

Speech of Prof. Abdollah Jassbi
President of Islamic Azad University in Iran
And
President of FUIW (Federation of Universities of
Islamic World) Executive Council's

**“Creating a Culture of Human Rights
through Education”**

13,14 November

The 2009 Lisbon Forum

In the Name of God

Your Excellency President Sampaio,

Honorable participant,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Studios and Dear Colleagues,

May I express my deep, and profound appreciations towards the organizers of this important, and significant Forum. In particular my thanks go to the UN High Representative, in Alliance of Civilizations, His Excellency Jorge Sampaio and Mr. Antonio Costa Mayer of The beautiful city of Lisbon.

Creating human rights culture through education is a subject which is directly associated with our profession, and responsibility. My respect goes to you, and all our colleagues, whom are the holder of Alliance of Civilizations' torch in the world.

Since in the culture of all the Godly main religions, and in Islam, the central teaching is focused on the teaching of human-being, which is the most perfect creation. The teaching is viewed, and regarded as a worship.

I have spent 27 years of my life on establishing, and developing a University, with 2.5 million graduates, and approximately 1.5 million students currently enrolled in the largest non-governmental higher educational complex in the Middle East & in the world.

The consequence of 350 university branches, in a developing country, on the development of human resources, cultural growth, and promotion of human asset,

is easy for you to imagine. Specially so when these educational services, are the needs of our young people, and human communities in today's world.

Mr. President,

Respectable Colleagues,

The Islamic Azad University, in addition to the expansion, and development of higher education, and promotion of general culture, has helped to remove sexual inequality, and discrimination, and create equal rights. Examples of such are:

1- Creating women's research council, with the objective of promoting women's role in the society, and increasing their academic level. This will lead to removing sexual discrimination, and inequality on one hand, and creating equal rights on the other hand.

- Reduction in educational levels, between man, and women.
- Improving women's role in the society.
- Improving women's role at home, and among the family, and the society at large.
Removal of gender discrimination, and reducing traditional roles of women, and improving their status before men.
- Financial independence.

2- Creating equal opportunity, and rights for both boys, and girls to enter education, in such a way that discriminations, as a result of financial difficulties, or gender to be eradicated. Statistics indicate that how there are more female students, than male students.

3- Expansion of higher education in disadvantaged regions, and removal of discrimination in disadvantaged regions, and developed areas of the country (cities, and villages). This has been in such a manner that establishing university branches has been made possible for all levels of the society.

4- Creation of atmosphere of interaction, and tolerance among students of various social stratifications, ethnics, and believes.

5- Creating an atmosphere of participation, and cultural developments. This will be in the form of tens of NGO associations, academic centers, cultural centers, art centers, sports centers, research centers, and journalistic centers, in order to bring about participation, and understanding among students in their educational, political, and social lives.

6- Launching various fields of law, and human rights chair, and seminars in order to improve understanding in equality of rights, freedom of justice, and eradication of discriminations, towards betterment in quality of human living.

7- Launching of college of environmental studies in the context of linkage between human rights, and security, and environmental rights. Also security in sustainable development, and promotion of environmental culture, with a global approach towards the environment.

8- Establishing Office of Anti-Terrorism Studies in IAU, as a means of understanding the phenomenon of terrorism, and the motives behind it. Furthermore, finding ways to combat this new evil, which is against freedom, security, and human lives. This shall be through education, research, and international understanding.

9- Financial allocation for young researchers, faculty members, and researchers, with the aim of directing them towards creation, and innovation. This would eventually lead to the emergence of new talents, and individual and collective merits.

10- Contacts with world universities, which are members of the UN, in order to establish scientific, and cultural exchanges. Consequently, this shall lead to helping to understand one another, and peaceful coexistence, among all, and sustainable security in the international community.

In order to develop, and expand Universities' academic, and research collaborations Islamic Azad University' MOU with the UN Alliance of Civilizations I wish to offer the following Practical proposals for implementation:

Plan 1: Designing and implementing common Credit Mobile system

Plan 2: Launching sports leagues among world universities

Plan 3: Holding annual scientific conferences and launching a journal on Alliance of Civilizations

Plan 4: Designing a course of "Alliance of Civilizations" as an elective course in universities

Plan 5: performing common theses collectively

Due to the lack of time, the details will be submitted to secretariat of AOC.

In the end, in view of the fact that such gatherings can be a big step forward, towards the improvement of human rights, once more I should like to thank all the organizers of this Conference, in particular his Excellency President Sampaio. I hope this seating would help to improve the issue of human rights through education.

Prof. Abdullah Jassbi,

The Islamic Azad University

President