



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Message from Ms Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

***To the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 13th International
Likhachov Conference Academician A.S. Zapesotsky***


Saint-Petersburg 16-17 May 2013

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to greet all participants to the 13th *Likhachov International Scientific Conference* on the theme of “The Dialogue of Cultures – Values, Meanings and Communication,” hosted at St. Petersburg University.

As you know, UNESCO was created after the devastation of the Second World War, guided by the humanist conviction that peace had to be built on new foundations, “upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.” Dialogue stands at the heart of this vision -- to bring people together through the exchange of ideas and experience and through the joint creation of knowledge. This is especially important today, in a world globalizing quickly, when societies are ever more diverse and connected. In this context, promoting intercultural dialogue calls for new skills and new forms of cultural literacy. These goals guide all of UNESCO’s action – to promote quality education for all, to make the most of humanity’s cultural heritage and cultural diversity, to foster scientific cooperation for greater sustainability and to advance freedom of expression and support the diversity of content in all media. In a world of change, these objectives have perhaps never been so important, to strengthen the foundations of equality, dignity and solidarity between all peoples, in all their diversity.

An outstanding scholar and great humanist, Dmitry Likhachov was a powerful advocate of the need to safeguard cultural heritage, to build on the diversity of cultural expressions, and to promote inter-cultural dialogue. I wish to thank the organisers and participants of this 13th *Likhachov International Scientific Conference* for their commitment to these values and objectives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Irina Bokova". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I'.

Irina Bokova