Aguayo López**  
UMAP Chair

**Mr. Sumate Yamnoon**  
UMAP Secretary General

**Ms. Churnrurtai Kanchanachitra**  
Vice-President, Collaboration and Networking, Mahidol University  
Chair of UMAP VPF 2008

**Mr. Akira Ninomiya**  
Research Vice-President, Hiroshima University  
Vice-Chair of UMAP VPF 2008

Manzanillo, Colima, México, April 16, 2008