

## **7<sup>th</sup> World University Championship Beach Volleyball 2014**

### **Opening message from the rector**

**Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo, on 22 July 2014**

#### **Welcome!**

After several months of intense work, the 7<sup>th</sup> World University Championship Beach Volleyball 2014 is now a reality and today, at the start of the competition, everything is prepared for a successful event. The tournament involves some of the finest university teams from the entire World, which guarantees a strong competition and a healthy social spirit among young people of different nationalities.

In fact, one of the qualities of sports is that it is able to bring together citizens from different parts of the world under the banner of solidarity and team spirit, determination and the will to overcome obstacles, strain and commitment in order to achieve good results, and of respect for principles and rules. Generally speaking, it implies a series of universal values that the University of Porto, as a higher education institution, has the duty to promote within its academic community.

With this in mind, our University is extremely honoured to be the co-organizer, alongside with the Porto Polytechnic Institute and the Porto Academic Federation, of the 7<sup>th</sup> World University Championship Beach Volleyball 2014.

Furthermore, this World University Championship provides an opportunity to strengthen the international projection of our city, its academic community and the U.Porto. In our case, the tournament will also help to reinforce the capacity of the U.Porto in organizing major international events and its ability to dialogue, cooperate and strengthen relations with other academic communities.

I would therefore like to welcome all participants in the 7<sup>th</sup> World University Championship Beach Volleyball 2014. The U.Porto is pleased to welcome all teams involved in the tournament and will do everything within its reach to make sure that the athletes, managers, team attendants and other members have a good stay in Porto. We hope we are up to the Porto hospitality standards, a city which is known for the warm way it welcomes its visitors, and when the time comes for you to leave you will feel you want to come back very soon.

As the Rector of the host University, I would also like to invite the Portuguese and international academic communities – and sports fans as well – to the 7<sup>th</sup> World University Championship Beach Volleyball 2014, an important sports known for the commitment of players, the competition between teams, the unpredictability of results and the enthusiasm of the audience.

Welcome everyone!

22 July 2014, 'Edifício Transparente' Beach

Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo

Rector of the University of Porto