



# UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement    Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente  
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде    برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



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**Date:** 19 April 2016

Dear Prof. Borghi,

I acknowledge with much thanks receipt of your letter dated 31 March 2016 to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) expressing the interest of the University of Parma to join the UNEP Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) network. I am very pleased to welcome the University of Parma - as one of the oldest universities in Italy with a millennium of history - to the GUPES network.

We are very pleased to learn, from the visit of Mr. Wondwosen (Wondy) K. Asnake, about the different programmes, activities and commitments of the University of Parma to promote the mainstreaming of environment and sustainability principles and practices into curricula development, teaching, research, community engagement, management within and beyond the university. This is very much in line with the goals of GUPES and that of UNEP.

We very much welcome the recent creation of a sustainability department in the University – an important milestone to promote and integrate sustainability principles across the university, and we look forward to working with the department. We have already published a short story line on the University of Parma as a new member from Europe

[http://unepineurope.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=498:university-of-parma-joins-gupes&catid=111:unep-on-the-ground](http://unepineurope.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=498:university-of-parma-joins-gupes&catid=111:unep-on-the-ground)

We have also put out the call for the GUPES Green Gown Award and would encourage you to share with students and faculty [http://unep.org/training/programmes/GUPES\\_Green\\_Gown\\_Awards\\_2016.asp](http://unep.org/training/programmes/GUPES_Green_Gown_Awards_2016.asp)

Let me also take this opportunity to share with you the programme for the **2016 Global Environment Policy Programme (GEPP)** that we are running with the University of Geneva aimed at providing training to bridge the common gap between scientific knowledge and professional expertise related to core environmental themes [http://unige.ch/gepp/files/3014/5857/4351/GEPP\\_P-SUMMER-SCHOOL16.pdf](http://unige.ch/gepp/files/3014/5857/4351/GEPP_P-SUMMER-SCHOOL16.pdf)

The GEPP format could be replicated with you, in particular, in the areas of **“food and the environment”**, as well as other opportunities to explore in relation to the upcoming United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA2) resolution on environmental education entitled **“Investing in human capacity for Sustainable Development, through environmental education and training”**.

Once again, welcome to the GUPES network, and we look forward to working closely with the University of Parma and partners to advance the sustainability agenda.

Sincerely

Sylvie Motard  
Deputy Director

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