

- Expansion of computer-based programs to translate sign language for science for hearing-impaired students.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation: The main themes of the entrepreneurship workshop that was conducted by Olli Vuola (Finland) were “courage,” which is something both entrepreneurs and scientists need, and “fear,” which must be overcome by them, especially in the process of building bridges to peace. He pointed out that fear prevents one from taking action, and the fear of becoming an outcast is strong in the Middle East. “Collaborating with the opposing side may lead to being isolated from your own community; overcoming one’s fears and conquering the fear of failure is also the first step of entrepreneurship.” To get a younger generation’s perspective on matters, Marianne Vikkula and Ghita Wallin, both students at Aalto University (Helsinki), were part of the workshop team.

Chemical Safety and Security: This workshop addressed the factors that would influence the future of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and international chemical weapons conventions, the use of analytical tools in the measurement of chemicals in the environment, education and networking, ethical issues, and the development of new workshops and their funding.

In the closing session of Malta VII, the participants, many of whom had attended previous Conferences, enthusiastically endorsed the motion that Malta VIII be held in 2017. Expressed again was the embodiment of the Malta Conferences: “We have only one nationality here—and that’s science.”

Among the co-sponsors of Malta VII were the Carnegie Foundation of New York (U.S.), Rockefeller Brothers Fund (U.S.), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany), Korea Chemical Industry Research Group, OPCW, UNESCO, the Committee of Concerned Scientists (U.S.), the ACS and the AAAS.

The six previous Malta Conferences were held in Valletta, Malta (2003, 2005, 2013), Istanbul, Turkey (2007), Amman, Jordan (2009), and Paris, France (2011, at UNESCO headquarters as part of the celebration of the International Year of Chemistry). The Malta Conferences Foundation (MCF), a nonprofit charitable organization, organizes the Conferences and raises money for their support. More information about MCF and the Malta Conferences can be found at maltaconferencesfoundation.org.

Morton Z. Hoffman, Zafra Margolin Lerman, and Iona Black are the Treasurer, President, and Secretary of the Malta Conferences Foundation, respectively.

Gender Issues in Field Research

Risks and challenges for women doing field research was the topic of a workshop organized on 27 April 2016 in Mexico City by the International Council of Science (ICSU), through its Committee of Freedom and Responsibility in Research (CFRS).

“This is a very relevant topic since gender issues prevent women’s full participation in science research,” said Leiv K. Sydnes, Chair of CFRS. He reminded participants that today’s scientific challenges are unprecedented, including climate change and potential pandemics, and that “all the talent that we can possibly get to resolve this issues and pave the way to a sustainable future is needed; it is crucial to support women in science”.

According to UNESCO statistics, women represent 53% of science graduates, however only 28% of all researchers in the world are women. Dr. Erika Pani Bano, General Secretary of the Mexican Academy of Sciences added that it is necessary to achieve transformations that guarantee gender equity in every field, including science.



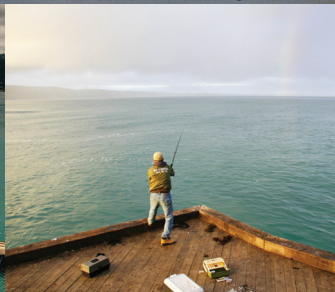
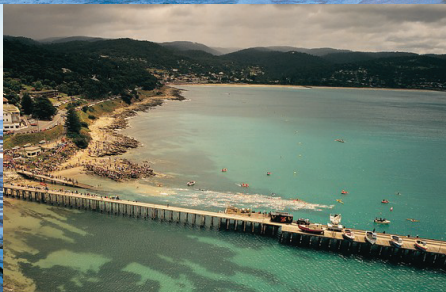
The aim of the workshop was to prepare an Advisory Note about the topic to be circulated through ICSU members in order to sensitize the scientific community about gender equity. The workshop was organized with the support of the Mexican Academy of Sciences (MAS) and the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC). The workshop was followed by a two-day meeting of ICSU CFRS during which Leiv K. Sydnes signed the UNESCO & L’Oreal Women in Science Manifesto in representation of CFRS/ICSU; Sydnes encourages everyone to sign the Manifesto (online @ <http://fondationloreal.com/categories/for-women-in-science/lang/en>)

For more details about the workshop, including speakers biographies and abstracts

see www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/icsu-cfrs-workshop-on-gender-issues-in-field-research

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PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Sunday 20 November 2016

Sessions & Welcome Reception

Monday 21 November 2016

Sessions & Poster Session

Tuesday 22 November 2016

Sessions & Student Night

Wednesday 23 November 2016

Sessions & Symposium Dinner



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