

Let me first express my appreciation and congratulation for the success of the 'Third Symposium on Sustainability Science: Towards Guidelines on Research and education'. The first symposium was held in April last year here in Paris, and fruitful discussions have been made throughout the three symposia.

Sustainability Science is an integrated and transdisciplinary science approach. Instead of tackling with separate discipline, this approach integrates knowledge in all areas including social and human sciences, to address the issues related to sustainable development. The role of this approach has become more important and more clearly recognized after the adaption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

As was discussed in this Symposium, each goal of SDGs is interdependent. I believe this symposium was a significant event in the sense that useful good practices throughout the world, which integrates sustainable science approach, have been shared among the participants.

As we think that sustainability science approach contributes to the attainment of SDG goals in the regional level, I wish that each member states would introduce sustainability science approach into individual programs at the country level.

Moreover, I expect this sustainability science approach to be integrated into the intergovernmental and international scientific program of UNESCO, such as Man and Biosphere and UNESCO Geoparks. I believe that this contributes to clarify the relationship between these individual programs, and to generate new synergies.

I am also happy to note that for the promotion of this Sustainable Science approach, several sectors of the Secretariat of UNESCO, including Natural Science Sector, Social and Human Science sector and Education Sector, have been collaborating in an inter-sectoral manner reflecting the cross-cutting nature of this approach.

I would like to close my speech with my special appreciation to all the secretariats who worked for organizing this symposium, especially to Ms. Christine Abdallah Iskandar.