GEOMED 2011 – 4th International Conference on Medical Geology

The 4th International Conference on Medical Geology – GeoMed 2011 took place in Bari, Italy, from 20-25 September 2011 at the Sheraton Conference Centre. The conference organizing committee was headed by Saverio Fiore (Environmental & Medical Geology Lab., Institute Methodologies Environmental Analysis).

The conference was made up 6 themes:

✓ Biominerals & Biomaterials (2 sessions);
✓ Environmental Toxicology & Epidemiology (5 sessions);
✓ Minerals & Environment (3 sessions);
✓ Air, Soil & Water Pollution & Quality (3 sessions);
✓ Risk Assessment & Communication (4 sessions);
✓ General topics included Radioecology and Environmental Radioactivity (5 sessions)

On 31st March 2011, 459 registrations were received from scientists coming from 76 countries; however, the final registered people was 283, coming from 50 different countries. Their distribution is given below.
Geographical comparison between pre-registration requests and the final attendees

Attendees geographical distribution
There was a perfect representation among man and female participants. Instead the number of the student was very low.

At the 30th April the Scientific Committee evaluated 333 abstracts; for 58% of them oral presentation was requested. Sixty-four abstracts were cancelled because the authors didn’t proceed to the payment of the conference fees. Therefore, the final number of abstract was 269.

Each daily scientific activities started with a contributions of plenary interest:

**Wednesday 21:** Health and Earth - Medical Geology Building a Safer Environment (José A. Centeno – Armed Force Institute of Pathology, Washington, USA)

**Thursday 22:** Environmental Health Risk of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident (Hiroshi Yasuda, National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Chiba - Japan)

**Friday 23:** Antibacterial Clays and their Potential for Medicinal Applications (Linda Williams, Arizona State University, Tempe, USA)

**Saturday 24:** Arsenic in Drinking Water Causing Skin and Internal Cancers: an Emerging Environmental Pandemic (Chien-Jen Chen, Genomics Researcher Center, Taipei-Taiwan, China).
Josè Centeno and Chien-Jen Chen

Following the opening lectures 147 oral and 122 poster contributions were presented. The presentation are distributed in different way among the 6 themes.
These contributions were collected in the Book of Abstracts edited by Claudia Belviso, Saverio Fiore, & Maria Luigia Giannossi, published by Digilabs.
Some different Business and Council Meetings took place: IMGA Executive Committee Meeting, IMGA Business Meeting, Young Medical Geologist Meeting and African Medical Geologists.

The IMGA assigned five awards:

- **IMGA Special Award Recognition**;
- **IMGA Young Medical Geology Investigator Award**;
- **IMGA Chapter Award**;
- **IMGA Recognition Award**;
- **Student best speaker and poster awards**.
IMGA Student best speaker and poster awards

IMGA recognition award

IMGA Young Medical Geology Investigator Award
IMGA Chapter Award

IMGA Special Award Recognition
The Italian group of AIPEA (AISA onlus) gave 2 awards for best oral and poster presentations.

Two pre-conference activities took place:
- the “Short Course on Medical Geology”, an opportunity for geologists, geochemists, biologists, occupational and environmental scientists, medical professionals, and any other health, environmental and geo-sciences professional, for forming contacts and networks between professionals working in different areas of environmental and human health.
- a workshop on “Clinical cases of urinary calculi in Italy” to show scientifically broad aspects in the field of stone disease. Scientists of different specialities and fields met to exchange new ideas and knowledge in the history, epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and medical/surgical treatment of urinary stones.
Among the social activities there were organized two cultural excursions to “Sassi di Matera” and to Castel del Monte and Cathedral of Trani. Sassi di Matera and Castel del Monte are sites belonging to Unesco World Heritage.
Excursion’s localities
The conference webpage received a high feedback from participants and received more than 30800 visits (until end of September).
Many organizations, foundations, and companies supported the conference and the pre-conference activities.