

WORLD SCHOOL FORUM

Where We Stand As One

2011

Activities of the Forum

The multi-national group of the WSF has reached Venice after a 3-day seminar session in Sirmione on the Garda Lake. With the awe-inspiring architecture of St Mark's and the romantic pedestrian area of the city centre, Venice stands out as one the most impressive cities worldwide.



The group will never forget the afternoon stroll there. Moreover, we visited a modern art exhibition, the Merlini collection, where Mariella Gnani and Stefano Cecchetto showed us the outstanding artworks of many contemporary Italian artists. After a good dinner in a restaurant close to St Mark's, we took a ferry boat back to our coach where we spent the night on our way to Rome.



After a delicious breakfast offered by the "Vespucci" catering school, we started the visit of

this stunning city from St. Peter's Cathedral up to the Colosseum.

After a relaxing night in Avezzano, we set off for our next step around Italy. The disaster hit L'Aquila, the capital city of Abruzzo, We first stopped at the secondary school IIS "Amedeo d'Aosta", where the headmaster, Ms Gianna Colagrande introduced to us Ms Stefania Pezzopane, the Councillor for the Social Policy and Mr Claudio Panone, expert in anti-seismic prevention. They talked about what happened when the earthquake hit the town and what has been done so far to rebuild it. They both stressed the importance of the contribution of the Lombardy Regional Government. One of its representatives, Ms Luciana Ruffinelli was there and explained to us what response and rescue policy has been drawn up so far.

After that, Gabriele Miconi, a technical officer from the fire brigade of L'Aquila, led us around the forbidden heavily damaged "Red Zone". And we were all shocked by the consequences of the earthquake that are still visible. Our visit ended at S. Maria di Collemaggio, an impressive church which has been reopened to the public recently despite the ongoing restoration.



Interviews

Kate Jory

Student, St Paul's School, Australia

Q: What did you enjoy the most in Venice?

A: I really loved Venice, it's a stunning city where everything is beautiful and it's culturally unique. The most peculiar aspect of the city was the architecture and the outstanding buildings we visited.

In addition, the food was excellent, I really fancied the lasagna because they had got a delicious taste and the ice-creams were really good.



Gabriele Miconi,

Technical officer for the fire brigade in L'Aquila, Italy

Q: How did you experience the catastrophe of the earthquake as a common citizen and as a professional fireman?

A: During L'Aquila's earthquake everything was different and worse than all the other catastrophes, because I perfectly knew the weaknesses of the buildings here and I was personally worried about my family. I couldn't go and just save them and I couldn't keep in touch with them because our phones didn't work. I also had to extract my dentist's corpse from under the debris. In a way, everything was sadder.

Q: What gives you the hope that everything will be as it was before the earthquake?

A: Surely, I rely on all the people that support us and give us a very big help, both financially and psychologically. Everyone is very friendly and down to earth in the sense that they provide us with the "material" help we need to make the situation better.



Mrs Thipaporn Chumpoo

Teacher, Khema Siri Memorial School, Thailand

Q: What do you think about Rome? Did you enjoy the visit?

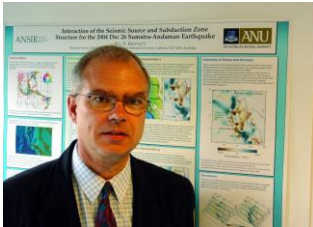


the future.

A: It was my first time there in Rome and all seems really exciting and amazing to me. I loved the Roman architecture and St. Peter's Cathedral is outstanding. I would really like to come back here in

Notable seismologists

Brian Kennett (Australia)



Brian Kennett, director of the Research School of Earth Sciences at ANU, was awarded a Gold Medal for

Geophysics. He is described as “one of the most complete seismologists of his generation”.

Kennett works on determining the structure of the Earth using the waves generated by earthquakes and man-made sources. His reference models for the structure of the Earth have been adopted as standards for the location of earthquakes across the globe, and are widely used in imaging the planet's interior.

Lianxing Wen (China)



Lianxing Wen (April, 1968—) is a Chinese seismologist, geodynamicist and planetary scientist, who has made fundamental contributions to many discoveries in the Earth's interior. His work has

fundamentally changed our understanding of the structure and dynamical processes of the Earth's mantle, outer core and inner core, and the boundaries between them.

Beno Gutenberg (Germany)



Beno Gutenberg (June, 1889-January 1960) was a German-American seismologist. He was Richter's collaborator in developing the Richter magnitude scale for measuring an earthquake's

magnitude.

He was the leading seismologist in Germany. He also worked on determining the depth of the core-mantle boundary. In 1952, Gutenberg received the Prix Charles Lagrange from the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique.

Richard Dixon Oldham (GB)



Richard Dixon Oldham FRS (31 July 1858 – 15 July 1936) was a British geologist. In 1879 he became an assistant-superintendent with the Geological Survey of India, working in the Himalayas. He

produced the report on the 1897 Assam earthquake and more than 40 other geological papers. He analyzed the seismology of various recorded earthquakes, and led Oldham to conclude that the earth had a molten core. He received several awards in the course of his life.

Don L. Anderson (USA)



Don L. Anderson was born in Frederick, Maryland on 5th March 1933. He graduated from Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and spent most of his career at Caltech's Seismological Laboratory.

He investigated the relations between the behavior of mantle rock under high pressures and temperatures and the generation of earthquakes. He contributed to the understanding of tectonic plate motions. He has developed an alternative model of the mineralogical composition of the upper mantle. He published a book “Theory of the Earth” on it.

Funny situations



Time for a laugh!

MACAU	TURKEY	THAILANDIA	SRI LANKA
There's a man and a woman who are deeply in love and they share everything. One day, they go to a restaurant and would like to share a bowl of rice but they can't do it. Do you know why? Because they also shared their false teeth.	I bought it and then it suddenly multiplied. What is it? A pomagranite.	There's a man who wants to shoot a bird and even if he missed it, the bird fell down. Do you know why? He couldn't stand the noise of the gun, so he covered his ears with his wings.	SRI LANKA: A student's sleeping on the desk and the teacher wakes him up and asks him to concentrate on the lesson. S.: "Why do I have to learn?" T.: "You can't get a proper job if you don't" S.: "Why do I have to get a proper job?" T.: "You can't earn your living if you don't" S.: "Why do I have to earn a living?" T.: "Because this way you can sleep soundly" S.: "That's exactly what I'm doing now"
	INDONESIA		
	It's black, small and if you touch it you get a black eye. "What is it?" Mc Tyson's nipple.		

Credits

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