

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

NUEPA CONFERS HONORARY D.LITT ON UNESCO D.G.

New Delhi: Kartika 20, 1931
November 11, 2009

The Director General of UNESCO, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura was conferred the Degree of Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) (D.Litt.) by the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal here today. This is the first degree conferred by NUEPA to a distinguished personality.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Kapil Sibal stated that education occupies a key place in the development agenda. Economic development, does not necessarily lead to human development, he added. He underlined that the Government of India promotes all levels of education: While free and compulsory education for children in the age group of 6-14 has been made a Fundamental Right, the Government is undertaking initiatives in secondary, higher and technical education also.

The Citation read out by Shri Kapil Sibal while conferring the Degree included the following:

“Ten years ago, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, you assumed the leadership of UNESCO – the laboratory of ideas engaged in empowering people through education and building peace in the minds of men and women. You carried out major institutional reform while advancing a range of programmes from universal basic education to freshwater management to the preservation of living arts and cultures. Your intellectual acumen undergirded your leadership at UNESCO..... You saw expenditure in education as the most productive investment that a nation can make. Your intellectual leadership, untiring efforts and professional commitment steered the Education for All Movement to new heights.”

Accepting the Degree, UNESCO D.G. Dr. Matsuura said that UNESCO is very proud to accompany India in its goals of Education for All (EFA). He added that NUEPA will soon host the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Peace and Sustainable Development The overall focus of the activities of the proposed Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace & Sustainable Development activities will be on fostering a culture of peace through education, promoting sustainable economic and social development and respect for human rights

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