

Introduction to this issue

This third issue of the magazine of UPC's UNESCO Chair in Technology, Sustainable Development, Imbalance and Global Change presents numerous singularities, of various depths, which it is appropriate to present:

It represents the beginning of a new stage of the magazine which, among other things, will be possible in the future thanks to the support of the Fundació Privada Mina of Aigües de Terrassa. Thank you!

It coincides with the fifth anniversary of the creation (in May 1996) of the UNESCO Chair itself.

It is thematically dedicated to 'Africa: a worldwide challenge,' because we felt that if there was one disturbing reality which was characteristic of the change of millennium, it was the situation of this seemingly God-forsaken continent.

This continent was, for various reasons, one of the points of reference of Pere Duran i Farell; and he himself was one of the 'fathers' – as of so many other projects – of the UNESCO Chair. This has led us to dedicate to him *in memoriam* this issue of our magazine, as a token of our own particular and grateful homage.

Pere Duran i Farell's relationship with the creation of the UNESCO Chair arose out of his position as President of the Board of Trustees of UPC, but also that of Chairman of the Spanish Chapter of the Club of Rome. For this reason, and also because this year the 25th anniversary of that Chapter is being celebrated, we all wanted also to situate this dedication within the framework of this anniversary.

We hope you will find in the following pages continuations and developments of that underlying thread which began to be woven at that first International Congress on Technology, Sustainable Development and Imbalance held in Terrassa in December 1995, which Pere Duran i Farell opened with these words:

"In the present day, in this world of science and technology, we must try to make technologists and scientists as fundamental and decisive as wise men, understanding wisdom as the attitude of the man who morally enriches his knowledge and who, at the same time, legitimises its application... The technological world will be of little use if we do not know where we are going, and still less if we are not sufficiently aware of the need to establish as a priority *to know where we are going.*"

*UNESCO Chair at UPC in Technology,
Sustainable Development, Imbalance and Global Change*