

## **Dear Colleagues**

It is for me a great honour to address this message to all of you on behalf of all the advisors, professors, members, supporters, and collaborators of the Andean Road Countries for Science and Technology and Elektro High Tech Co. Ltd. In this special day that we celebrate the first Annual meeting on Science Literacy 2021.

COVID-19 showed us how fragile human life can be. At the same time, we have also witnessed how important was cooperation and communication between scientists to find a vaccine that could protect people. Years ago, this would have taken several years, but nowadays, that was possible only in months because of the urgency to save lives and avoid a massive tragedy. Although it seems that COVID-19 is partially controlled, humans still face several challenges, one of which could be catastrophic in the future is Climate Change. Therefore, it is necessary to scientifically understand what climate change is, its effects and which tools can be employed to protect the most vulnerable ones.

Science and technology are bringing fundamental changes into all aspects of human production and life at an unprecedented rate, breadth, and depth. In this regard, science literacy is the knowledge of science, as well as the scientific framework by which people make decisions based on facts, research, and knowledge, not on opinion or hearsay. It is becoming increasingly difficult to discern between what is fake and what is real, so we need to communicate the science in ways the public can understand and have that information be timely and relevant to the decisions they must make.

Science literacy is critical to the public. Scientific knowledge helps people to be better informed and make the best decisions possible with the best available knowledge. In the long run, great decisions are based on reliable, factual research. Science literacy not only involves mastery of scientific knowledge and methods but also demands respect for the pursuit of the scientific spirit and evidence-based scientific thinking.

We, the Andean Road Countries for Science and Technology are working to close the gap in scientific literacy between different countries and build a coordinated working mechanism to improve global scientific literacy and fulfil the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We prioritize the improvement of scientific literacy across different races, genders, and borders so that more people can truly reap the benefits of scientific development. Youths, females, and impoverished communities should be the key target demographics in such efforts. Increasing scientific literacy can refresh the ideas of the people, expand their potential, allow them to fulfil their value, and contribute to society.

The compliance of the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate change engagement are tasks that could benefit life on earth. However, these topics are sometimes overlooked because they are not properly understood or because they are too difficult to understand. That is why the ARCST is charged with bringing together the best minds across the continents and engaging them in science literacy efforts.

## **JOURNAL OF LATIN AMERICAN SCIENCES AND CULTURE**

Vol. 4 – SPECIAL ISSUE - 2022

Universidad Privada del Valle - Bolivia

The ARCST Science Literacy initiative includes a cross-disciplinary group of scientists, professors, innovators, entrepreneurs, advocates, inventors, and practitioners focused on four goals of climate change engagement: 1) improving science literacy among university students; 2) preparing through high school students for careers; 3) informing and engaging partners and stakeholders about programs and research; 4) and supporting the public as they interpret, reason, and make decisions.

That is why we have decided to organize the First Intercontinental Congress of Science and Technology Oriented to the Sustainable Development Goals Compliance (FICST-OSDGC) and the First Annual Meeting on Science Literacy (AMSL) 2021 with our partners from the Universidad Privada del Valle (UNIVALLE) in Bolivia. Maybe you wonder why Bolivia, basically it is because Bolivia is one of the most vulnerable countries in Latin America that could be dramatically affected by Climate Change according to the report of the United Nations developing program (UNDP).

Desertification affects half of Bolivia. Although its territory represents 0,2% of the world surface. Its forests account for around 3,5% of the world's forests, keeping between 45% to 55% of all the world's biological diversity. Due to its altitudinal gradient (height), which ranges between 90 to 6542 m.a.s.l., Bolivia is one of the eight richest countries in the world in biological diversity. Its territory comprises 7 biomes, 36 ecological regions, and 205 Ecosystems. All of which could be impacted terribly by climate change.

We want to thank all the organizations that make possible the 1st Annual Meeting on Science Literacy 2021: A prerequisite for stimulating climate change engagement. Especially to Universidad Privada del Valle (UNIVALLE), with whom we have built and launched in July 2021 the first platform to connect China and Latin America through Science and Technology and launched the Journal of Latin American Sciences and Culture to promote the exchange of knowledge, the dissemination of information and the collaboration for the development of society. We also are grateful to the company Elektro High Tech. Co Ltd. and all the team of professors and advisors that support and guide our activities and make it possible to integrate different stakeholders in our cause. We also want to thank the collaboration of UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL), Cervantes Institute, Chaoxuan Intelligent Research Institute, and YPGLOBALSDN for providing guidelines, and assistance to make this event a reality.

We have followed the agenda recognized by the international community on the importance of education and training to address climate change. This agenda was proposed under United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the associated Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) to educate, empower and engage major groups on actions relating to climate change.

Finally, I want to thank all our panellists, because of your time, your trust, and your commitment to nature, science, the environment, and your interest to share your knowledge and advice at our Intercontinental congress.

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This is certainly the help that young students, citizens, and countries to understand the problems from the scientific point of view and we can learn from your experience on how to solve them. In that way, we will be able to say that we fulfilled our goal to promote science literacy and engage people in action. We believe that even small actions performed by many people have the power to produce big changes.

Wish this meeting all the success. Wish for more cooperation, collaboration, more partners, professors, scientists, advocators, practitioners, and more stakeholders to work together, and hope to see you all in our future events.



*Prof. Dr. Marco Cabero*  
President of ARCST

## **Estimados colegas**

Un saludo a todos los reputados académicos que nos acompañan hoy desde Asia. Un saludo a toda la comunidad latinoamericana repartida por el mundo. Un saludo a los organizadores. Quiero saludar a todos nuestros ponentes, quienes nos han hecho honor de participar de este 1er Congreso Intercontinental de Ciencia y Tecnología orientado al cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. La Universidad Privada del Valle y el Andean Road Countries for Sciences and Technology han reunido a más de cincuenta académicos, científicos e innovadores de Latinoamérica, Europa y Asia. Esta reunión busca como objetivo principal tejer redes y construir puentes con los epicentros de la ciencia y el desarrollo. Desde este lugar del mundo queremos materializar alianzas que hagan posible desarrollar la investigación uniendo el potencial, las habilidades y el capital intelectual de todos ustedes.

Este es un Congreso que hace visible el importante papel de la ciencia y la enorme necesidad que tenemos de juntar a la comunidad científica en propósitos comunes, que nos ayuden a resolver la crisis ambiental y permitan paliar los graves problemas sociales de la humanidad. Apenas nos recuperamos de una terrible pandemia, la cual nos ha demostrado lo frágiles que somos. Nuestras sociedades y nuestros pueblos deben volver a convivir en armonía con el mundo y para esto la comunidad científica debe jugar un papel protagónico. Me gustaría felicitar a los organizadores por la jerarquía académica de notables profesores, científicos, innovadores y emprendedores, reunidos en nueve mesas de trabajo. El programa diseñado por ustedes durante estos tres días demuestra su compromiso y voluntad de difundir el enorme valor la ciencia a la gente, especialmente a los más jóvenes. Los grandes desafíos, a los que nos enfrentamos hoy, nos exigen soluciones creativas, ambiciosas, apasionadas y comprometidas con la realidad. Todos ustedes se han reunido para romper muchas barreras, comenzando las del idioma y el de la distancia. Es nuestra misión abrir nuevos caminos al avance científico y favorecer una investigación multidisciplinar, compleja e internacional, la cual se enfoque en los contextos más vulnerables, el fortalecimiento de las unidades productivas y orientada a la transferencia de conocimiento.

Terminado este encuentro, sueño con ver muy pronto a un joven de la China, otro de Alemania y uno de Bolivia compartiendo un mismo laboratorio, trabajando juntos la misma investigación, recolectado información de distintas realidades, sistematizando aprendizajes desde cada matriz cultural, desarrollando nuevos productos, buscando la respuesta a los problemas más graves del mundo entero. Creando nuevas oportunidades para su generación y las que siguen. Espero volver a encontrarlos el próximo año, más fortalecidos, más juntos y crecidos en número. ¡Que viva la ciencia!

Ing. M.Sc. Gonzalo Ruiz Ostría  
President of UNIVALLE University

