

## **Memorandum of co-operation in pure and applied physics**

Between

The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)  
and the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) of  
UNESCO's Sector of Natural Sciences

Whereas the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) is a non-governmental international scientific organization serving to advance the worldwide development of the physical sciences and to contribute to the application of physics toward solving problems of concern to humanity;

Whereas IUPAP's mission fosters international co-operation in academic and industrial research, application, publication and standardization in the physical sciences, with particular emphasis in regions where physics is less developed;

Whereas IUPAP is committed to promote ethical values and norms in science and the free and unhampered dialogue and movement of scientists, as well as science education and public understanding of science;

Whereas the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) is entrusted within UNESCO to promote international partnerships as well as capacity-building in science in the framework of Major Programme II, structured around biennial sectoral priorities, and focusing on its Main Line of Action 2, Building capacities in the basic sciences, including through the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), in engineering and for the use of renewable energy;

Whereas capacity building through the promotion of international co-operation on pure and applied physics constitutes a core of the IBSP's major priority actions and programmes that puts particular emphasis on partnerships with non-governmental organizations, networks of centres of excellence, advocacy for science through public and decision-makers outreaching, physical sciences education, and on high-level training in research and university teaching;

Whereas IUPAP and IBSP together with ICTP were the main organizers of the 2005 World Conferences on Physics and Sustainable Development (WCSPD) in Durban, which led to important resolutions and action items concerning physics education, physics and economic development, energy and environment, and physics and health;

Whereas UNESCO IBSP will facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the 2014 International Year of Crystallography (IYCr 2014), in collaboration with the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr), relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the International Council for Science (ICSU) into which IUPAP is member, as well as other relevant non-governmental scientific organizations; and considering the recent endorsement by UNESCO to the proposal of having 2015 an International Year of Light (IYL 2015), a global initiative

unanimously approved by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) Executive Council at its 27th General Assembly in London in November 2011, and which will highlight to the citizens of the world the importance of light and optical physics in their lives, for their futures, and for the development of society.

**Therefore, IUPAP and IBSP hereby state and/or agree on the following:**

1. The experience accumulated by both bodies in selected joint actions has paved the way for the establishment of a regular mechanism of cooperation that could produce a beneficial synergistic effect on returns of their programmes. It is noted that within such a mechanism each partner will retain full responsibility for its actions.

2. The partners will cooperate in:

- The regular exchange of information on their activity and plans in the framework of their programmes. If requested, each body will contribute to those documents of the other needed for their members, governing bodies and partners;
- addressing global and ethical issues that necessitate international expertise and/or actions in the field of physical sciences;
- advancement of physics through the fostering of international and regional cooperation in research projects;
- promoting the research, collaboration and education in pure and applied physics for the development of technologies, engineering, wealth creation and improvement of the quality of life;
- fostering international cooperation in physical sciences through linkage of new communities of scientists, including knowledge and technology transfer and sharing;
- enhancing South-South collaborations and rendering the achievements sustainable
- building capacities in research-oriented physics topics, and helping to advance the training of young scientists, both men and women, in particular from developing countries, especially in Africa and other regions of the world as the need arises;
- inspiring youth from developing countries, especially from LDCs in Africa, on physical sciences through IUPAP-IBSP hands-on experiments and innovative training using active learning methodology;
- Monitoring and evaluation of international projects and programmes;
- Co-sponsoring activities contributing to the implementation of the programme of both partners;
- launching and implementation of projects that follow-up the recommendations of the WCPSD, as well as of other international initiatives of common goals.

3. The Memorandum comes into force once signed and will be renewed or expired by 31 December 2017. If need be, the Memorandum can be amended or complemented by addenda addressing selected issues of co-operation between IUPAP and the UNESCO International Basic Sciences Programme. This can be done through an exchange of letters between the President of IUPAP and the Director, Executive Secretary of IBSP.



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International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP)  
Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO

Paris, Date... *26 February 2013*

Cecilia Jarlskog  
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