

International Science Centre Community Declarations and Resolutions

1. 2011 - Cape Town Declaration www.6scwc.org
2. 2010 - Kuala Lumpur Resolution
3. 2008 - Toronto Declaration www.5scwc.org
4. 2004 - Hanoi Resolution (DST - Norms and Standards document)
5. 2002 - Kolkata Declaration

The Hanoi Resolutions

While expressing gratitude to Vietnam, the hosts of the international workshop on 'The Changing Role of Science Centres and Museums in the Developing Countries' jointly held by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam and the NAM S&T Centre during October 20-22, 2004, we, the participants of the workshop resolve that:

1. Science centres shall cover science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These will refer to a permanently established education facility to provide an interactive educational experience through the use of interactive exhibits, displays and programmes.
2. The interactive nature of the science centres and museums represent a unique opportunity to spread scientific awareness, promote non-formal science education, promote scientific literacy and provide life-long learning opportunities for people in science.
3. In accordance with para 48 of the Science Declaration adopted at the World Conference of Science organized by UNESCO / ICSU in Budapest, Hungary in June 26 – July 1, 1999, governments, international organizations and relevant professional institutions enhance or develop programmes for the training of journalists in science communicators and all those involved in increasing public awareness of science.
4. In pursuence of the Kolkata Declaration of 2002 a regional Latin American/Carribbean workshop was organized in Colombia, Latin America in March 2004 and the second international general workshop on science centres for all developing countries has been organized in Hanoi, Vietnam in October 2004; More science centres in NAM and other developing countries have been established; Role of science museums and centres as important elements in public education in science has been promoted; and individual experiences through the quarterly newsletter and website of the NAM S&T Centre have been shared.
5. National authorities and funding institutions shall promote the role of science centres and museums as a vital element in public education in science, and that we shall pursue this with concerned authorities in our respective countries.
6. Science centres in developing countries shall ensure efficient record keeping, conduct regular impact assessments and report progress at regional and general workshops. NAM S&T Centre will facilitate fund-raising by approaching funding agencies such as UNESCO and UNDP, and other funding agencies and NGOs. There is a need to establish a network among science centres, museums and other institutions engaged in science popularization in the developing countries for effective sharing of learning experiences, and that the quarterly Newsletter of the NAM S&T Centre and its website (www.namstct.org) will report on the developments on the activities of the science centres and museums in the developing countries.
7. Development of science centre and museum related regional programmes will be undertaken by the member countries of the NAM S&T Centre and other developing countries grouped in three regions, with Focal Points Prof. Dayananda Bajracharya of Nepal for the Asian region, Mr. Festers Hangandu Mungo of Zambia for the African and Middle East region and Mrs. Dr. Nohora Elizabeth Hoyos of Colombia for the Latin American region.

8. Reviews for assessing impact of science popularization programme is extremely important for which we may seek the help of the NAM S&T Centre for approaching the international funding agencies like UNESCO, UNDP and also non-governmental organizations / private sector for organizing workshops and undertaking such studies with the support of the NAM S&T Centre.

9. Programmes of Science Centres and Museums in the developing countries may include awareness about and utilization of the traditional knowledge / media for science communication.

10. Member countries of NAM S&T Centre may encourage distance learning networks for science communication enabling teachers, students, science centres, museums and other institutions to interact with each other incorporating innovative approaches, internet resources, etc.

11. Exchange of personnel between developing countries for providing training in science popularization activities, including the development of exhibits shall be encouraged.

11a. The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), India offered training facility free of cost with individual participants bearing all other expenses.

11b. NCSM, India proposed to offer its Mobile Science Exhibition buses, or help develop an exclusive Mobile Science Exhibition Bus, to the member countries of the NAM S&T Centre on cost basis.

11c. NCSM, India also mentioned about its plan of launching a two-year master's degree course on science communication for science museum/centre professionals effective from July 2005. Interested countries may contact NCSM for deputing participants for the course on cost basis.

11d. In view of the importance of India's National Children's Science Congress in encouraging school children to take up investigative science projects, similar activities may be taken up in other developing countries as well. Initially, the nodal agencies of the Government of India like Vigyan Prasar and National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) offered to partly support the participation of one/two school children with one teacher as participants-cum-observers from developing countries subject to approval by the Government of India.

11e. National Science Centre, Malaysia offered training facility in Science Enrichment Programme free of cost with individual participants bearing all other expenses.

12. In view of the fact that extensive science popularization activities are required in the rural areas of most developing countries, assistance and help be extended to a country where it is needed by the other member countries. Awareness programmes / software could also include development of a variety of software on issues like environment, biodiversity, health, medicine, water resources, information technology and so on.

13. More of such workshops shall be held in future on science centres and museums for all developing countries once every alternate year, and a regional workshop during the intervening period. Zambia / Sudan offered to host the regional conference in 2005 subject to the approval of their respective governments. They will inform the NAM S&T Centre about the venue, date etc. after mutual consultations between themselves and the Centre.

The Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (RONAST) proposed to host a meeting on Science Centres and Museums in the year 2006-2007, subject to the successful establishment of the proper science learning centre in Nepal.

Signatories

Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

South Africa, Sudan, Vietnam, Zambia CRD MOST, NAM S&T Centre