

Forum UNESCO "University and Heritage"
First Meeting of the Universities of Central America and the Caribbean
Santiago de Cuba (Cuba) 26 - 29 April 2000

DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Present, representatives of the universities of Cuba, Spain, Mexico, and Puerto Rico and representatives of students from the Universidad de Oriente and the Instituto Superior Politécnico José Antonio Echeverría, Havana,

AGREE

1. To form, according to the attached Act of Foundation, the National Network Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage) in the Republic of Cuba.
2. To promote undergraduate exchange programmes so that students can carry out their final year project work in any of the countries that form part of the network, with a grant of up to 6 months.
3. To encourage grant programmes for postgraduate study.
4. To promote inter-university exchanges within Central America and the Caribbean.
5. Make extensive use of information technology for the dissemination of programmes, activities and projects linked to Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage) in the regions of Central America and the Caribbean.

6. To work towards the creation of a Professorship in Cultural Heritage under the auspices of Forum UNESCO at the Universidad de Oriente in Santiago de Cuba, and to create the others proposed by the different universities belonging to the National Cuban Network.
7. Ascertain the feasibility for the Universidad de Havana to work towards the creation of a Professorship under the control of Forum UNESCO.
8. Stimulate the creation of student associations, belonging to Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage), that will be engaged in heritage protection.
9. Request the moral and material support of Latin American and Caribbean organisations, universities UNESCO's National Commissions, and of governmental and non-governmental organisations to help with the realisation of the tasks and objectives of the Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage) Network.

FUNDATIONAL ACT

WE, representatives of the universities of the Republic of Cuba, participants in the First Meeting of the Universities of Central America and the Caribbean, Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage);

ARE AWARE, that co-operation among universities and other institutions is a cornerstone in the development and creation of scientific knowledge;

ARE CERTAIN, that cultural heritage, its knowledge, dissemination, conservation and generation constitute an essential part in the expression of humanity;

ARE COMMITTED, to the engendering of academic and scientific activities that make possible the formation of human resources in issues related to cultural heritage, understood as the production of all human creativity in the solar system;

ACKNOWLEDGE, that the world network Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage) is a project dedicated to the protection and safekeeping of cultural heritage and mobilises the university community to this end, as set out in the Agreement Protocol drawn up between UNESCO and the Polytechnic University of Valencia and signed at the UNESCO office in Paris on 19 April 1995;

CONSIDER, that both academic and scientific antecedents related to cultural heritage exist in Cuban universities and that the development of joint projects among the country's different universities and institutions, for the enhancement of their individual strengths and the achievement of excellence in the work in hand, constitutes one of the main strategies in the Cuban higher education sector.

WE PLEDGE

1. To encourage the creation of the National Cuban Network Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage) that will favour, promote, enable and organise principally the formation of human resources within universities and research into topics related to cultural heritage, with the designation of the Universidad de Oriente as co-ordinator until its consolidation has been achieved.
2. To develop a national database containing information on experts in the field of cultural heritage, as well as the realisation of a national survey of scientific work carried out in Cuban universities in this area, so that this information can be transferred to the database at the Central Office, where it can be accessed throughout the world.
3. To co-ordinate the remaining Cuban institutions that work in the heritage field, in the endeavour to provide mutual help for the organisation of work projects.
4. To invite all the tertiary education institutions of the Republic of Cuba to join the Cuban National Network Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage).
5. To promote the creation of student associations for the defence of heritage within each of the universities belonging to the Forum UNESCO Network, which will later be incorporated into its corresponding World Network.

The signatories of this agreement consider themselves to be the FOUNDERS of the National Cuban Network.

In Santiago de Cuba, heroic city of the Republic of Cuba, the twenty-ninth of April in the year two thousand.

Signatories:

Universidad de La Habana

Instituto Superior Politécnico José Antonio Echeverría

Universidad de Camagüey

Instituto Superior Minero Metalúrgico de Moa

Centro Universitario de Guantánamo

Centro Universitario de Las Tunas

Universidad de Oriente

Witness:

Dr. José Luis Montalvá Conesa

Director, Forum UNESCO (University and Heritage)