

ORGANIZERS

Insula - International Scientific Council for Island Development

Maison de l'UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15 France
Tel: + 33 1 45 68 40 56 Email: insula@insula.org
website: www.insula.org

Goals

To put in practice on the International level a scientific, technical and cultural cooperation in favour of Islands specially small Islands known as (SIDS). And in regard to the nature of their environment, create an environmentally sound, culturally respectful, viable development. Assist Island Communities by providing them with training which encompasses a vision of education that seeks to empower people of all ages to assume responsibility for creating and enjoying a sustainable future. Also as part of the training making the most of the existing natural resources will be a big challenge. The major themes are Cultural Development, Training of the Islanders, Exchanging of information for a better Sustainable Island Living.

Geographical Representation

Insula brings together 11 Institutions, Partners and Members from more than 60 countries throughout the world.

General Assembly

The General Biannual Assembly joins with all the members. And the General assembly elects the annual executive board of 12 to 20 members.

Activities

The main goal of Insula is to ensure a proper cultural, technical and educational aid linked to the sustainable development of small islands. In addition to that Insula is known for its experience in publishing and diffusing periodicals, books, reports, organising conferences and putting up experts' meeting in relation to the Sustainable Development of Islands.

Financial Support

Members contribution, payments, donations and bonus granted by governments, International Organisations, Local authorities, individuals and legal entities.

Partnership with Unesco

INSULA works hand in hand with the Science sector to develop and foster information societies in Islands, to diffuse information about renewable energies and seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage in Islands which are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. Also a number of International and Local conferences took place under the aegis of Unesco from Japan to the Caribbean and to end in the Mediterranean.

During the 181 Session of UNESCO's executive board on the 17th of April 2009, the status of Insula was upgraded in the category of Non governmental Organisations having formal association relationship with UNESCO.



Organizing Committee of the Conference

Centro UNESCO Catania "M. Elisa Brischetto" Via Canfora 135 – 95128 Catania

Phone: + 39 095 48 87 Email: conf-volcano@etnacatania2009.com

Website: www.etnacatania2009.com

The legal representant and president of the Organizing Committee is Doctor Bruno di Stefano, Director of Unesco Centre «M. Elisa Brischetto» - Catania (Italy)

Partners



UNESCO - United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization



Council of Europe



Sicilian Region



Observatory on Tourism in the European Islands



LAVE - L'Association Volcanologique Européenne



International Association for the Conservation of Nature



Università degli Studi di Catania

Presentation of the Conference

According to volcanologists, there are presently only a few dozens of truly active volcanoes on the Earth's surface. Many more are extinct, since long dormant, or just taking a nap. Countless, but fascinating are the submarine volcanoes often at the origin, in tropical seas, of atolls and coral reefs.

The shapes and behaviors of volcanoes are also surprisingly diversified; well beyond the familiar image of a cone headed with a trail of smoke...They are undoubtedly natural marvels and were since ever considered as such, and endowed with divine qualities by the peoples living nearby.

Some volcanoes and associated landscapes have been recognized by UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage Convention and List of properties of outstanding universal value, such as the Aeolian Islands off the northeastern coast of Sicily.

Nowadays in a world accelerating its pace towards a globalizing 'Knowle-

dge Society', Nature and Culture become values of a paramount significance for everybody, everywhere.

The 'world of volcanoes' is participating with 'volcanic energy' in this process, attracting a vast array of old and new admirers and devotees – volcanologists and other geo-science specialists are putting to test the considerable advances of their disciplines; biologists are attracted by the astonishing biodiversity of the volcanic slopes; anthropologists and social scientists in turn explore the original and changing perceptions and behavioral patterns of communities living close to volcanoes; administrators and planners advocate protective measures for outstanding landscapes, while local communities seek to adjust their age-old risk management practices and sustainable development policies. Last but not least, volcanoes and their landscapes are becoming highly appreciated destinations for nature- and culture-oriented tourism.

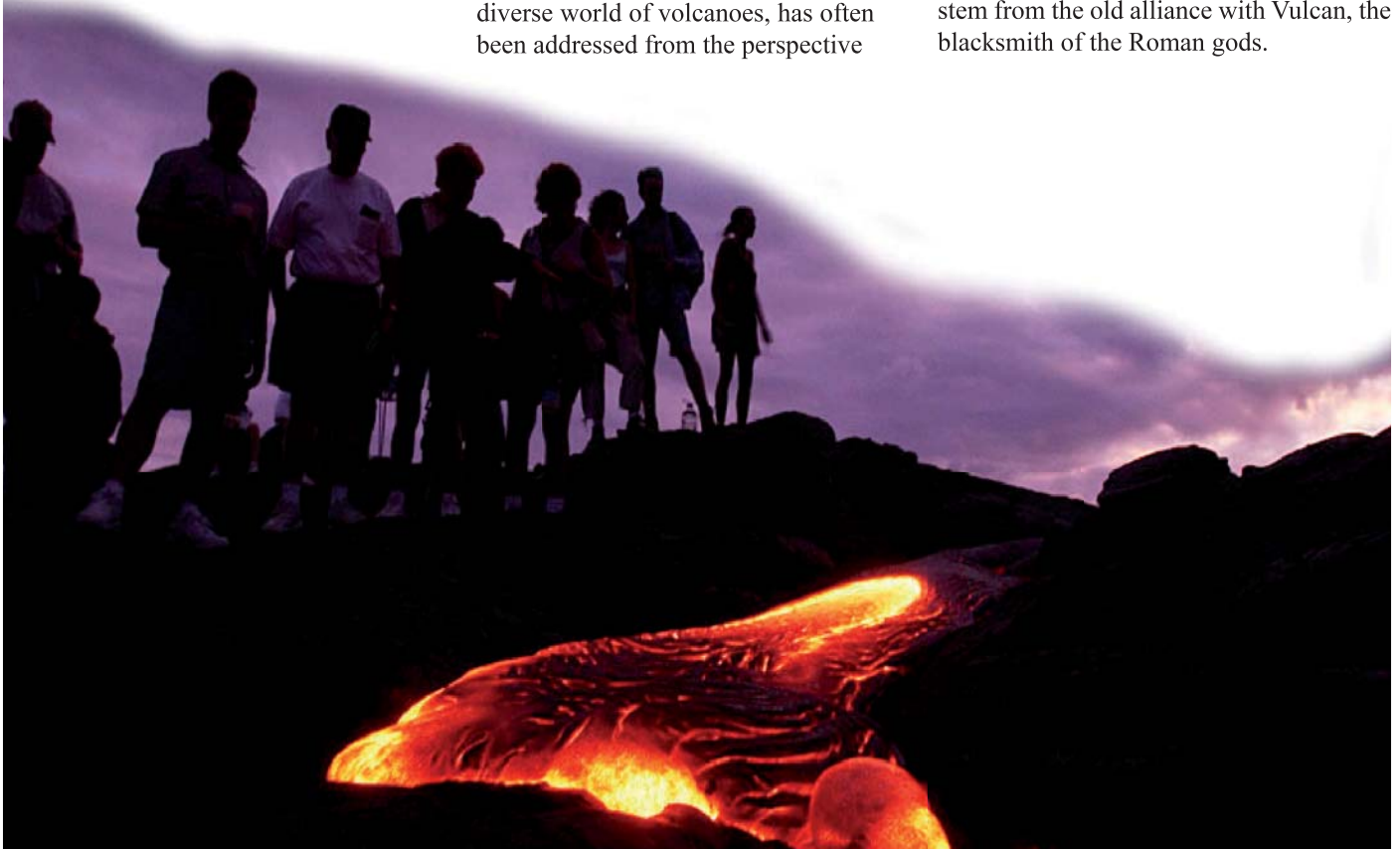
This multifaceted reality, this rich and diverse world of volcanoes, has often been addressed from the perspective

of a single discipline or from the sole standpoint of national or local interests.

The proposers of the present initiative strongly believe that the wealth represented by volcanoes belongs not only to the some 300 million people presently living on their slopes, but is both a tangible and intangible common heritage of humankind, worthy of being better known and appreciated. A capital that sensitively managed can contribute over the long term to the development and well-being of present and future generations.

The Conference, the first of its kind, will address from a holistic and multidisciplinary point of view the core aspects of the complex relationships between the world of humankind and life and the obscure turbulences of the mineral world.

Above all, the Conference invites all interested parties to brave the challenge offered by the new technological tools and scientific advances and identify promising areas for innovation and progress that can stem from the old alliance with Vulcan, the blacksmith of the Roman gods.



Provisionnal Program of the Conference

Nature and Sciences

- Advances in geo-sciences, geo-engineering and volcanology
 - Population safety and risk management
- Biodiversity and soil fertility, volcanic ecosystems
 - Education, public awareness
 - Etc...

Nature and Culture

- Parks, protected areas, biosphere reserves, UNESCO’s World Heritage, territorial and landscape management, geo-parks
 - Memories and footprints of the past, history and archeology
 - Myths and sociétés
 - Literature and cinéma
 - Etc...

Sustainable Development – New and Traditional Resources Uses

- Mining
 - Specialized agriculture
- Renewable energies and geothermy
- The special case of volcanic islands
 - Etc...

Volcanoes: Surprising Landscapes

- Tourism: volcanoes, a trendy destination!
 - Exploration
 - Trekking
- Thermal waters and health
- Cruises among volcanoes
 - Etc...

The “House of Volcanoes” – International Networking

Creation of a permanent “on-line” platform fostering an intercontinental dialogue and knowledge exchanges including the virtual visit of world’s most significant volcanoes.



Scientific Committee

National Scientific Committee

Coordinator: Prof. Renato Cristofolini (Volcanologist, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Catania)
 Prof. Giovanni Continella (Agronomist, DOFATA, Section of Arboriculture University of Catania)
 Prof. Giovanni Costa (Ecologist, Department of Animal Biology, University of Catania)
 Prof. Enrico Iachello (Historian, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Catania)
 Prof. Paolo La Greca (Town planner, Department of Architecture and Town planning, University of Catania)
 Prof. Emilia Poli (Botanist, DACPA, Section of Vegetal Biology and Ecology, University of Catania)
 Prof. Rosario La Rosa (Economist, Department of Economy and Quantitative Methods, University of Catania)
 Prof. Rosario Lanzafame (Engineer, Department of Industrial and Mechanical Engineering, University of Catania)
 Dr. Domenico Patanè (Geophysicist, National Institute for Geophysics and Volcanology – Director of the Catania Section)
 Prof. Maria Teresa Vinciguerra (Zoologist, Department of Animal Biology, University of Catania)

International Scientific Secretariat

Coordinator: Dr. Pier Giovanni d’Ayala (Italy): Secretary General of INSULA «International Scientific Council for Island Development»

International Scientific Committee

Maguelonne Dejean-Pons (France): Head of the Spatial Planning and Landscape Division, Council of Europe.
 Gustavo Fuentealba (Chile): Director – Observatorio Volcanologico de Los Andes del Sur.
 Dan Gooding (USA): Director – Cascades Volcano Observatory – Department of Geosciences, Central Washington University.
 Claude Grandpey (France): President of the Organization « LAVE – l’Association Volcanologique Européenne ».
 Birgit Hornsteiner (Austria): UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Grosse Watersal, Managing Director.
 Soraya Hosni (France): Anthropologist, “EHESS Paris, Laboratoire d’Anthropologie Sociale».
 Natarajan Ishwaran (Sri Lanka): Director, Division of Ecological. and Earth Sciences- UNESCO.
 Boris V. Ivanov (Russia): Director of the Institute of Volcanic Geology and Geo Chemistry, Far-east Division Russian Academy of Sciences.
 Wolf Michael Iwand (Germany): Former Director Group Corporate Environmental Management at TUI AG.
 Hiroshi Kakazu (Japan): Economist - Professor at the International University of Japan and also President of the Okinawa Development Finance Corporation.
 Shunzuke Nagashima (Japan): Professor, Research Center of the Pacific Islands, Kagoshima University.
 Zana Ndontoni (Congo Democratic Republic) : Volcanologist, Director Research Center of Geophysics, Kinshasa .
 Catharina Sack (Australia): Landscapes specialist, School of Architecture, University of Western Australia, Perth.
 Lionella Scazzosi (Italy): Professor at the Politecnico di Milano, Landscape architecture - Expert at the Italian Ministry for Culture.
 Giorgio Schifani (Italy): Full Professor of Economy and Agro-environmental policies, University of Palermo.
 Abdelnour Sharif (Lybia): Director of the Department of Geophysics. Faculty of Sciences University Alfarth. Tripoli.
 Wilfried Strauch (Nicaragua): Director General – Instituto Nicaraguense de Estudios Territoriales – Direction of Geophysics.

Location of the Conference

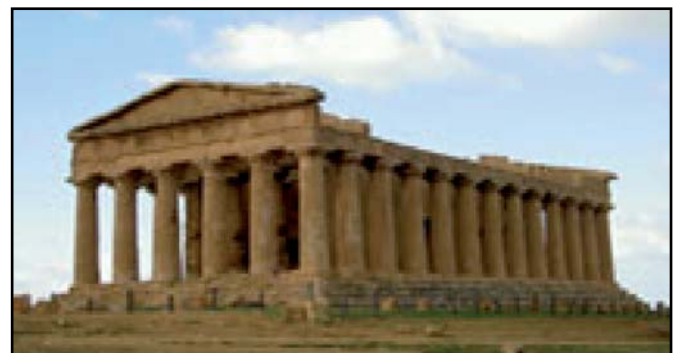
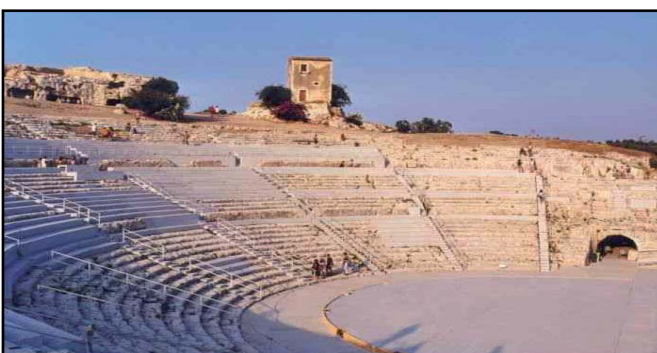
The Conference will take place in Catania (Sicily) from 11 to 14 November 2009 at the "Ciminiere Cultural Center", on the city seashore. Situated between the Ionian Sea and Mount Etna, Europe's greatest active volcano, Catania lies in one of Sicily's most fertile areas, outstanding for the rich production of citrus, fruits, vegetables, cereals and wine. Catania is a city with a strong personality, a blend of many conquerors and civilizations which has succeeded each other since thousands of years: Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Germans or Spaniards, have left their mark on the people's way of life.



Often attacked by the violence of nature (Etna's eruptions in 1669 covered the city in boiling lava, while the 1693 earthquake devastated its landscape and killed more than 20 000 people), and always rebuilt with determination and obstinacy, the last "new Catania" features the characteristics of the Spanish colonial urbanism: spacious squares, "Piazza Duomo" and boulevards "via Etnea", bordered by elegant palaces and imposing churches, Cathedral and Church of S. Nicoló, in flamboyant Baroque Style that still contrasts with the severe beauty of the lava stone. Catania that was a cradle of theatre, music and poetry, giving birth to great personalities like the musician Vincenzo Bellini and writers like Giovanni Verga and Luigi Capuana is a city to experience also at night because when the evening comes, restaurants and clubs open. An extraordinary opportunity to explore and discover the long tradition of Catania's cuisine, bringing together the flavors of Normandy, Andalusia and its Arab memories.



The ancient city of Syracuse, remembering Plato and Archimedes, Agrigento and the Valley of Temples, Taormina and its Greek theatre, are only a short drive away. The Aeolian Archipelago, endowed with Stromboli and Vulcano, is just few hours from the coast. They are all Sicilian treasures and World Heritage Sites.



Contact

Local Secretariat: OTIE – Via Emerico Amari 38, 90 139 Palermo Italy.Tel: 0039 091 611 7527

International Scientific Secretariat : INSULA - C/O MAB UNESCO 1, rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15 France. Tel: 0033 1 45 68 40 56

conf-volcano@etnacatania2009.com



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Sicily Welcomes You !!!