

## **The great challenge before young leaders and my personal experiences**

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At this point in our shared global and Asia-Pacific histories it may seem as though we are adrift in unknown seas of change without a compass and trekking along treacherous paths without a guide for the youth who are entrusted to lead forward to a better day. The pole our Asian-Pacific compass seeks is the commitment to sharing and reciprocity in multilateral mutually beneficial partnerships in the realms of social systems and economy and technology. The guide for youth is youth itself, mentored by their experienced seniors. Universities are in a central position in our societies to refine methods to secure the inclusive human resources we need on and off campuses to address our most urgent community issues and needs. An open and energetic Asia-Pacific can make the bold vision of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Agenda a reality – “Leave No One Behind.” A wide range of partnerships and cooperation among academia, economic circles, the media, and civil society can act to close unfortunate gaps in our economic and social systems that cause some people to feel misunderstood and disrespected. It is crucial that we learn how to interpret different situations from different perspectives. The most important thing is to listen to the views of people who are different from us, whether in terms of nationality, culture, or any other aspect. The responsibility to make steady patient efforts to promote peace in our region and the world depends on young people learning to be active in communities at home and abroad. We will place our trust in today’s youth and urge them to keep their eyes set on the horizon and their feet planted on the ground. Today’s youth will become tomorrow’s leaders by being today’s leaders in community engagement projects. We will urge our talented and promising young people to dream big and to make those dreams a reality by moving ahead one step at a time. It is true that we all have to struggle, as the United Nations does, in a new totally unanticipated regional and world community. I am confident that Asia-Pacific universities will respond by seeking leadership roles for their faculty, staff, and students as harmonizers and reconcilers in collaboration with United Nations efforts in the forms of community engagement - peacekeeping, development, human rights and the environment - that will make our world a better place for all of us.