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Salt Weathering on Buildings and Stone Sculptures

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WELCOME NOTE

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to Limassol, Cyprus! I hope that you will enjoy your stay on our little sunny island and that you will have some exciting days at SWBSS 2011.

This is the second conference in the series. In fact, it follows up a very successful event held in Copenhagen, Denmark back in 2008. I am greatly indebted to Lisbeth M. Ottosen for offering me the opportunity to host this SWBSS conference in Cyprus. I hope that we will meet everybody's expectations, and in doing so, raise the bar even higher for the organisers of the next event!

It has been a pleasure to see that this meeting has managed to attract interest from 17 countries (including South Korea, Japan, the U.S and a number of European countries). In times of serious global financial crisis, I think it is quite an achievement to have received nearly 50 papers from around the world. We have succeeded in bringing together conservators, engineers/architects, academics, young students and experienced researchers. This guarantees the success of the conference a priori.

The statistics mentioned above also illustrate the significance of the conference topic to the international scientific community and the interest of researchers to share their ideas with colleagues. I guess we are all aware of the importance of salt crystallisation on the weathering of porous building materials. Indeed, there is a lot of ongoing work in the international research community concerning this very interesting field. I hope that this conference will add to existing knowledge, stimulate new research ideas and facilitate future collaborations. After all, sharing and discussing ideas amongst the scientific community can only generate momentum in our respective fields, break open unexpected directions in research and lead to innovative findings.

Besides the academic side of SWBSS 2011, I also hope that you will have some free time to enjoy the beauty of Cyprus. We have organised a number of recreational side activities which we hope that you will enjoy! Of course, you may also take advantage of your visit to enjoy the Mediterranean Sea or explore the cultural richness of the island on your own. We will do our best to help you and guide you towards the "must see" attractions of the island, since we want to make this a memorable event for you!

I would like to thank Dr. Magdalini Theodoridou for her invaluable assistance in organising this event. She has been influential in dealing with the various issues which arose throughout the period leading up to the conference, while at the same time she has been responsible for most of the communication with delegates and the scientific community. I would also like to thank my research team for their patience and support during this time, as well as Petros and his team at Easy Conferences for taking on board all the logistics of the meeting. Last but not least, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our sponsors for offering us financial support for the conference.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy this event and leave Cyprus armed with new research ideas and contacts for future collaborations. And, of course, I look forward to seeing all of you again at the next SWBSS!



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