Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 11, EGU2009-311-2, 2009 EGU General Assembly 2009 © Author(s) 2009



European Master-Doctorate Course on "Vulnerability of Cultural Heritage to Climate Change"

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« Vulnerability of Cultural Heritage to Climate Change », European Master-Doctorate Course, Council of Europe, Strasbourg 7-11 September 2009

The character of Cultural Heritage is closely related to the climate, and the urban landscape and the built heritage have been designed with the local climate in mind. The stability of Cultural Heritage is, therefore, closely tied to its interactions with the ground and the atmosphere. Climate Change is thus expected to have either catastrophic or subtle effects on Cultural Heritage materials and Cultural Landscapes.

The major aim of the 2009 Strasbourg Course is to ensure that young European students are informed on these important problems and will be able in the future to undertake rigorous ongoing scientific monitoring of changes in conditions of Cultural Heritage.

The Programme of the Course will cover the following topics:

- Heritage Climatology
- Principles of Mitigation and Adaptation of Cultural Heritage to Climate Change
- Impact of Climate Change on building structures
- Dose-Response and Damage Functions for materials in a Changing Climate
- Modelling sea salts transport and deposition
- Modelling wetting and drying of historic buildings
- Impact of Climate Change on building materials: stone, mortar, modern glass, stained glass windows
- Impact of Climate Change on organic materials
- Biological impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage
- Sea level rise models and possible application to Cultural Heritage
- Past, present and future for Venice
- The policies and action plans of International Organisations (Council of Europe, UNESCO, ICCROM)

The Course is addressed to young people with scientific background: physicists, chemists, geologists, biologists, engineers, because of the high scientific level of the background required to follow the lectures. Teaching will be delivered in English without any simultaneous translation. The teachers belong to European Universities, National Research Centres and International Organisations.

There are no registration fees. Travel to Strasbourg and accommodation will be taken in charge by the Council of Europe after the selection of applications. Deadline for application: 15 June 2009. Information and application forms:

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