



# ISISA

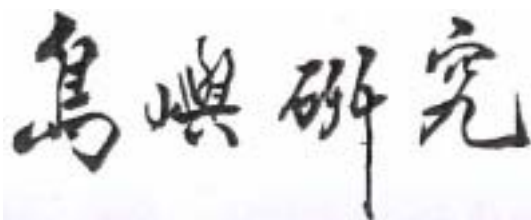
**International Small Islands Studies Association  
Islands VIII International Conference  
General Meeting of 5 November 2004**

## ***The Kinmen Declaration***

The delegates of the *Islands of the World VIII* Conference taking place on Kinmen Island, Taiwan R.O.C. from 1 to 7 November 2004 have presented research to demonstrate that small islands have unique challenges owing to relatively small size, resource limitations, environmental sensitivity and risks of major natural disasters. Concerned to promote small islands as models for sustainable development practices, we the delegates make the following recommendations to members of the international community, policy makers, legislators, non-government organisations and others who can impact relevant decision-making processes:

1. that new and innovative education systems are supported on small islands to promote the notions of sustainability and equitable development;
2. that new information and communication technology (ICT) should be used to the maximum to promote island development and understanding, and share island experiences with the world and benefit from global experiences with island communities;
3. that the conservation and management of the rich historical, cultural and biological sites on small islands is prioritised and supported, and their diversity preserved. This includes concerted measures to address the causes and consequences of global warming and sea level rise;
4. that where tourism is seen as a major opportunity for economic prosperity it requires careful planning, management and implementation in consultation with island people so that the natural and cultural environments are protected;
5. that small islands be encouraged to develop appropriate strategies so they can participate confidently and effectively in the global economy, while the international community recognises that the interests of small islands must be accommodated via suitable transitions to more open terms of international trade;
6. that islanders within larger states have the right to equity in social services, including access to adequate and affordable basic health care in their own communities;
7. that island governments promote renewable energy initiatives, and prioritise waste management awareness and sustainable waste management, and be mindful of possible cross-boundary impacts of waste management practices.
8. that national governments encourage specialist island research centres in suitable locations to foster the exchange of ideas and to accomplish the above goals.

The delegates wish to express their sincere thanks to the organisers, sponsors and staff of this Islands VIII conference and the people of Kinmen Island for enabling this very instructive meeting to take place so successfully and for providing warm hospitality and many memorable experiences of their beautiful island..



“Dao yu yen jeou” • Study of Islands

Calligraphy by Chu-Feng Lee, Magistrate  
Kinmen Island