

## **CONVERGENCES '03**

### **International Conference on the Convergence of Knowledge, Culture, Language and Information Technologies**

Library of Alexandria 2-6 December 2003  
Alexandria, Egypt

## **Conference Proceedings**

International Conference on the Convergence of Knowledge, Culture, Language and Information Technologies

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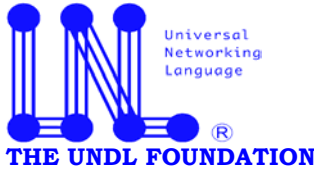
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#### Letter of Motivation

A major imperative of our time is to persist fostering the dialogue among civilizations as a way of building peace, development and welfare for all nations. In fact, the “universalizing” trend in contemporary History and the widespread social, economic, political and cultural conflicts in “local” environments, call for reinforcing the ethos common to Human Community, and for nurturing transcultural understanding among peoples of diverse identities. It is a compelling mission in present days, and a universal one; one that draws all the resources of human mind, from philosophical reflections to engineering pragmatics, to pave the way for dialogue and cooperation.

This line of thinking is the source of inspiration for CONVERGENCES '03 Conference. The theme focuses on the “convergence of knowledge, culture, language and information technologies”. This blending exercise stimulates the search for inventive means to surmount several formidable obstacles that hinder understanding among nations. How can understanding prosper, for instance, without crossing the language barriers? How can dialogue and cooperation be promoted without bridging “local” knowledges and “universal” knowledge? How can multi-diverse manifestations of culture flourish if they are not universally shared?

Our motivation is to lay down the infrastructures, using the powerful resources of modern information and communication technologies (ICTs), which can overcome these obstacles. We are pleased, therefore, to invite scholars and researchers from both the fields of the Humanities and Engineering to contribute and discuss new conceptual frameworks or functional constructs in support of reciprocal knowledge and transcultural interactions at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in Alexandria.

CONVERGENCES '03' is jointly organized by the UNDL Foundation and the Library of Alexandria, in cooperation with UNL Arabic Language Centre of the Royal Scientific Society (Jordan), and promoted with the support of the

United Nations, UNESCO, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and a number of national governments and universities.

The Conference is the third edition of a series of international conferences focusing on the same broad theme of Knowledge, Culture, Language and ICTs. The previous two were also held in countries of great civilizations, and at sites of inspiring environment: Suzhou (China 2001) and Goa (India 2002), Alexandria (Egypt), at the crossroad of civilizations, is the next fitting site for Convergences '03. In fact, for its past and its promising future, the Library of Alexandria provides a fitting environment for CONVERGENCES '03.

From our previous experiences in China and in India, we expect the environment of the Egyptian civilization to be a rewarding scholarly experience for the participants. We are also confident that you will make a valuable contribution through your insightful mind and practical expertise to foster dialogues among civilizations.

Tarcisio Della Senta, President of the UNDL Foundation

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