

Conference Report

12th Congress of the International Association Cosmology and Philosophy

The Association of Cosmos and Philosophy was formed in order to further interdisciplinary discussion on the nature of the Universe, space and time from different perspectives. It was intended to bring together cosmologists, space scientists and philosophers for an exchange of ideas. After consultation between Bulgarian and Greek scholars, the first Congress was held in 1989 in the Greek island of Crete. Thereafter, the annual meetings are being held in different locations in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Greece and Russia. This year it was held in the island of Aigina in Greece with the topic *Morality in the Cosmos* under the chairmanship of Prof. Andreas Emmanouil.

About 50 participants from 16 countries came to attend the 4-day meeting and read their papers in English and French. A large number of subjects was covered including cosmology, ecology, long-term sustainability, morality and practical ethics. The interdisciplinary character of discussion was evident as well as a holistic and humane approach to global problems, throughout the meeting. Some highly sensitive topics, viz, what should be done when the sun's energy is finished, were discussed. Outside the meeting, the organisers arranged a sightseeing tour of the island on Sunday morning and a few receptions

in the evenings. Because of the choice of an interesting site, many participants came with their spouses to Aigina, which can be reached from Athens by hydrofoil boat in 36 minutes.

A Dutch astronaut, W J Ockells, who had spent a week in space, described his experience and thoughts. Other papers discussed ethics of war, question of racism, SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), Big Bang Theory, etc. Writings of French and Russian thinkers, such as, Deunov, Dussel, Levinas, Renan, Vernadsky, were discussed. At the closing of the meeting, Academician E Moutsopoulos, President of the IACP (International Association Cosmos and Philosophy) announced the future plans : next year's meeting would be held in Brazil and the following year in France. He cordially invited the participants to attend them. The International Coordinator of the meeting, Dr Richard Witt showed great interest in getting a report on the Aigina conference published in the *Indian Science Cruiser*. Readers interested in the activities of IACP may contact Dr Witt at POB 621112, 15201 Athens, Greece, Email : sparta@hol.gr

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