



UNIVERSIDAD
POLITECNICA
DE VALENCIA

Greetings

Although it may seem hard to believe, all peoples have something in common culturally. It is impossible to show, in all of the history of mankind, the existence of a single people, civilisation or cultural register that was not influenced in some way by other cultures. One simply cannot prove that there once existed a people, a culture, which was totally cut off from the visit of that wandering individual, of a ship, from the flight of the birds, the currents of the seas, the movement of pollen through the air, the power of the word, the suggestion of images, the impure wealth of literature or the smells and tastes of gastronomy.

What we human beings do have is something in common in all our cultures, alongside another specific cultural aspect. This aspect, mixed and altered by the first, is a native phenomena, the fruit of the collective, sensitive and heroic intellectual efforts of each and every one of our ancestors.

Forum UNESCO / University and Heritage was created six years ago to develop and consolidate these inter-cultural, common umbilical cords, uni-ted through the mobilisation of a particular institution - the university.

Six years later, this project has grown into a solid reality, with the participation of over 350 universities, 200 institutions and more than 2000 specialists from all around the world. Valencia, America (Quebec, Canada), Australia (Melbourne), Africa (Ifrane, Morocco), Asia (Byblos, Lebanon), have played host to the yearly seminars in which we have reflected on past achievements and progressed towards further goals. Now once again we return to Valencia - as though closing out a first stage in the process -to discuss the challenges and problems facing us in our growth. Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage, dedicated to breathing new life into our dying Heritage, cannot rest on its laurels, satisfied with its successes and vitality. This year, we'll address such themes as the need for a Code of Ethics, a higher degree of inter-university cooperation, more student participation, etc. I hope this seminar will represent a “before and after” in our project, as though marking the dividing line of a new cycle.

Welcome to Valencia!

Justo Nieto Nieto

VICE-CHANCELLOR POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA



