

7th Slow Food
International Congress
Chengdu, China
September 29-October 1, 2017

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Motion number 5

**Transmission of wisdom, access to knowledge, the diffused
university**

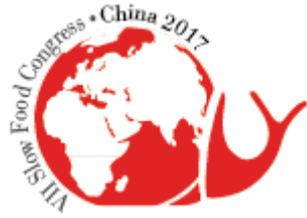
Given that:

- 2004 marked an important year for the Slow Food movement, with two developments that profoundly changed and influenced its identity: the founding of the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo and the formation of the network of Terra Madre food communities.
- The Terra Madre communities represent the custodians of knowledge, skills and ways of life and coexistence that are in harmony with the place in which they live, where nature and people have over the centuries adapted to constantly evolving environmental and social conditions.
- The distance between traditional knowledge and official science is still great, and too often the knowledge accumulated over the centuries by communities is not granted dignity and recognition by academic institutions. Official academic knowledge must be able to dialog in an increasingly close and constant way with rural and artisanal wisdom, which represents the identity of a specific places.

We, the representatives of the Slow Food and Terra Madre network, having come from 90 countries around the world to unite at the International Congress in Chengdu, China, declare our commitment to encouraging a fruitful dialog between official science and traditional knowledge, following the principle that everyone, regardless of class, social background, economic conditions, race, provenance, gender or age, has the right to access knowledge and culture.

Specifically, we commit to:

- championing the democratization of access to knowledge through initiatives aimed at encouraging meetings, dialog and the sharing of knowledge; the main tool for this work will be the establishment of a free and democratic platform for knowledge exchange and access, to be developed together with the University of Gastronomic Sciences of Pollenzo, open to all universities and educational institutions in the world that share the spirit and objectives of this project. For now the initiative has the provisional name of “diffused university.”
- promoting and supporting the diffused university through our network of food communities and local groups, with the aim of making accessible the wealth of knowledge and skills linked to the world of food that the association and the network have accumulated over the years.



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- encouraging other subjects and organizations in every part of the world who are fighting to safeguard traditional knowledge and to give dignity to the knowledge of the humble to participate in the diffused university.
- encouraging the inclusion of educational programs based on food and the environment in scholastic curricula.