Science Council of Asia (SCA) Declaration
on Role of Science in Facing the Challenges of AEC2015

We, delegates and participants of the 13th Science Council of Asia Management Board Meeting and International Symposium which was held between May 7th and 8th, have affirmed with one voice, that it is time to work together towards the human, economic, social and environmental sustainability of our nations.

Recalling the theme of the Congress, "Role of Science in Asia: Facing the Challenges of AEC2015" and recognizing the critical role of science in addressing the challenges of a common economic community in the ASEAN countries by 2015;

Acknowledging that science is inherently global, and regional and that international collaboration and cooperation are essential to successful outcomes; and

Stressing that science must be used for the benefit of society and that all nations in Asia have the responsibility to contribute to and benefit from science;

This Conference outlined how this goal may be achieved through the involvement of the science community of Asia, and as steps towards this end, the SCA declares that it will:

1. Seek membership in international scientific organizations such as ICSU and ISSC so as to be able to participate more fully in activities and programmes of the scientific community at the international level.

2. Continue to recruit new members so that all countries in Asia become members actively involved in its activities and programmes. Our target is to establish the largest community of scientists from of Asian Region.

3. Cooperate with JICA/JST, ADB and other development assistance agencies in Asia and promote the exchange of information between the scientific community and Development assistance agencies.

4. Promote an integrated approach to the generation and development of knowledge and understanding needed to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, food, water and energy security, as well as the nexus of complex and wide-ranging obstacles to growth and development in Asia.

5. Support equitable access to data, information and research opportunities and encourage the sharing of facilities, expertise and know-how, and create opportunities critical to the further development of science in Asia.

6. Strive to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated by governments, business and industry in the region to enable the conduct of much needed scientific research and development activities towards the wellbeing, growth and development of Asia.

7. Promote more inclusive approaches to research that will enhance the role of science in the emerging "Green Economy" and in institutional reforms necessary for greening human security.

8. Encourage the development of the next generation of scientists through ensuring equitable access to training and educational opportunities that enhance the participation of young scientists in research, national and international meetings and exchanges, and international collaboration in training and capacity-development programmes.

9. Advance the development of science and technology to enhance cooperation and mutual understanding between nations and regions as a tool of international diplomacy and policy to promote peace, sustainable development, and prosperity in Asia.

10. Effectively recognize that research is especially needed in climate science, biodiversity and ecosystem services, marine science and oceanography, earth system science and integrated disaster risk management, population and urbanization, agriculture and access to water resources, sustainable new energy technologies, sustainable resource use, and human health and well-being.

11. Develop science education that integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics and apply interdisciplinary and holistic education spanning the Social Sciences and Natural Sciences.

Bangkok, 9 May, 2013