

M-2009 Statement on Open Educational Resources

(forwarded from the M-2009 World Conference*

to the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education / WCHE2009)

It is evident that the increasing – and increasingly diversified – demand for higher education cannot be met through traditional means within traditional institutions. Open Educational Resources (OER) offer an unprecedented opportunity to advance both the international commitment to *Education for All* and to building inclusive knowledge societies.

The M-2009 World Conference, having a strong emphasis on OER in its programme, shows commitment among its participants from 70 countries around the world to the goal of combining the potential of OER with the power of Open and Distance Learning (ODL). It is because of the high quality of the learning materials, the learner-centred model and the scale of operation of ODL institutions that Open and Distance Learning can contribute significantly to equalizing access to knowledge worldwide through a continuum of learning opportunities that range from informal to formal.

The organizers of M-2009, ICDE and EADTU, both have had Task Forces on OER in operation, and will join forces with other regional associations in harmonizing current and ongoing work, and in setting an OER agenda for concerted action.

* M-2009 has been a one-time merger of the bi-annual conference of the world organization ICDE (International Council for Open and Distance Education) and the annual conference of the EADTU (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities). It took place 7 -10 June 2009 in Maastricht, The Netherlands.