



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Information Meeting of the Executive Board

UNESCO Headquarters – Paris, 3 July 2014

Remarks

by

H.E. Dr Hao Ping

**President of the General Conference
Vice-Minister of Education
of the People's Republic of China**

Chairperson of the Executive Board,
Madame Director-General,
Distinguished members of the Executive Board,
Dear colleagues,

Time has gone by fast since the last session of the Executive Board. It is always important to pause and share together the activities that took place as well as the information and ideas, in order to move forward as one.

Looking around the world, I am happy to note that, different activities in fields of education, science and culture have been conducted by our member states, following the resolutions adopted by the 37th General Conference.

One in particular, on my part, is the participation of the Chairperson of the Executive Board and myself in the UN Debate, organized by the Director-General and the President of the General Assembly in New York on 5th May 2014. This meeting was relevant for the inclusion of Culture in the development agenda. The meeting, I believe, was a substantial momentum to leverage the importance of culture as a crucial factor for sustainable development, and its full integration in the global post-2015 agenda. I highly appreciate yesterday's debate with the special advisor of UN Secretary General, which demonstrated the strong voice and will of UNESCO in this regard.

In that same month, I also paid an official visit to Kuwait, in order to attend the award ceremony of the *UNESCO Prize to Promote Quality Education for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities*, where I was also impressed by the warm hospitality by Kuwaiti people. This prize demonstrates the strong commitment and political will of the Kuwaiti government, as well as the two winners from Canada and Armenia, for inclusive education, which is inspiring to all other countries.

I also visited Baku in May and delivered a speech at the *Baku World Forum of Young Scientists*. Young scientists from more than 90 countries attended the meeting. I witnessed their dynamic discussion, I witnessed their creative passion, and more than that, I witnessed, and was impressed by the government of Azerbaijan for the perfect organization of the Forum and their pursuit to a more inclusive, dynamic and sustainable development.

On 4th and 5th June 2014, the conference enhancing language ability and education for the 21st century was held in Suzhou, China. Over one hundred countries' representatives and linguistic experts and professors attended the Conference, and we were honoured by the presence of many of you including Director General and the Chairperson of the Executive Board. The conference adopted the 'Suzhou Declaration', which will be a referential guideline for language education and policies. During that week, the International Conference on Engineering was also opened, receiving more than one thousand and five hundred engineers from the whole world. Madame Director General was also invited to this conference and was received by the President of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping.

All that said, I certainly couldn't miss the 38th session of World Heritage Committee, which opened on 15th June in Doha, Qatar. Around one thousand and seven hundred participants from all over the world, including many of ambassadors present here, took part in this important meeting, illustrating the great interest of the Member States in World Heritage. Please allow me to congratulate the Qatar government for its wonderful hospitality and for the successful organization of the conference.

My last stop was in Jordan, where I met the Head of the UNESCO office in Amman as well as our representative to Iraq, who withdrew his team to Amman because of the conflict. I brought to him the regards of the Director-General and the Chair of the Board and he was deeply encouraged. Here, I would express again my concern about the actual situation in Iraq.

Dear colleagues,

I am confident that the rich debate we had today, the discussions and suggestions will lead us to move one step further in our mission and objectives.

Throughout your questions, I wish to note three major points for your information:

First, the restructuring and redeployment exercise, has been carried out according to plan; this progress cannot be made without support of each Member State;

Second, the ongoing audit by the External Auditor is progressing steadily. This exercise is the top concern of the Members States. We, the Members States, should give high priority in this exercise. During my last meeting with some auditors, I was impressed by their sense of responsibility to work as well as their efforts in completing this job.

And the third point is UNESCO's actions for the preparation of the Post-two thousand and fifteen Development Agenda, which are gathering the wisdom and resources of member states, and will certainly guide us in the process of promoting human peace and development.

At last but not the least, I am glad to share with you that, just before this afternoon session, Chinese government signed a JPO agreement with UNESCO, which opened a new way of cooperation for both sides in human resources. In the meantime, I was happy to learn that our colleagues from Qatar will also sign a JPO agreement with UNESCO tomorrow. These are good models that we can follow, and I hope it could be a cooperation mechanism between UNESCO and Member States in the future.

Excellencies,

If we keep the same determination and commitment, our expressed wishes will be translated into actions through the work of the Secretariat.

Please remember that our united will / is our strength. When people are united with the same will, they are as strong as great walls.

Happy summer holiday to you all!

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