

**Address by Romain Murenzi**  
**Director of Science Policy and Capacity Building Division**  
**at the Third Symposium on Sustainability Science:**  
**Towards Guidelines in Research and Education**

**UNESCO Headquarters, Room XIII (Bonvin)**  
**31 May - 1 June 2017**

**Closing session**

Distinguished participants in the Symposium,

I welcome this opportunity to address you on the occasion of the closing session of the Third Symposium on Sustainability Science: Towards Guidelines in Research and Education.

This Symposium was the last in a series of three in the context of a project generously supported by the Government of Japan. We believe that it constituted a key moment for bridging academic work on sustainability science with the growing interest at the grassroots.

We have experienced and practiced how sustainability science attempts to find new methods to bridging the knowledge cleavages between the natural sciences and social sciences, as well as those between science and practice.

I think all of us agree that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must build on sustainability science as one of the basic advancing methodological awareness, because it is sustainability that encourages the values that all societies need to create new methods of collaboration across disciplines and widely throughout differing subject boundaries. This Symposium was an important stage towards that end, via our Guidelines in research and education.

UNESCO believes that this Symposium and the Project as a whole are clearly value-adding in that the final outcome is a set of Guidelines defining sustainability science, setting the principles within which the approach should be undertaken, and providing guidance on its application at multiple levels.

We look forward to the steps in front of us in relation to the dissemination and implementation of these Guidelines, which we trust will be as fruitful as this Project was. More specifically, we very much look forward to disseminate these Guidelines by raising awareness among the relevant governmental and non-governmental actors at multiple levels.

I would like to applaud the very encouraging collaboration and synergistic work of the three Major Programmes involved: the Natural Sciences, the Social and Human Sciences, and the Education sectors.

Last but not least, on behalf of UNESCO, I would also like to thank the Government of Japan, through H. E. Ambassador Sato, and its Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, through Mr Kobayashi, hereby present, for bringing together the UNESCO Secretariat, the major sustainability science stakeholders and Member States to shine the light on broadening the application of the sustainability science approach in support of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Let me conclude my remark by expressing special thanks to Dr Christine A. Iskandar for her devoted efforts for this project.

Let us continue to work together to promote sustainability science as an essential investment for humanity's sustainable society.

Thank you.