

CHAIRMAN SALUTATION

As the Chairman of the Administration Board of the Earthquake Planning and Protection Organization and the European Center for Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes, I would like to inaugurate the works of the Training Seminar for “The Protection of the Integrity of Monuments under Seismic Actions” and welcome all of you mainly new Scientists that develop research and professional activities, each one on your respective sector, thus aiming at the preservation of our cultural heritage.

The four thematic units, which will be discussed by leading foreign and Greek scientists, along with the educational visit to monuments, will offer you the opportunity to gradually understand the manner of approaching the problem in seismic prone areas; and this is no other than the estimation of seismicity and vulnerability and finally the estimation of seismic risk in monuments. Some case studies will enrich your experience as far as the practical aspect of the issue is concerned.

This kind of events will additionally give you the possibility to exchange opinions and develop your sensitivity on issues that exceed the narrow frames of each one’s specialization, keeping however the same common goal.

The great success of the first Seminar with a respective subject that took place at the end of 2010 in Athens and the participation of more than 100 scientists, mostly young ones, and our inability back then to satisfy all applications, has led us to the decision to organize this second Seminar. Your great correspondence, with more than 250 participation applications, gives us the spark and courage to continue towards this direction with similar events in the future.

Apart from the EPPO and the ECPFE, the always welcoming Department of Central Macedonia of the Technical Chamber of Greece and the Steering Committee of the Seminar have contributed decisively to this great organizational attempt. I thank them warmly.

This Seminar, as well as the one in 2010, were organized in the framework of the Activities of the ECPFE, which operates under the aegis of the Open Partial Agreement on the prevention of, protection against and organization of relief of the Council of Europe, which co-funded the whole attempt along with the EPPO.

Open Partial Agreement is an Intergovernmental Agreement for the confrontation of the Major Disasters and it operates within the framework of the Council of Europe. In Greece it was ratified by the Greek law in 1992 and includes 27 specialized European Centers.

Finally, I invite you to exploit the knowledge you acquire from this cycle of seminars and turn it into creative power both for the promotion of science and the protection of the wealth of our monuments. I am sure that we will attend a fruitful seminar!

The Chairman of EPPO

Professor K. Stylianidis