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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**Address by Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO**

**for the Side Event on *Integrated Approaches to Science and Engineering
for Sustainable Development***

UNESCO, 18 November 2013

Excellency Mr Kenjiro Monji, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Japan to UNESCO,

Professor Takeuchi, Senior Vice-Rector of the United Nations University,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for coming to this Side Event on *Integrated Approaches to Science and Engineering for Sustainable Development*.

Let me thank the United Nations University for its support to this event, which builds on the symposium held at UNESCO on 19 September, at the initiative of Japan, on *Sustainability Science – Promoting Integration and Cooperation*.

This Side Event occurs at the right time -- during the 37th session of the General Conference, at a time when Member States are considering a new Medium-Term Strategy to guide the Organization over the next eight years, when States are accelerating to meet the Millennium Development Goals and Education for All by 2015, and when the international community is shaping a new sustainable development agenda to follow.

These are times of great opportunity and challenge, when the planet faces rising pressures, when traditional models of development are reaching their limits.

In this context, all countries are seeking to identify new sources of dynamism, to harness the power of cross-cutting multipliers for sustainable development.

This is the importance of science.

And not just any science.

I mean *the sciences* -- trans-disciplinary science, drawing on the full range of scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge.

I mean *integrated sciences* – sciences tightly linked to policy-making and responding to society.

UNESCO is working precisely on these lines – this is embodied in the leadership we brought to creating the *Scientific Advisory Board* at the request for the United Nations Secretary-General, and which UNESCO will host.

This draws on the Rio+20 Outcome Document and the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's *High-level Panel on Global Sustainability* in 2012, to strengthen the interface between science and policy.

UNESCO's approach is reflected in the draft Medium-Term Strategy

We need to reinvent the way science is conceived, conducted and brought forward – the lines between disciplines must not be boundaries but bridges – and we need the sciences to offer solutions to the problems societies face.

Think of the recent Nobel Prize in Chemistry, awarded to Martin Karplus, Michael Levitt and Arieh Warshel, for bringing chemistry together with computer science – this received some criticism, but it really is the way of the future, and it helped to spearhead advances in pharmaceuticals, to answer concrete questions facing societies.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Les sciences, les technologies et l'innovation sont nos alliées pour le développement durable.

Plus intégrée, plus collaborative, plus connectée aux politiques publiques, la science recèle un potentiel de développement considérable.

L'UNESCO dispose d'une expérience unique dans la conception de programmes de recherche, de soutien des systèmes d'observation, de partage des résultats pour l'élaboration des politiques.

Je pense à l'initiative *Future Earth*, qui vous sera présentée aujourd'hui, et dans laquelle nous sommes très impliqués.

Je pense évidemment à tous les systèmes d'observation de l'océan et du climat à notre contribution au sein de la *Plate-forme intergouvernementale sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques (IPBES)*... au sein du *Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat (GIEC)*

Je suis déterminée à mettre cette expérience intégrée dans les sciences, la technologie et l'innovation – parfois dénommée « science de la durabilité » - au service du développement durable, pour accélérer la réalisation des objectifs du millénaire d'ici 2015, et pour définir un nouvel agenda du développement durable pour les années à venir.

Je voulais ce matin vous remercier de votre soutien.