

The Astronomical Observatory (Specola) of Padua, one of the most impressive monuments in town, summarizes in an admirable manner the aims of the Conference. Built in the XIII century, more or less at the same time of the foundation of the University in 1222, the tower became today's Specola in 1767, by decree of the Republic of Venice. Since then, the Specola has been a privileged site for science, technology and art as well, namely as for most of the topics covered by the Conference.

We remind time reckoning, originally by meridian observations of Sun's transits, nowadays one of the greatest technological innovations by Hipparcos, Gaia missions and the Galileo navigation satellite. Geophysics and Geology, at the beginning of the XX century being the study of the variation of the astronomical latitudes and today applied to comets with Giotto and Rosetta missions, to asteroids and even to education of astronauts to be sent to the Moon and Mars. Climate registration, the meteorological data recorded at the Specola from the XVIII to the XIX century constitute one of the longest un-interrupted series in the world; the original lightning rod, one of the firsts in Italy, still being preserved. The earliest ideas on extrasolar planets of the first director of the Specola, Giuseppe Toaldo, now are a reality with Cheops and then Plato and Ariel missions. Even public health was of concern when the Earth passed through the cyanogen filled tail of comet Halley in 1911. The Sala delle Figure on the top of the tower depicts the figures of the greatest astronomers until the XVIII century in well-preserved frescoes.

All this is present in the web site of the Specola: www.oapd.inaf.it, but the participants to the Conference are encouraged to visit it in person!

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800 Years of Space

at the University of Padua



Bo Palace - Padua
September 7- 9, 2022

The conference, inserted in the program of events celebrating the 800 years of the University of Padua, is jointly organized by several Departments and the Centre for Space Studies and Activities 'Giuseppe Colombo' (CISAS) of the University of Padua and by the INAF Astronomical Observatory of Padua, together with the EuroMoonMars programme.

The conference aims to bring together distinguished lecturers celebrating the immense legacy of the past 800 years in Science, Technology, Humanities, Art and Innovation of Padua, its University, Astronomical Observatory and entire City, a legacy that paves the way to further great achievements in a bright future.

To this end, the conference, besides presenting the complexity and risks of space travel, aims to emphasize the impact of Space research in everyday life and the progress of human exploration of deep Space, in order to create conditions for more comfortable life and work.

Sessions will be devoted to Astronomy, Astrophysics, Geodesy and Technology.

Other sessions will treat habitats in Space, from the International Space Station (ISS) to the Moon and Mars. Several aspects of the life on such habitats will be examined, from biomedicine to nutrition to psychology to political interactions among nations and private consortia.

Students will expound their experience in Space simulants.

A dedicated session will underline the specific role of women in Space science, technology and life.

Among such diverse aspects, the conference will touch on humanities and art in Space, for the better well-being of astronauts in long duration flights and sojourns. These sessions have been organized with the support of the EuroMoonMars and ArtMoonMars programmes and of the Moon Gallery Foundation.

The conference aims to involve the public as well. An exhibition, organized with the support of the City of Padua, will display models of scientific instruments realized by Academy and Industry, conceived for important space missions where the University of Padua had and will have a leading role. Moreover, the exhibition will show a copy of the Moon Gallery artworks presently in flight aboard on the ISS. Several of such miniature masterpieces have been provided by Padua artists. Among these, a golden cube reminds of the eighteen years of Galileo Galilei in Padua, the happiest years of his life.

A public conference is foreseen with the Italian astronaut Maurizio Cheli, during which a live conversation will be attempted with Italian astronauts on the ISS and at the NASA Space Center in Houston. In the Social Event at the Specola, Apollo tree seeds will be donated to our University.

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