

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF UNIVERSITIES

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It is a great honor and pleasure for us to host such an important meeting. Although we wanted to organize this conference much earlier, it was not possible due to a very busy academic program.

Surely, this conference will create a very constructive step towards more cooperative efforts in dealing with problems related to the environment. At this stage, producing a common consensus is of vital importance because we need more solidarity than ever to provide the required basis for a proper environmental education.

If we are to plan more efficient ways and methods of teaching environmental issues, we should agree upon the basic concepts. Therefore, I consider this meeting as a very important opportunity for producing solid conclusions.

So far, mankind has invented and developed techniques and technologies to make more use of the environmental resources. The more technology brought into use, the faster the resources are consumed, leaving an extremely polluted environment and untreated wastes behind, which are generally ignored until they have reached dangerously alarming levels.

Now at this point, the universities must take responsibility for changing the general attitude related to environmental education and research. We must emphasize facilitating technology to serve in preserving the bio-environment instead of destroying it. To achieve this goal, we need to revise our environmental education programs and research policies. We must also find efficient ways and means of creating public awareness towards the environment.

In order to realize our goal at the academic level, we need firm support in every level of education and training. We also need help and support from every related institution and person.

It is our hope that this meeting will contribute in solving these problems and toward creating an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Professor **Necdet Serin** was born in Izmir in 1933. He graduated from the Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University in 1957, becoming a Full Professor in 1976 and Dean of the Faculty of Political Science from 1982 to 1987. Professor Serin is the President of the Turkish Economic Society and the Turkish Economic Society Foundation, council member of the International Economic Association, member of the administrative board of the European Community Society and member of the administrative board of the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and the Middle East. He is also a founder member of the Turkish Marketing Foundation. He has represented Turkey in many meetings as head of the Turkish delegation. He has published numerous articles and four books on Turkey's economic development and foreign trade.