

BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS OF STATEMENT MADE BY
SOEDJATMOKO, RECTOR OF UNU,
TO 16TH SESSION OF COUNCIL OF UNU
1-5 DECEMBER 1980

"Change and Continuity Leading to Dynamic Growth"

1. The process of review, consultation and reflection on the future of the UNU which began on my appointment in September of this year will continue until mid-1981. A draft blueprint on the future directions of the University will be submitted to the Council in June 1981. Therefore 1981 will be a year of transition: "My policy will be one of change and continuity leading to dynamic growth."
2. The existing programmes (World Hunger, Human and Social Development and the Use and Management of Natural Resources) should continue but with some new perspectives. Among these should be an increased awareness of the urgent need for these programmes to co-operate in an interdisciplinary approach to their work; to help this process I have decided to establish a single Programme Advisory Committee in place of the three which have existed in the past. The development of these programmes should also be related to opportunities arising from the possible new directions of the University referred to below.
3. The University should not perpetuate the dichotomy of looking at the world in terms of developed and developing countries. It should not limit itself to studying the problems of developing countries alone. It has an important contribution to make to the understanding of the relationship between the problems of the industrialized and the developing countries which would help to ensure that in the world's impending crises the future is a single one to be shared by all nations.
4. The University should therefore be prepared to consider the full range of issues included in its Charter. Possible new areas of study might fall into three main groups:
 1. The World Economy and Global Economic Crisis. (Multidisciplinary research designed to help governments and other institutions to acquire a better understanding of crises in global economic management and contribute fresh thinking about these problems.)

2. The Management of Social Transformation. (Understanding better the global, regional and national changes in power structures and values which lead to local and international tensions. Towards ensuring peace, these studies might include: the capacity of people to resolve conflict potential--both inside and between nations and societies--by better understanding of the profound global, social and structural changes currently taking place; human rights issues, including the experience of cultures where institutional and human relations are not explicitly defined in terms of rights but of mutual social obligations.)
3. Preparing for the 21st Century. (This might include research on such varied problems as: the need for greater individual and collective capacity in the coming decades for moral reasoning and ethical choice based on a clearer and more integrated conception by each individual of the meaning of life and relationships to other human beings, to nature and to the transcendental; the cumulative impact of the food and energy crisis on populous low-income countries; the phenomenon of massive movements of people across boundaries in search of work, food and security; enabling science and technology to serve social and ethical purposes without destroying their essential creativity; the global impact of communications technology and the contribution modern communications might make to new approaches to education in the context of the doubling of the world population in 35 years.)
5. These proposals are only indications of new directions which the University might take. Clearly it will not be possible to take all of these directions and we must always be ready to adjust and change direction as new needs arise. But even if the University is to be able to develop only some of these possibilities and respond to others it will require changes in its capacities and methods of work.
6. The University should move towards the establishment of Incorporated Institutions as well as the existing Associated Institutions in its world-wide networks; it must strengthen the intellectual capacity at the Centre to make it more than the planning and administrative Centre which it is at the moment; it should develop a distinctive advanced training capability as well as a teaching capability (which it does not have at the moment); and it should find ways of involving Japanese academia and outstanding young scholars in its work.

7. The University should also establish a facility at the Centre for visiting scholars as a first step towards establishing an Institute of Advanced Studies in Japan. In this connexion the establishment of a permanent headquarters for the University in Tokyo is indispensable for the intellectual activity of the University. The offer of the Government of Japan to establish an Incorporated Institution in Japan is also relevant to the concept of an Institute of Advanced Studies.
8. Clearly for new directions we need new funds. Our existing fund-raising activities must be intensified and diversified, although the world economic situation is not encouraging. In addition we should be ready to respond to initiatives from governments, international agencies and institutions willing to mobilize their own intellectual and financial resources in order to participate in the UNU's work.
9. In summary, the task before the UN University is to help humankind develop the global knowledge base and the ethical understanding and critical judgments that will enable it to move towards a pluralistic global society of continuously advancing civilizations in universal peace and justice.