

UNITED NATIONS



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University

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

18 December 2007

Dear Professor Akdemir,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I thank you for your letter of 22 October 2007, inviting the Secretary-General to participate in the holding of a World Universities Congress, which your institution is planning to organize in October 2010 on the theme "What are the new responsibilities of universities within the framework of global issues".

The Secretary-General takes note of your request. However, I must inform you that it is too early for us to determine whether he would be involved in the event. I would like to advise you to revert to us when we get closer to the date of the Congress.

With thanks for your kind understanding.

Yours sincerely,

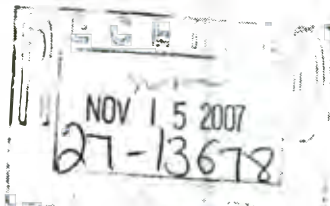
Yeocheol Yoon
Special Assistant
Chief, Scheduling Office

Professor Ali Akdemir
Rector
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Canakkale

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ÇANAKKALE ONSEKİZ MART UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE RECTOR



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22nd October 2007

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Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General,
United Nations (UN),
760 United Nations Plaza,
New York City, NY 10017,
USA

Dear Ban Ki-moon,

Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University is planning to organise a World Universities Congress on the theme "What are the new aims and responsibilities of universities within the framework of global issues?" in October 2010.

The main responsibilities of universities around the world can be defined as to offer education and training leading to the acquisition of a profession, to conduct scientific research, and to provide other services to the community. However, in a world in which global issues are increasingly impacting on daily life, contemporary universities have a duty to assume more responsibility in a wider field.

The trend towards globalisation, resulting from such factors as efforts to integrate national economies, an increase in international and intercultural relations, and the disappearance of national borders in the sphere of communications, has obviously brought with it a number of problems. It is therefore necessary for topics such as those listed below to be discussed at university level and universities also need to redefine their aims and responsibilities and to make and share suggestions for lasting solutions on international platforms. In addition to the three traditional tasks mentioned above, universities need to define their duties and objectives with regard to the following topics:

- Understanding and prevention of global warming
- Prevention of global terrorism
- Eradication of global poverty
- Solutions to problems of global migration
- Eradication of inequalities in income distribution
- Eradication of unequal opportunities in education
- Eradication of injustices in health services
- Proposals for solutions to environmental pollution
- Solutions to regional strife and prevention of new conflicts
- Securing of world peace
- Protection of cultural heritage
- Development of lasting solutions to rapid population growth
- Expansion of the role of non-governmental organisations in local and international developments

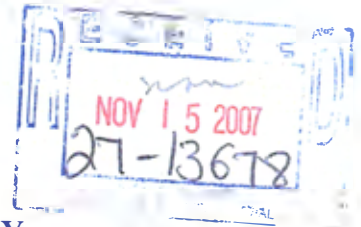
It is obvious that issues like these, which continually threaten the whole of mankind, cannot be solved only by international or transnational organisations, such as the United Nations, European Union, UNESCO, OECD and G8, or by governments alone. Universities can provide a significant contribution by participating in the debate, producing solutions and redefining their role. In order to assist in resolving these issues, they need first of all to include relevant goals in their strategic planning, create research and training centres and rethink their teaching programmes. Universities will doubtless have the opportunity to determine what can be done during sessions at the congress.

World Universities Congress 2010 / Contact Information:

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ÇANAKKALE ONSEKİZ MART UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

22nd October 2007

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Secretary-General,
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760 United Nations Plaza,
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USA

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Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University intends to bring together universities and other closely associated institutions, researchers and intellectuals, and to provide a wide-ranging forum to discuss the above-mentioned and similar global issues threatening our planet and the new tasks and roles of universities in the process of seeking solutions. We therefore look forward to hearing your views and suggestions with regard to the goals and themes of the **World Universities Congress** which Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University is proposing to host from **20th – 24th October 2010** and whether you would be willing to participate in such a congress.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Ali AKDEMİR
Rector



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ÇANAKKALE ONSEKİZ MART UNIVERSITY

WORLD UNIVERSITIES CONGRESS

20th - 24th October 2010

ÇANAKKALE, TURKEY

“What are the new aims and responsibilities of universities within the framework of global issues?”



OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW

Although the term “university” was first used in 1088 for “Bologna University” in Italy, the history of universities goes back to a much earlier period. In ancient times, some of the schools established by philosophers provided education in a variety of subjects. In the Middle Ages, medresses in Islamic countries and monasteries and church schools in Europe began offering a curriculum that included subjects such as mathematics, logic, philosophy, theology, fine arts, and the natural sciences. Over time, these schools broke away from state and religious control to achieve more self-autonomy.

In the *Sorbonne Declaration* of 25th May 1998, modern universities emphasised the necessity of including and supporting European philosophical, cultural, social and technical dimensions in higher education, alongside the traditional functions of scientific research and vocational training. Following this, the *Bologna Declaration* of 19th June 1999 stressed the importance of cooperation in education to the development and strengthening of stable, peaceloving, democratic societies. It was further declared that different cultures, languages and national education systems should be respected and that higher education institutions should play a leading role in fostering international cooperation.



The process of globalisation, which is taking place as a result of communication networks leading to raised borders, national economies becoming more integrated, and increasing intercultural relations, has brought with it not only new global opportunities but also wide-spread global problems. Efforts to prevent global warming, global terror and global poverty, to solve regional conflicts, to secure world peace, to protect our cultural heritage, to manage global migration, to redistribute income, to ensure equal opportunities in education or to prevent environmental pollution can only be successful through thinking globally and acting globally. It is clear that in order to solve global problems, reactions and organisations at local and national level are insufficient and the most effective means of tackling problems lies in actions organised at global level.

Every one of the global problems threatening the world today is waiting to be solved within the next few years. It is obvious that, in the existing global system, national, international and transnational institutions are not able to act effectively or fast enough to resolve these issues. Consequently, a great responsibility falls upon universities, possessing as they do a far-sighted, dynamic faculty membership. Universities must add new responsibilities and objectives to their three traditional functions of offering vocational training, undertaking research activities and providing public services. In the circumstances in which we find ourselves, it is essential that universities redefine themselves with a wider perspective, that they share, at an international level, their experience and years of accumulated knowledge with reference to global issues, and undertake projects which will lead to or facilitate decision-making by politicians, with a responsibility extending to the universe within which our universities exist.



We at Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, conscious of our new obligations and responsibilities, invite you to meet and debate the global issues threatening this world, to seek ways to resolve them, to determine the new responsibilities and objectives of universities in this context and to seek the means by which universities can help to overcome them.

MAIN THEME

The main purpose of this congress is to discuss the role of the universities of the world in preventing global problems and provide an opportunity for academicians, university administrators, researchers and intellectuals to present their research and expertise on the subject.

The main theme can be defined as determining the new objectives and responsibilities of universities within the framework of the global issues outlined below, by bringing together universities and other institutions interacting with universities, and sharing suggestions for lasting solutions on international platforms.

It is planned that presentations and discussions connected with the main theme "What are the new aims and responsibilities of universities within the framework of global issues?" will take place in the following sessions:

- *The concept of a university within the light of recent developments: Past, present and future definitions of a university*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in understanding and preventing global warming*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in the prevention of global terrorism*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in the eradication of global poverty*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in the management of global migration*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in the eradication of inequalities in income distribution*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in the eradication of injustices in health services*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in the eradication of inequalities in educational opportunities*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in proposing solutions to environmental pollution*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in the prevention of regional conflict*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in securing world peace*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in the protection of cultural heritages*
- *The new responsibilities and objectives of universities in expanding the role of non-governmental organisations in local and international development*

It is intended that the sessions will include papers that address the general role of universities with regard to the above-mentioned topics, as well as those presenting actual studies, projects, research and practice.

ABOUT ÇANAKKALE



The province of Çanakkale is located on the Dardanelles in the northwest of Turkey, with shores touching both Europe and Asia, and the history of the many inhabitants of the region covers a period of six thousand years. Surrounded by Assos, where Aristotle opened a school and wrote the book "Politics", by the mythological ancient city of Troy, and by the peninsula famed for its World War One Gallipoli battlefields, Çanakkale possesses unique geographical attributes and millenia of historical riches, and is home to the legends and mythology of the cultures which have flourished here.

In ancient times, Çanakkale, then known as "Hellespontus" or "Dardanelles", was the setting for the magical historical places found in legends that were the treasures of ancient cultures, such as Homer's Illiad. The hospitality of the people, its unspoilt nature, original structures, ancient cities, historical city walls, monuments to the fallen, civilian architecture, clean coast and beaches, enchanting islands, spas, regional cooking, handicrafts and folklore contribute to the importance of Çanakkale as a Turkish cultural and tourism centre. Although from time to time you will find yourself immersed in history, you will also find all modern conveniences and amenities in the city of Çanakkale itself, the regional capital. With a vision that embraces the concept of a "City of Peace", Çanakkale is sensitive to world problems, and welcomes, without prejudice or discrimination, all



ABOUT ÇANAKKALE ONSEKİZ MART UNIVERSITY

Since its establishment in 1992, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University has quickly developed into a dynamic, forward-looking, modern university. In terms of its physical structure and facilities, academic programmes, social activities, cooperative projects, international relations, and teacher and student exchanges abroad, the university aims to be on a par with international standards.

Approximately 22,000 students are currently enrolled at the university at 2 graduate institutes, 9 faculties, 2 schools, and 11 vocational colleges. Master's and doctorate programmes are offered by the Institute of Natural and Applied Sciences and the Institute of Social Sciences, while undergraduate programmes are taught in the Faculties of Agriculture, Economics and Administrative Sciences at Biga, Education, Engineering & Architecture, Fine Arts, Fisheries, Medicine, Sciences & Arts and Theology, and the Schools for Tourism and Hotel Management and Health Sciences. In addition, a variety of two-year associate degree programmes are taught at vocational colleges, in fields such as accountancy, health, tourism and hotel management, carpet-making, marketing, ceramics, food technology, dairy products and leatherworking.

The university has made it its mission to organise conferences, symposiums, seminars, congresses and workshops in all fields which are of interest to national and international academic circles.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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