

## Greetings

Valencia and the Valencian Community are proud to welcome and host the participants to this International Seminar of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage.

It is necessary to command such a challenge, especially if we consider that there is no international co-operation without higher education, and that there is no university future without cultural internationalization.

The 50th anniversary of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contributes to provide full confidence and to create big expectations around the project. A project created by UNESCO promoting a worldwide university network for the safeguard of heritage, common heritage of citizens from all over the world within an international programme aimed at youth awareness-raising and mobilization.

In this programme university resources are linked to professional contributions with the objective of laying, in Valencia, the foundations of the future educational network, and deciding on the major guidelines to adopt. A network that will decisively help consolidating the ideals of tolerance, peace and progress advocated by UNESCO.

The fundamental importance of universities as the main disseminators of knowledge will thus be complemented by a heritage values which are constituents of populations' identity, with their similarities and contrasts, adding colour and warmth to the world.

This common project will undoubtedly generate other projects, also of international scope, with youth and professionals as major figures.

But for the moment, let us just express our belief that Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage is the first step of a long road towards the best understanding among people and a greater involvement of civil society in the fields of education, science and culture.

**Eduardo ZAPLANA**

*President of Generalitat Valenciana*