



**JOINT STATEMENT**  
***THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY IN SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND THE FORMATION***  
***OF HUMAN RESOURCES WITH GLOBAL SKILLS***

Guanajuato, Mexico, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Rectors, representatives of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), education officials and representatives of the private sector of Mexico and Japan, met in Guanajuato and Aguascalientes in October 27 and 28 to discuss and provide forward-looking ideas related to "The Role of the University in science, innovation and the formation of human resources with global skills", in order to develop knowledge, skills and abilities in today's global world.

Mexico and Japan, which are among the largest 15 economies of the world and are leaders in their regions, are also strategic economic partners. Japan is the fourth largest trading partner of Mexico after the United States, China and Canada, and the main source of Asian investment in Mexico, as well as the main market for Mexican exports in Asia.

The relationship between Mexico and Japan, dating back four centuries, has been strengthened and renewed in recent times, framing this important meeting where key players in the public life of both countries have dialogued, among others, on optimal mechanisms to achieve sustainable development from the perspective of the role of the university in public life.

In April 2013, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe from Japan, designated 2013-2014 as the Mexico-Japan Friendship Year to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hasekura Mission, which aims to raise the historical and contemporary significance of the Mission, as well as strengthen the educational, cultural, economic and tourist exchanges.

In this particular context, the academy (universities and HEIs) plays an increasing role in the Mexico-Japan relationship. To elevate this strategic partnership into a new stage, the First Mexico-Japan Rectors' Summit was held in June 2011, where the participants' determination agreed on fostering the cooperation between knowledge societies and ensuring the continuous exchange of views on issues of common interest and promotion of education, science and innovation.

In this sense, the accomplishment of the Second Mexico-Japan Rectors' Summit ensured the continuity of the 2011 meeting, as well as the partnership between institutions, faculty and Mexican and Japanese students. The venues for the Summit, *Universidad de Guanajuato* and *Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes*, responded to the presence of major Japanese companies investments in the State of Guanajuato and the State of Aguascalientes in key sectors such as automotive and agribusiness, which have emerged as strategic players in the economic and technological development of both States.

Participation of high-level officials in this forum demonstrates the interest and commitment of the governments of the two countries to support the efforts of their institutions to promote education, science and technology. In the Second Mexico-Japan Rectors' Summit the university-industry-

government collaboration as a strategic model of knowledge management, innovation and human capital formation, was highlighted.

## Statements

### *On scientific and academic cooperation*

Over four decades, Japan has been a strategic partner for Mexico developing skills in areas such as agriculture, health, environment and education. Currently, bilateral cooperation is focused on addressing the needs and processes of modernization that the productive and service sectors of the two countries demand, in accordance with the Agreement on the Mexico-Japan Economic Partnership.

In this context, we agree to use the existing economic cooperation conditions to implement innovative academic cooperation schemes for strengthening collaboration between HEIs in Mexico and Japan, serving the interests of their student and academic communities. Among the different instruments, we highlight the recent signing of the Cooperation Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACYT) and the University of Tokyo in Japan. Through this Agreement, Mexican students will be able to study a graduate program in Japan with the support of a scholarship.

### *On innovation*

Scientific and technological developments, as well as innovation, are defined as pillars for sustainable economic and social progress in Mexico. In this regard, we reaffirm the commitment to define mechanisms and best practices to foster innovation amongst entrepreneurs.

Innovation is one of the factors that influence the economic development and the knowledge economy, necessary to improve the level and quality of life of the population. We emphasize that these factors are closely related to the formation of high-level human resources and, at the same time, contribute to social development. We agree that the process of fostering innovation, supported by the use of information technology and communication (ICT) have proven to be a driving force for transformation and productivity throughout the world, which is positioned as a key formula for the Mexico-Japan relationship.

### *On the formation of human resources with global skills*

Among the objectives of the Government of Mexico, “Quality Education” is a priority to ensure an integral development of all Mexicans. Bringing all students to their highest potential and having human resources with global skills is a source of innovation. Therefore, we agree that the formation of human capital with global skills is a key element to achieve a Knowledge Society.

As part of a successful human resources formation, we will emphasize in sharing the best practices for transferring knowledge and tools to encourage and strengthen the linkage between industry and the formation of human resources. This will positively impact in the development of their local and global environment.

### *On interculturality*

During the Summit, we discussed the role of higher education and its tools to foster the approach between cultures.

One of the characteristics of the Japanese mobility in Mexico is that in the past years it concentrated in the “Bajío” region of the country and focused in the automotive industry, generating growth in local and regional employment as well as a social transformation. We resolve that it is necessary to support efforts that will strengthen the dialogue between the Mexican and Japanese cultures that coexist, where the richness of Japanese culture and its contributions is appreciated in the Mexican daily life.

Education is one of the most successful mechanisms to promote societies’ development. As Higher Education Institutions we encourage the participants to foster the inclusion of intercultural education to integrally educate our human resources.

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We are confident that the results of this meeting will deepen the academic and scientific cooperation between Mexico and Japan, through the development of research projects and mobility programs.

Finally, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to our hosts, *Universidad de Guanajuato* and *Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes*, the Government of Guanajuato and the Government of Aguascalientes, for the warm reception and hospitality, as well as their joint collaboration in the preparation of the Second Mexico-Japan Rectors’ Summit. Likewise, we appreciate the work that the Embassy of Japan in Mexico has done in order to organize and coordinate the participation of the Japanese representatives.

We also would like to thank the efforts deployed by the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions of Mexico, the National Council of Science and Technology, the Mexican Ministry of Public Education and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to make this Summit a success.

### **Agreed**

#### **For Japan:**

Chiba University

Chuo University

Hiroshima University

Hitotsubashi University

Kanagawa University

#### **For México:**

Meritorious Autonomous University of Puebla (BUAP)

Center for Industrial Technician Teaching, Colomos (CETI Colomos)

Center for Higher Technical Teaching (CETYS University)

Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute (CINVESTAV)

Optics Research Center (CIO)

Kobe University	El Colegio de México (COLMEX)
Kyoto University	Institute of Alfabetization and Basic Education for Adults (INAEBA)
Kyoto University of Foreign Studies	National Polytechnical Institute (IPN)
Kyushu University	Mexico Autonomous Institute of Technology (ITAM)
Nagaoka University of Technology	Technology Institute of Aguascalientes (ITA)
Nagoya University	Technology Institute of Celaya (ITC)
Osaka University	Technology Institute of La Piedad (ITPIEDAD)
Ritsumeikan University	Technology Institute of Pabellón Arteaga (ITPA)
Saitama University	Institute of Technology and Higher Education of Monterrey (ITESM)
Soka University	Technology Institute of El Llano (IT El Llano)
Sophia University	Technology University of Tecamachalco (UTT)
The University of Tokyo	Autonomous University of Aguascalientes (UAA)
Tohoku University	Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC)
Tokyo Institute of Technology	Autonomous University of Chiapas (UNACH)
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	Autonomous University of Guadalajara (UAG)
Tottori University	Autonomous University of Guerrero (UAGRO)
Toyohashi University of Technology	Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon (UANL)
University of Tsukuba	Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEMex)
Waseda University	Autonomous University of the State of Morelos (UAEM)
	Autonomous Metropolitan University (UAM)
	Cuahtémoc University (U Cuahtémoc)
	Celaya University (UDEC)
	Sciences and Arts University of Chiapas (UNICACH)
	University of Colima (UCOL)

University of Guadalajara (UDG)  
University of Guanajuato (UG)  
University of Monterrey (UDEM)  
University of the Valle of Atemajac (UNIVA)  
Iberoamerican University (UI)  
National Autonomous University of Mexico  
(UNAM)  
Panamerican University, Bonaterra Campus  
(UP Bonaterra)  
Polytechnic University of Aguascalientes  
(UPA)  
Polytechnic University of Tulancingo (UPT)  
Technology University of Aguascalientes  
(UTA)  
Technology University of León (UT León)  
Technology University of Northern  
Aguascalientes (UTNA)  
Technology University of El Retoño (UTR)  
Technology University of San Juan Del Río  
(UTSJR)  
Veracruz University (UV)