

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.