

Address by His Imperial Highness The Crown Prince
at the UNESCO World Conference on Education
for Sustainable Development
Monday, November 10, 2014
Nagoya Congress Center

Mrs. Bokova,
Your Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am greatly pleased that the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development is being held, together with so many participants from nations all over the world.

On our Earth today, along with economic growth and increasing populations, we are also witnessing the advancing change of climate, loss of biodiversity, depletion of natural resources, increases in poverty, and other problems. For our children and theirs, we have three important tasks: protecting the Earth's environment, which is the wellspring for ensuring lives abundant with blessings, treasuring the Earth's limited resources, and achieving sustainable development. In order to accomplish this, we, humankind, must do our utmost by pooling our knowledge and wisdom and unifying our capabilities.

Under these circumstances, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, 20 years after the 1992 Rio Summit. The 188 participating countries at the conference adopted a declaration titled "The Future We Want". It presents a challenge to each and every one of us to decide what actions we should take to ensure the sustainable future that we want.

In order to achieve sustainable development, each of us must recognize that we exist relative to all the other people in the world, and to future generations, as well as to our own natural environment. And we must consider the various global problems with a deepened international perspective. I feel certain that education is the basis for this.

I believe that during these last ten years of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, people around the world have been engaged in the ESD in various ways. It is very significant that in this last year of the Decade of the ESD, the UNESCO World Conference on the ESD is being held in Nagoya here in Japan, which originally proposed the idea of the Decade of the ESD.

In addition, I am told that, preceding this World Conference on the ESD, high school students and other young people from around the world gathered in the city of Okayama for earnest and lively discussions on the ESD. We have the highest expectations that these and other young people will support the future of the Earth as leaders for realizing sustainable societies.

Lastly, I would like to pay my profound respects to all of the organizers for their efforts in holding this World Conference on the ESD. I wish to express my sincere hope that active discussions on advancing the ESD will be held at this conference, and that concrete efforts in the field of education will be further advanced as a result for the building of sustainable societies in the future.

Thank you very much.



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联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of the Opening of the *UNESCO World Conference on
Education for Sustainable Development***

Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 10 November 2014

Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess

Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa of Morocco, President of the
Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment,

Excellency Mr Hakubun Shimomura, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports,
Science and Technology of Japan,

Honourable Mr Hideaki Ohmura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be in Aichi-Nagoya today – this is the culmination of a journey,
and the beginning of a new one.

Let me thank the Government of Japan for organising the *UNESCO World
Conference on Education for Sustainable Development,* along with the City of
Nagoya and the Prefecture of Aichi.

I am deeply grateful to His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito for his
leadership and commitment.

I thank Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa for the honour of her presence
today.

I have just come from the city of Okayama, where the Minister and I jointly inaugurated the ESD Youth Forum and witnessed the tremendous vitality of participants from the world over.

And today we are in Nagoya -- I can hardly think of a better place for us to explore education for sustainable development.

...a city with a history 2,000 years long.

...a city of rich culture and cutting edge industry.

Nagoya is often associated with the development of Waka poetry, and this reminds of a poem by the Emperor Meiji:

It is our hope

That all the world's oceans

Be joined in peace

So why do the winds and waves

Now rise up in angry rage?

I believe we have all come to Nagoya today with the same unity in the face of adversity, sharing this same aspiration for solidarity against contrary winds.

The stakes are high.

Across the world today, new challenges are emerging that pay no heed to borders or policy lines.

There are rising costs of natural disasters.

There is the deepening impact of climate change.

The planet is under pressure, we are reaching the limits of its boundaries.

This is a call to action, and action has been the spirit guiding the *United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)*, sponsored by Japan and led by UNESCO.

The core message of the UN Decade is one that echoes the opening lines of the UNESCO Constitution.

Building the foundations for lasting peace and sustainable development must start in the minds of women and men.

And this must begin with education.

Education is the way to connect the dots between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Sustainability requires changes in how we produce and consume.

Fundamentally, it requires new ways of seeing the world, new ways of thinking about our responsibilities to each other and the planet, new ways of acting and behaving as global citizens.

This is why education is the bedrock for sustainability, because it can shape the new values, skills and knowledge we need for the century ahead.

We must build green economies – we also need green societies.

We must draft green legislation and regulations – we need also green citizens.

These ideas have deep roots in Japan, which sponsored and helped drive the *UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*.

We have come to Nagoya to take stock of ten years of action.

The achievements are there for all to see.

More and more Governments have integrated education strategies, tools and targets into national sustainable development policies -- the mid-decade Conference in Bonn, Germany gave fresh impetus and accelerated this movement.

Through the *Eco Schools* programme, more than 14 million students and 1.2 million teachers in 58 countries are engaged in action-orientated learning for sustainable development.

In Brazil, the *Seeds of Spring* initiative reached 12,700 students in the city of Osasco in 2012, making them change agents in their lives, schools and communities.

Across the world, 550 business schools have signed onto the *Principles for Responsible Management Education*, developed by the UN Global Compact.

Morocco has placed education for sustainable development at the heart of learning, and the development of greener schools -- I wish to recognize the personal commitment and dynamism of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, President of the *Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment*, which is leading so many ground-breaking initiatives.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

L'éducation en vue du développement durable a acquis une reconnaissance internationale.

Les Etats ont souligné son importance lors de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable, à Rio de Janeiro au Brésil en 2012.

Cette année, le Groupe de travail ouvert sur les objectifs de développement durable a justement proposé que l'éducation en vue du développement durable soit intégré dans l'objectif proposé pour l'éducation, à savoir « *assurer une éducation et un apprentissage de qualité, inclusifs et équitable tout au long de la vie* » - en droite ligne avec l'accord de Mascate, adoptée lors de la réunion de l'UNESCO sur l'Education pour tous à Oman cette année.

La Déclaration de Samoa, adoptée lors de la troisième Conférence internationale sur les Petits États insulaires en développement en Septembre 2014, réaffirme aussi l'importance de l'éducation de qualité pour le développement durable.

Le tout premier Institut de l'UNESCO en Asie - l'Institut Mahatma Gandhi pour l'éducation à la paix et au développement durable, inauguré en 2012, travaille précisément sur ces sujets.

Un mouvement est en marche, qui s'est amplifié durant toute la décennie des Nations Unies, et nous devons accélérer le rythme, pour aider les gouvernements en vue des échéances qui approchent en 2015 :

L'adoption d'un nouvel agenda mondial du développement durable après 2015...

La Conférence COP21 sur le climat qui se tiendra l'année prochaine à Paris, et dont l'UNESCO est un partenaire actif. La Conférence de Lima le mois prochain va dessiner le chemin vers COP 21.

La Conférence mondiale d'Aïchi-Nagoya va nourrir le Forum mondial sur l'éducation qui se tiendra à Incheon, en République de Corée, en 2015, et qui doit être un tremplin vers les politiques d'éducation du futur.

Voilà l'enjeu du Programme mondial d'action pour l'éducation en vue du développement durable : construire une éducation adaptée aux enjeux du 21^{ème} siècle, qui réponde aux besoins de la société civile.

C'est un projet fondamentalement humaniste, et pour réussir, nous devons compter sur le soutien de tous les partenaires, gouvernements et secteur privé, et la présence de tant de ministres, d'experts, de jeunes leaders, est un signe d'unité, un signe d'encouragement et un appel à se mobiliser.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

**Opening Address by Hakubun Shimomura,
Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan
For the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development
November 10 (Mon) 2014
At Nagoya Congress Center**

It is a great honor today to have an honorable attendance of His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince and Princess, and Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa, and I am very pleased to see so many participants at this UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development. On behalf of the organizers as Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, I would like to welcome you and thank you for coming to this very important event.

As you may know, the UN Decade of ESD had its origins at the 2002 Johannesburg Summit. At the Summit, then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi proposed the idea of the ESD. A resolution for the Decade of ESD was adopted at the 57th UN General Assembly. Since then, Japan has been promoting ESD internationally through our support to UNESCO. I am delighted to say that ESD is now taking root around the world.

ESD is also being actively promoted in Japan. We have included the concepts of ESD in the government's Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education and in MEXT's curriculum guidelines for schools.

Moreover, in Japan, there are 807 UNESCO Associated Schools, the largest number in the world. These schools are the focal points for various ESD activities held at the local level.

We are now facing many global problems. In September this year, the UN Climate Summit was held. At the summit, the political will of nations to build new frameworks to fight climate change was confirmed. In other words, strong momentum has been built around the world to overcome the problem. In Japan, we are making many efforts to reflect our concern for the global environment. One example is Japan's world-leading commercial

production of fuel-cell cars.

Within this context, I believe we must work to further promote ESD with the spirit of making a fresh, new start.

In addition, for Japan, 2020 will be the year we host the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. The Olympics will help shape the future direction Japan will take. Indeed, I believe 2020 will be a big turning point for Japan. We will show the greatest concern for the environment in staging these Olympics. I want to encourage young people to have the confidence to take positive action to solve global issues, beginning with environmental problems. I believe that ESD will be a key perspective for this.

I can say with pride that Japan is one of the countries making the most positive efforts for ESD. We want to continue to enhance and expand these efforts in Japan, as well as contribute to the promotion of ESD throughout the international community.

I would here like to announce a new initiative by Japan. We have proposed to establish a new award, called the UNESCO/Japan ESD Award, to commend outstanding efforts for ESD around the world and this has been approved by the UNESCO Executive Board. We hope that this award will motivate ESD practitioners worldwide to break new ground in ESD.

The preparations for this World Conference on ESD have been carried out under close cooperation among UNESCO, Aichi Prefecture, and the cities of Nagoya and Okayama. Various interesting cultural events have also been planned. I am sure that your time during the conference period will be well spent and worthwhile.

Lastly, I expect that this conference will be very fruitful. And I hope that the results will be shared widely in the international community and further advance ESD around the world.

Thank you.

Opening Remarks

By the Governor of Aichi Prefecture

Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa of Morocco, Her Excellency Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, ministers of UNESCO member states, and all conference participants, welcome to Aichi-Nagoya.

In the presence of Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess, it is a great honor to host the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development here in Aichi-Nagoya.

In 2005, we held a World Exposition on the theme of “Nature’s Wisdom” in the very year that the UN Decade of ESD started. For the first time in the history of world expositions, it was themed on the environment, and sent out a message to the rest of the world about how human beings should live in harmony with nature. In 2010, CBD-COP10 was held here in this same venue, and the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” were adopted as a global roadmap for preserving biodiversity from 2010 to 2020.

To pass on these accomplishments to the future and achieve a sustainable society, we announced the invitation to this conference in 2011, and since then a great many people have contributed to the preparations.

ESD is important not only for solving global issues, but also building local communities, so the whole region is involved in ESD. In particular, we have focused on nurturing the people who will shoulder the next generation by expanding

UNESCO Associated Schools. These efforts in Aichi-Nagoya deserve much attention.

Aichi-Nagoya has the largest accumulation of industries in Japan, especially in the automotive and aerospace industries. The region also has a thriving agricultural industry, and is the largest producer of flowers in Japan. Today, we greeted you all with flowers grown here.

This area is also known as the birthplace of *Nobunaga*, *Hideyoshi*, and *Ieyasu*, the three Samurai heroes who unified Japan in the 16th century, and has many historic sites such as Nagoya Castle, National Treasure Inuyama Castle, as well as traditional cultures such as *dashi* festival floats and *karakuri* mechanical puppets.

Introductions to the attractions of Aichi-Nagoya are on display in the Event Hall. In addition, we have planned excursions so that you can enjoy the attractions for yourselves. Also, a welcome reception will be held at this congress center this evening. I hope you will enjoy our hospitality and your stay with us here.

To conclude, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the representatives from UNESCO and the Japanese government, who put so much time and effort into preparing for this conference. In closing, I offer my sincere wishes for the success of the conference and for the further progress of ESD in the future.

Thank you very much.