



9th World Environmental Education Congress

Vancouver, Canada, 9-13 September 2017

Natureenvironment. Weaving new connections

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Secretary-General WEEC – World Environmental Education Congress

Closing ceremony

13th September 2017



Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,
for the 9th time we arrived at the end of this beautiful experience of the World Environmental Education Congress.

I hope you will go back to your homes, to your job places, to your Universities and schools where you teach, you do research or you study, with renewed enthusiasm, with a wealth of contacts, with a treasure of experience and relations that you consolidated or that have born here in Vancouver. Thanks to all of you for the contributions you brought: you are the wealth of the congress.

From my side and on behalf of my staff, I express my gratitude and I renew my thanks for the work 24/7, David Zandvliet (Co-Chair of the Congress), the ICS, the volunteers and all the Canadian friends who looked after the organization del 9th WEEC.

Thanks also to the people of British Columbia and Vancouver, to this city that has welcomed us with kindness and warmth, letting people who don't know yet the city to discover its cultural treasures, the beauty of its natural contest, and the dynamism towards the future and the sustainability.

I am aware that there might have been imperfect moments and I apologize for any inconvenience. Nothing and nobody can be perfect. But please be aware that we are always committed to do our best and the best we can. With your help and your advices, we can certainly improve in the future.

During this congress, many networks and initiatives met and/or created new relationships:

I mention, apologizing with all those I cannot quote now, the UNEP and UNESCO for their constant support and presence, the NAAEE that will held its annual congress in Porto Rico this coming October, the Alliance pour l'Education à la Citoyenneté Planétaire, the Sustainability Literacy Test (an interesting test to evaluate the knowledge of university students in sustainability topics), and SDG Accord

-we endorse-, a beautiful initiative that aims to create synergies between us all and explore what we can do to reach the sustainable development goals.

I thank also the Young Reporters for the Environment and all youth who has joined us at the congress.

I am especially happy that during the 9th WEEC many important meetings have taken place and important decisions have been made. For example, during the WEEC, the Canadian Government officially joined the 'Clean Seas Campaign to combat plastic pollution in the ocean'.

WEEC does not represent only congresses but it is an active network and it aims to be the more and more active between one congress and the other, with some goals and work plans that I would like to stress here:

- 1) First, I would like to encourage you, the participants of the previous congresses and of the future ones to create Permanent Committee of Research on the main themes as education and climate, as water, as adult education, as information/communication and in general informal education, as sustainable production and consumption, as gender and environment. Please feel free to ask and contact us in the future to make plans together towards this direction.
- 2) The website and the social network (as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the newsletter) that the Permanent Secretariat manages and develops, are strategic tools to use and enhance with everybody participation. So, visit and use the website and the social networks.
- 3) Between one congress and the other I hope in the increase of regional and sub-regional meetings, over the year and a half that separates one WEEC to the other, and this one in particular.
- 4) I wish that the network can be the more and more a promoter and supporter of joint programme of research, campaigns, exchange between countries, of training as summer and winter courses, didactic tools, online courses, etc. I invite you all to make proposals and to ask to the Secretariat the WEEC logo for initiatives and activities that you will organize
- 5) Last but not the least, we have absolutely to take off the campaign for the official constitution of the World Environmental Education Day. Since now, I invite you to develop initiatives in the month of October and devote to the WEEC the initiatives that you possibly have already planned for the month.

Finally, it is for me an immense pleasure to confirm our next appointment at the 10th WEEC that will take place in Bangkok, Thailand from 3rd to 7th November 2019.

I would like to thank the chair of the 10th WEEC, Professor Surat Bualert, Dean of the Faculty of Environment, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, the General Consul of Thailand Honourable Sutthiluck Sangarmangkang (that we have the honor to have here today), and the Thai delegation.

They will present and explain the spirit and the setting of the next congress we will work on together.

A warm hug, my warmest wishes and my warmest greetings to all of you.

See you in Bangkok!



Mario Salomone and David Zandvliet with the Thai Delegation