

APPEAL

of the 1st General Assembly of the Universities of the Caspian Sea Littoral Countries to the staff of higher education institutions, the people of science and the youth of the Caspian Region States

From August 28 to September 3 1996 Astrakhan hosted the meeting of the Universities' Heads from the Caspian Sea Littoral Countries. The aim of this meeting was signing an Agreement on Formation of the Association of the Universities of the Caspian Sea Littoral Countries, mutual acquainting with educational systems at participating universities, defining problems for the most important scientific researches of common interest intended for improving ecological situation, maintaining high standards of population health as well as for preserving and rational use natural resources of the Caspian Sea and the littoral area.

To cope with the above-mentioned tasks the parties envisaged maintaining regular contacts between the Universities' Heads ; carrying out scientific research according to unified programmes and procedures; establishing joint laboratories and various scientific centres on equality basis; and forming permanent coordinating body of the Association.

The main target of Association's activities is considered to be the further perfection of higher education system; mutual exchange of academic staff and students as well as that of textbooks, teaching appliances and methodological instructions. Assistance in training academic staff and researchers through post-graduate courses (Ph.D.), senior doctorate and other various types of programmes developed on the basis of the latest advance in science and technology is also envisaged.

The 1st General Assembly participants would like to draw the attention of the governments of the Caspian Sea Littoral Countries to the importance of developing collaboration in the fields of education, science and culture, and request that these governments do their best in supporting the establishment and activities of the Association.

The Association hopes that the UNESCO and other international public organisations concerned with the problems of education and ecology will welcome the formation of the Association and provide their support to this Association.

Dear Friends! Implementation of the adopted activities programme for the Association of the Universities of the Caspian Sea Littoral Countries will entirely depend on the efforts that you contribute to this cause. The Association sets its particular hope of preserving and multiplying the riches of the Caspian Sea on the youth and students of the Caspian Sea Littoral Countries.

The 1st General Assembly participants express their deep gratitude to the Head of the Astrakhan Oblast Mr. A. Guzhvin, the Head of the city of Astrakhan Mr. I. Bezrukavnikov, Rector of Astrakhan State Technical University Professor Y. Kagakov, faculty members; and to thank all those who contributed greatly to the establishment of the Association and organisation of its first General Assembly.

We wish good health and success in academic progress, research and teaching activities to the students and academic staff of the university-members of the Association. Let the Caspian Sea unite us for our common cause!

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