

KUALA LUMPUR RESOLUTION

ON SCIENCE CENTRES IN PROMOTING A KNOWLEDGE-BASED, INNOVATIVE SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINED AND RESPONSIBLE GROWTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

WHILE EXPRESSING GRATITUDE to the National Science Centre, Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI) of Malaysia, the host of the international workshop on 'Science Centres in Promoting A Knowledge and Innovative Society for Sustained and Responsible Growth in Developing Countries', jointly held with the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 11th - 14th October 2010;

HAVING DELIBERATED on the issues relating to the improvement of the science communication functions of the existing science centres and to the need for the establishment of new science centres as non-formal mechanisms for capacity building and learning in science;

THE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS, including the professionals and experts from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, the U.K., Vietnam and Zambia, unanimously resolve the following:

- The workshop has been highly successful and it is recommended that similar workshops be held in other developing countries in future, as a means of strengthening and promoting science communication;
- The interactive nature of the science centres and museums represents an important opportunity to spread scientific awareness, promote non-formal science education and literacy, improve attitudes to science and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all. There is, therefore, an acute need to establish new science centres and upgrade existing science centres in developing countries;
- There is a need to establish a vibrant network of science centres / museums and other institutions engaged in science popularisation amongst the developing countries in order to facilitate the effective sharing of expertise, experience and best practice.
- It is recommended that the concerned national authorities and funding institutions in the NAM and other developing countries promote the role of science centres, science museums and science outreach projects as vital elements of public education, improvement of public awareness and interest in science;
- It is also recommended that the national authorities and funding agencies fund research into the impact of science centres and the dissemination of the results of such research;

- Indigenous knowledge and innovations are strong components of developing countries. In a context of paucity of finances for their S&T development programmes, these countries should endeavour to include traditional as well as innovative approaches in their programmes;
- The activities of science centres should be appropriately extended to include the rural and less privileged areas. Wherever possible, these activities should emphasise the socio-economic implications of global climate change and other millennium development goals;
- Science centres should also increase public awareness and improve decision makers' understanding of the social, economic and political aspects of these issues;
- Wherever possible, the partnerships between the developing countries and assistance from one country to another for the establishment of new science centres / museums and outreach projects should be encouraged;
- The governments of the developing countries should provide appropriate statutory and legal frameworks, mechanisms and structures to facilitate the development of science centres / museums and outreach projects through partnerships in the private sector, investment and concessions, including tax relief. The concerned authorities should facilitate garnering support from the ministries within the government;
- Collaboration between developing countries should be encouraged, using the available bilateral, multilateral and inter-governmental cultural, educational, scientific and technical exchange programmes and through private and philanthropic funding agencies;
- The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has in principle agreed to host the next international workshop on an appropriate theme related to the Science Communication and Science Parks jointly with the NAM S&T Centre sometime in 2012, subject to receiving the necessary regulatory and governmental approvals.

THUS, RESOLVED IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA ON THIS DAY, THE 13TH OCTOBER 2010.

