

MEETING

“Women in Science and Non-Traditional Settings”

Friday, 9 November 2012
Tirana International Hotel, Abreti room

Since its establishment in 2001, UNESCO's World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated worldwide each year on 10 November. This Day is an occasion to recall UNESCO's and its Member States' commitment to science. In close cooperation with Its members States UNESCO has made significant progress in also promoting gender equality (a global priority for the Organization) and is strongly oriented towards empowering girls and women in the creation of scientific knowledge.

Although there are encouraging signs, women are still under-represented in science whether in basic scientific research or at higher decision-making levels. Science cannot continue to deprive itself of the full scientific potential of over half the world's population. Science is a key to knowledge; for women to gain access to knowledge and achieve gender equality, women must have access to science. It has been noted that women are responsible for half of the human knowledge and technical expertise as informal agriculturalists, gardeners, animal-breeders, managers of their community resources as well as technological innovators and agents of change. But unfortunately, failure to recognize women's scientific know how and inputs even in daily life situations has led to a noticeable lack of confidence in their academic capacities and career choices.

Within Albania's centennial celebrations, the UNESCO World Science Day will place the spotlight on the important contributions Albanian women make to science. In close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Labor, Social Issues and Equal Opportunities of Albania, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy) is organizing a Conference “Albanian Women in Science and non-traditional settings” in the framework of the GoA-UN Program of Cooperation.

Important Albanian women scientists and international guests will share their professional and educational experiences and answer questions from the public. It is hoped that these “science spokespersons” will be reference points for future generations of young Albanian women interested in science.

Program

09:00 Registration of participants

09:30 Opening remarks by:

- Mr. Myqerem Tafaj, Minister of Education and Science
- Mrs. Rosanna Santesso, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy): Message from Mrs. Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General on the World Science Day (on-line)
- Prof. Gudar Beqiraj, Chairman of the Academy of Sciences
- Mrs. Semia Guermas de Tapia, UN Women Country Representative

10:00 Sharing experiences, challenges and rewards

- Prof. Antoneta Deda, Faculty of Natural Sciences
- Prof. Jera Kruja, Mother Teresa Hospital
- Prof. Ass. Iris Pojani, Faculty of History and Philology, Tirana University: "The contribution of Women archaeologists in the Albanian Archaeology"

Moderator: Mrs. Mimoza Agolli, advisor to the Minister of Education and Science

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Sharing experiences, challenges and rewards from other non-traditional settings

- Prof. Bizena Bijo, Deputy Rector of Tirana Agriculture University: "A proper Gender Dimension in Research Enhances Creativity"
- Prof. Marjana Semini, Executive Director; School of Magistrates: "The Road of Women to justice making system: Woman lawyer- important integral part of the judiciary".
- Prof. Milika Dharmo, Faculty of Social Sciences, Tirana University: "Women in non-traditional settings-challenges, choices and responsibilities"
- Dr. Vita Majce, Postdoctoral Researcher, School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick, 2012 Winner of L'Oreal –UNESCO Prize for Women scientists

Moderator Mrs. Zhulieta Harasani, UNESCO Antenna Office in Tirana

12:00 Documentary Film: "Challenges", introduced by Mr. Fatos Baxhaku journalist.

12:30 Discussions
Final remarks

13:30 Lunch