



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Our Ref: DEPI/EETU/GUPES/2015

Date: 14 October 2015

Dear Acad. Andrei Galben,

On behalf of the current Chair of GUPES, Prof Wu Jiang, Vice President of Tongji University, and as Chief of UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU), I wish to welcome Universitatea Libera Internationala Din Moldova to the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES).

The goal of GUPES is to promote the mainstreaming of environment and sustainability practices and curricula into universities by supporting innovative approaches to education. This is done in accordance to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-14), the outcome document of the Rio+20 Summit, and the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and the post 2015 SDG Goal 4.

2014 was a year of consolidation for GUPES. From 180 members, the network has grown to over 520 associated universities worldwide. In 2015, UNEP participated in a number of global educational platforms championing UNEP's commitment to promote environmental education, as a catalyst to sustainable development e.g. the recently concluded Eye on Earth Summit, held from 6 - 8 October in Abu Dhabi. Two events hosted at the Summit i.e. *Education for Sustaining the Planet: Integrating, Inspiring and Enabling*; and *Opportunities and Strengths in Promoting Data Demand, Supply and Conditions*. This Summit came closely after the 8th World Environmental Education Congress held from 29 June to 2nd July, in Gothenburg, Sweden, where GUPES actively participated and held three events.

I would like to highlight UNEP's third Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The MOOC on Marine Litter, due to be launched on 26 October 2015, was developed by UNEP in cooperation with the Open University of the Netherlands to stimulate leadership and offers opportunities for actionable and change oriented learning related to marine litter. It will enhance capacity of students through action oriented learning on how they can apply successful and inspiring activities to combat marine pollution. The free MOOC will be offered through a series of lectures, case studies and videos, along with additional study materials. Feel free to disseminate the MOOC among your students, faculty and networks. Link to the Marine Litter MOOC: http://unep.org/training/links/MOOC_MarineLitter.asp.

We look forward to working closely with Universitatea Libera Internationala Din Moldova and welcome you, once again, to the GUPES network.

Yours sincerely,

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Chief, UNEP Environmental Education
and Training Unit

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