Italo-Maltese Workshop on

Integration of the geomorphological environment and cultural heritage for tourism promotion and hazard prevention

MALTA, 25-27 APRIL 2007

FIRST CIRCULAR AND CALL FOR PAPERS

INTRODUCTION

The Maltese Islands, situated in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea, have always attracted ancient civilizations and European powers. In fact, Malta’s strategic location has contributed to its rich history and wealth of cultural heritage. Being at the crossroads of maritime routes, the Islands have been colonized since 5200 BC, thus boasting over 7000 years of history. Malta today has a population which slightly exceeds 400,000 and has become a member state of the European Union since 1st May 2004.

This Workshop comprises the first initiative undertaken in Malta to discuss issues regarding the cultural heritage and a distinct type of tourism, conscious of the geomorphological environment and carried out in safe conditions. The Maltese Islands provide the ideal location for this event due to the rich cultural heritage left by the different civilizations which occupied the Islands. Moreover, although the Islands are intensively built up, they still conserve remarkable geomorphological features, especially at the coastal zone, which is highly frequented by tourists and locals.

AIMS

The Workshop will provide the opportunity to present current research on the relationships that exist between the geomorphological environment, cultural heritage and tourism promotion both in Malta and at an international level. A round-table discussion is being proposed to put forward ideas and other initiatives of research collaboration with local institutions. Top level international scientists have been invited to deliver speeches related to the topic, so as to share experiences, especially from a European context, that could be helpful for Maltese planners and decision-makers to promote geotourism and cultural heritage. Selected papers from other scientists will also be presented during the Workshop.
**WORKSHOP THEMES**

The Workshop themes are related to issues concerning the safeguarding of the geomorphological environment and cultural heritage for tourism promotion in safe conditions. The following is a list of topics, which although not exhaustive, constitutes the main aspects which will be discussed during the Workshop:

- relationship between the geomorphological environment and cultural heritage
- prevention and mitigation of geomorphological hazards effecting cultural heritage
- geomorphological hazards related to the coastal environment
- hazard prevention for safe tourism
- the role of geosites in tourism promotion

**PROGRAMME**

The Workshop will be held between 25 and 27 April 2007, extending over 3 days. On the first day, there will be invited speeches together with selected oral and poster presentations at the Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Valletta. On the second and third day field trips will be organized. The working language of the Workshop is English.

**Invited Speakers**

Morgan DE DAPPER (University of Ghent, Belgium)
*Geo-archaeology, man and environment in past times: the geomorphological approach*

Giuliano FIERRO (University of Genova, Italy)
*Coastal erosion and tourism*

Mario PANIZZA (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy)
*Geomorphology and cultural heritage*

Emmanuel REYNARD (University of Lausanne, Switzerland)
*Tourist promotion of geomorphological heritage: the importance of scientific research*

Marino SORRISO-VALVO (CNR Cosenza, Italy)
*Natural hazards and natural heritage - common origins and interference with cultural heritage*

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

Abstracts should be written in English and must not exceed 500 words. The abstract should include names and institutions of all authors and the email address of the corresponding author (indicated by an asterisk). No specific format is being proposed, but preferably abstracts should be typed in Times New Roman, font size 12. Figures, pictures, tables and references should not be included.

Abstracts should be sent as a Word Document file in an email attachment to Dr. Paola Coratza (paola.coratza@unimore.it). Deadline for abstract submission is **31st January 2007**. Acceptance of abstracts lies at the discretion of the Scientific and Organising Committee. Due to the time available for oral presentations it is expected that there will be a selection of oral presentations based on their relevance with the Workshop’s topics. Authors will be informed of the Scientific and Organising Committee decision by **28th February 2007**. Abstracts will be printed in an abstract volume.

Oral presentations will be allocated a maximum period of 15 minutes per presentation. Overhead and data projectors will be available. Details of poster dimensions will be given in the Second Circular.

It is intended to publish the Workshop proceedings in a special issue of an international journal.

**FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS**

Two field trips are being organised for the Workshop delegates and accompanying persons:

- A full-day scientific and guided cultural tour to the island of Gozo.
- A half-day field trip to the north-west coast of Malta, where monitoring of lateral spreading phenomena is currently being undertaken.

For accompanying persons a guided cultural tour of Valletta has also been organised on the 25th April.
**SOCIAL DINNER**

A social dinner will be organised for Workshop delegates and accompanying persons at an extra cost of 35 € / Lm 15 (including beverage).

The dinner will be held at Palazzo Capua, an early 19th century Neoclassical Palace situated next to The Victoria Hotel, located in Sliema. The Palace is one of the oldest and finest Victorian buildings in Sliema and was originally a royal residence belonging to Prince Charles of Capua. Palazzo Capua has been recently restored and transformed into an exclusive conference and reception venue. Guests will be able to make complimentary use of the underground car park facilities. More details will be provided in the Second Circular.

**VENUE**

The Workshop will be held at the premises of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, located in a central and easily accessible part of Valletta, the capital city of Malta. The Institute is accommodated in a historical building built in 1602 by Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt. The premises include a hall providing facilities for conferences and performances and a library with reading space. The ceiling of the hall has frescoes painted by Nicolò Nasoni da Siena who was working in Malta between 1723 and 1725.

**TRAVEL**

The Maltese Islands can be reached within a few hours from most European cities and the Islands have also excellent intercontinental connections. The Islands have an international airport, inaugurated and operational since 1992, located at Luqa, about 6 kilometres away from Valletta. Official website of the Malta International Airport is: [www.maltairport.com](http://www.maltairport.com).

**Air Malta**

Air Malta is the national airline, operating flights to and from all the major airports in Europe, North Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean. More information on Air Malta can be found by accessing: [www.airmalta.com](http://www.airmalta.com).

As Official Carrier of the Italo-Maltese Workshop, Air Malta is granting all delegates and accompanying persons, travelling on Air Malta scheduled services, a 10% discount on the published rate (which is not applicable on special offers). Discounts would apply on all Air Malta operating routes between 18 to 30 April 2007.

The Scientific and Organising Committee is not responsible for travel reservations. Workshop delegates and accompanying persons can book directly their own discounted flights through Air Malta website designed specifically for conference travellers, details of which are given below. Payment can be effected through credit card. Once this is submitted to Air Malta, an electronic ticket will be sent to the passenger via email. Early bookings are recommended. Should you encounter any difficulties on effecting bookings on Air Malta services you may request assistance to: cit@airmalta.com.mt.

**Air Malta Online Reservations**

Delegates and accompanying persons who want to travel with Air Malta are required to access the following website: [www.airmalta.com/conferences](http://www.airmalta.com/conferences) and then use the following pre-defined login name and password which have been assigned for this purpose.

*Login name: italomal*

*Password: workshop*

**Malta Tourism Authority**

Detailed and useful information on the Maltese Islands can be found on the official website of the Malta Tourism Authority which can be accessed at [www.visitmalta.com](http://www.visitmalta.com).

Delegates should check in advance with the relevant Embassies and Consulates regarding visas and other entry requirements before making any travel arrangements. Further information and guidance is provided at the following website: [www.visitmalta.com/en/practical_infos/index.html](http://www.visitmalta.com/en/practical_infos/index.html).
ACCOMMODATION

We encourage delegates and accompanying persons to stay at The Victoria Hotel, where we have negotiated special rates. The Victoria Hotel ([www.victoriahotel.com](http://www.victoriahotel.com)) is a superior 4-star hotel located in a central part of Sliema, a main touristic location in Malta overlooking Marsamxett Harbour. Transfers between the hotel and the Workshop venue in Valletta have been arranged. The Social Dinner is being held at Palazzo Capua, situated next to The Victoria Hotel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of room</th>
<th>Single room</th>
<th>Twin/double room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>75 €</td>
<td>50 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior Room</td>
<td>82 €</td>
<td>53 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Suite</td>
<td>107 €</td>
<td>66 €</td>
</tr>
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*Rates per person per night, including a full buffet breakfast*

The Scientific and Organising Committee is not responsible for hotel reservations. Bookings should be made directly with the hotel by sending an email with booking details specifying the type of room and check-in and check-out dates to victoria@victoriahotel.com. As a booking reference, in the email subject title, specify “Italo-Maltese Workshop”. Early bookings are recommended.

REGISTRATION

**Non-Maltese Delegates**

- Early-Bird Registration (until 31st January 2007) 150 € / Lm 65
- Regular Registration 200 € / Lm 85

**Maltese Delegates**

- 1 day registration (paper and poster sessions) 50 € / Lm 20
- 3 day registration (including field trips) 80 € / Lm 35

Registration fee for Workshop delegates includes attendance and participation in paper and poster sessions, field trips, abstract volume and Workshop material, tourist information package and coffee breaks.

**Accompanying Persons**

100 € / Lm 45

Registration fee for accompanying persons of Workshop delegates includes guided cultural tour of Valletta, field trips and tourist information package.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Payment of registration fee by bank transfer is encouraged for non-Maltese delegates. Invoices will be issued at the registration desk on site. A copy of the bank transfer should be sent as soon as payment is effected. Unless a copy of the bank transfer is sent, it will not be possible to process the registration.

Bank transfers should be addressed to:

Mauro Soldati – Italo-Maltese Workshop
Banca popolare dell’Emilia Romagna
Modena – Agenzia n. 16
Viale Reiter, 126/A
Modena, Italy

IBAN: IT72 MO53 8712 9210 0000 1587 916
SWIFT Code: BPMOIT22

The name of the Workshop delegate and accompanying person/s should be specified. Please note that any local and foreign bank charges related to the bank transfer should be covered by delegates.

Please send registration form and copy of bank transfer by email or fax to:

Dr. Paola Coratza
Email: paola.coratza@unimore.it
Fax: +39 059 205 5887
ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS
University of Malta – Mediterranean Institute, Geography Division
Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia – Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Padova – Istituto di Ricerca per la Protezione Idrogeologica
Istituto Italiano di Cultura – Malta

SCIENTIFIC AND ORGANISING COMMITTEE
Sarah BUHAGIAR (University of Malta)
Paola CORATZA (Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia)
Anna Maria DI MARCO (Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Malta)
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Alessandro PASUTO (CNR Padova)
John A. SCHEMBRI (University of Malta)
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CONTACT PERSONS
For further information regarding the Workshop please contact:
Paola CORATZA (paola.coratza@unimore.it)
Odette MAGRI (odette.magri@um.edu.mt)

WORKSHOP WEBSITE
www.terra.unimore.it/maltaworkshop

The Workshop is being held under the AUSPICES of the following institutions:

OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF THE WORKSHOP

Heritage Malta
Malta Tourism Authority
Air Malta
The Victoria Hotel, Sliema

December 2006