

# **WORLD CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

## **Higher Education in the Twenty-first Century**

### **Vision and Action**

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#### **Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP)**

Note1: To meet UNESCO publishing standards, some editing of papers has been required.

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Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP)

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**Speech of Professor Cary A. Duval  
Deputy Director of Bunkyo University's Centre for Global Education  
Representative of the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific**

The AUAP (Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific) is firmly committed to the idea of international co-operation. We feel that by the sharing of resources and our various expertises we will be able to give our students a more versatile education than we are presently.

Realizing that co-operative groups like ours can succeed only if can agree to the same principles, we held the AUAP-BU Asian Education Summit in Tokyo in April 1997. During the conference, which was attended by over a hundred delegates from over a hundred universities, we were able to define several areas of mutual interest. As results of this conference we launched a UNITWIN project on environmental education and the APDMEN (Asian Pacific Multi-media Distance Education Network). Both of these are progressing very well with the latter project now entering a test bed programme.

However, we found that defining a group's goals is only the first step. We recognized a serious need to enlist the help of corporate and government sponsors in order to reach our goals. The Asian Education Summit was attended by the Minister of Education, Mr. Kosugi, who related the programmes that the Ministry of Education had begun to make Japanese more international and computer literate. The Chairman of NEC Corporation also participated in our programme relating what his company could do to aid us in conquering distance. Likewise, our APDMEN project has the cooperation of NTT as well as the Asian Multi-media Forum (AMF). And we have the continuing cooperation of the Ministry of Education.

One concern for us all is the loss of our own cultures and how our new groupings may threaten them. We feel that through meetings and other communications, we can develop courseware that will not be offensive to each other's cultures, but yet allow the students in other countries to experience a foreign environment without leaving their own campuses. In this way we think that in the future we will be able to save money by broadcasting classes and not moving people around.

Our experience has shown that groups like ours can work well with corporation and still maintain our academic standards. And because of their sponsorship we can save money and perhaps in the future develop programmes that may be marketed for the profit of the group. However, this is only the beginning. We NGOs must continue to encourage participation of corporations and we must have the support of our respective ministries of education in order to finish our work. We are trying to be more efficient and trying new ways of doing things, but we need the cooperation of the government too. Please help us to create people who will be able to cross cultures easily, people who will be able to work well in several cultures and contribute to world peace.

Thank you distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.