

Science Council of Asia (SCA) and Academy of Sciences Malaysia Declaration on Sustainable Development in Asia

We, delegates of the 14th Science Council of Asia (SCA) Board and Assembly, and participants of the *International Conference on Future Earth and a Holistic Understanding of Sustainable development in Asia*, held on June 18th and 19th 2014, resolve to work together towards a more integrated and holistic science that provides economic, social and environmental solutions towards sustainability in Asia.

Recalling the theme of the Conference *Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability and a Holistic Understanding of Sustainable Development in Asia*, and recognizing the critical need for a more collaborative mode of research that integrates natural and social sciences, economics and humanities, the arts and engineering, in order to be able to fully understand sustainability and to promote its realization in Asia, the SCA declares that:

1. Science is inherently global and regional collaboration and cooperation are essential to contribute to building blocks for the development of beneficial and inclusive knowledge in an interconnected world;
2. Science must be used for the benefit of society and all nations in Asia have the responsibility to contribute to social innovation that will change current mindsets and behaviour and induce academia in Asia to build capacity within local communities that would benefit society in general;
3. The SCA will seek the support of key development assistance agencies to promote research and the exchange of information between scientific communities in Asia;
4. The SCA will promote integrative planning and transformative thinking to promote collaboration between scientific groups and organizations, from different disciplines in science, among scientists from different fields, and among scientists and the development and policy communities. This should be implemented within the context of Asian culture, values and philosophy in order to generate innovative solutions that take the Asian countries to the next level of achievement;

5. The scientific community should be encouraged to provide educational and capacity building opportunities of the younger generation of scientists in holistic systems thinking, where issues need to be addressed in their totality and the systems approach to project planning and implementation utilized as a means to achieve this target;
6. A community of industrial scientists needs to be nurtured to provide linkages between basic and fundamental sciences that, in the final analysis should drive innovation and industrial creativity amongst all stakeholders;
7. The SCA undertakes to play a key role in providing scientists in all fields in Asia with the platform for collaboration and promotion of scientific exchange and cooperation;
8. The SCA will endeavour to work together with other stakeholders to enhance capacity in science, technology and innovation (STI). STI capacity and capability must be strengthened not only in terms of personnel and expertise, but also in terms of the institutions, mandates, funding and linkages between the scientific, development, and policy communities and the general public;
9. In line with the ideals of Future Earth the SCA will seek to reinvigorate science so that it is ready and able to generate big new ideas and game changing strategies that will create wealth and jobs in Asia based on the principle of sustainability and equity;
10. The SCA will also encourage scientists to engage in multidisciplinary research that is solution-oriented, taking into account the real situation in a complex world, promoting the assembly and formation of consortia to collaboratively conduct inter- and trans-disciplinary research;
11. All the SCA member countries are encouraged to play an active role in promoting cooperation between government, research organizations and the business sector. The SCA will enhance its efforts to promote the involvement of the private sector in research and research collaboration;

12. Asia accounts for nearly 70% of the human lives lost through natural disasters. Earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and floods are prominent among the natural disasters claiming human lives. Appropriate scientific and technological interventions have been demonstrated to make a significant difference. SCA will facilitate the identification and transfer of such interventions among Asian countries;
13. Urbanization is increasing rapidly in Asia and by 2030 almost 55% of population would reside in urban areas. SCA will promote the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction technology in urban development projects to insulate them from disasters;
14. Gas hydrates are a key potential source of energy and the Exclusive Economic Zones of several Asian countries contain large deposits. SCA will promote awareness of developments in this particular sector among Asian countries.
15. Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) is a very successful inexpensive technique to obtain fresh water from the oceans, particularly for countries located between 20 degrees North and 20 degrees South latitudes which are geographically favorably located for this purpose. SCA will promote the use of LTTD among Asian countries;

In concluding the Joint Declaration, all member countries and organizations of SCA commit to actively promote SCA's declaration, mission, objectives, and plans to their respective members and colleagues in various disciplines.