

2011 World Materials Summit: Student Congress Advocacy, Outreach, and Policy Panel Report

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The student congress has decided that the main message to spread to both government and other scientists is that we must empower students to advocate for energy and sustainability in order to reach both policy makers and the general public in ways which are relevant and clear.

We recommend the constitution of a continental committee of international people representing us all, empowered to present ideas from this summit over the next two years to organized bodies like the UN, AU, EU, etc. The duty of this group will include to report to MRS and next WMS, effecting change and to learn how to deliver key information to politicians and decision makers.

We want to provide targeted information and initiatives to local populations that provide positive messages in vernacular and simple solutions relevant to daily life. Student members of MRS can act as ambassadors through volunteerism in local schools, providing resources for what they might talk about for different age groups. We recommend that students rely on many resources including social media and networks and text messaging to reach the people in a positive and encouraging way. We want to change the perception of scientists and science so we are viewed in a positive light. We must make science relevant to everyone's daily life. We can also utilize widespread publications in language everyone can understand to spread this message.

We will ask for feedback both from within the community of scientists and the local people with whom we will interact. We want these communities to

be directly involved with our educational outreach. We feel that students are in a unique position to act as the bridge between the highly technical scientists and policy makers and the people who ultimately will benefit from our research.