The Veneto Region presented the Third World Meeting on Terraced Landscapes (ITLA 2016)

On June 25th the launch event for the Third World Meeting on Terraced Landscapes (ITLA 2016) was held in Veneto (Italy) at the historical complex of Villa Contarini. The Veneto Regional Government is organizing the 3rd World Meeting about Agri-Culture, Right Livelihood and Rural Communities of Terraced Landscapes on behalf of the International Terraced Landscape Alliance (ITLA) in October 2016. After the first World Meeting held in China in November 2010 and the second one held in Peru in May 2014, the representatives of the International Alliance announced the third meeting scheduled in Italy between October 6th and 15th 2016.

The event will collect three hundred people from all regions with terraced landscapes in the world to discuss the future perspectives for terraced landscapes in a global context of
Climate Disasters and Food Crisis. The opening of the World Meeting will take place on October 6th in Venice. Then the participants will leave on October 8th for workshops and field visits to ten different terraced areas in Italy (from Liguria to Valle d'Aosta, from Valtellina to Valpolicella, from Ossola Valley to Trentino, from the Brenta Valley to Friuli and the Trieste Karst, from the Amalfi coast to the island of Pantelleria), so that they can get a first hand impression about the local situation, the valuable initiatives and opportunities and the barriers for a future of wellbeing. The general assembly will gather again for the final days of deliberation on October 13 - 15 in Padua to plan future action. The meeting will bring together stone masons and terrace farmers, researchers and institutions, inhabitants, consumers and producers, artisans and associations to commit to intercultural dialogue in favour of the manifold value of terraced areas, able to combine agro-food production, soil conservation, transmission of knowledge and techniques, social justice with the preservation of a fascinating landscape.

Many organizations that support the initiative and contribute to the protection of terraced landscapes were present: UNESCO, Slow Food, Italian Alpine Club, World Wildlife Fund, Italia Nostra. Representatives of the ten Italian terraced areas involved in the event brought examples of the products of their terraces, to share and taste together.
Design workshop in Padua

The organising committee of the Third World Meeting will gather in Padua on next October 16th to design the details of the Conference, outline a roadmap for the preparation tasks and deadlines for registrations and elaborate the announcement of the event with registration formats. Be aware of the announcement and contribute by disseminating the document to your circles. On October 19th is planned to hold a first facilitator training for Conference facilitators.

We also will discuss the costs as well as possible sponsorships for terrace guardians from different regions in the world.

Field visits in Topolo, Valtellina & Vienne

The village of Topolò (Topolove) in the municipality of Grimacco (Garmak), located in a mountainous region in northeastern Italy between the town of Cividale del Friuli and the Slovenian border called Friulian Slavia (or Beneška Slovenija in Slovenian), was the first site of the ten selected areas for the Third world conference of terraced landscapes which will be organized in October 2016 in Italy, visited by ITLA representatives. The area was largely depopulated after 1961, when many of the villages lost more than two thirds of their populations. Two earthquakes causing large-scale damages hit Friuli in May and September 1976. Most people in Slavia Friulana are Slovenes speaking four different Slovene dialects, named after the major valleys that form those territories. After the early 1980s, Slovene cultural activities started to take place in the region. One
of these is now internationally renowned cultural event Postaja Topolove, which takes place every year in the last twenty-two years and which has significantly helped the new development of the village. This year the event entitled **Art and culture against abandonment** devoted particular attention to learning and re-acquisition of terraced landscapes. In this context, specific workshops were held for the construction of dry stonewalls (Zidati Zidovi), which just a decade ago still marked the certain areas of the Natisone valleys. Part of the programme was the visit to SMO Slovensko Multimedialno Okno (SMO in Slovene language means WE ARE), Museum of landscapes and stories in San Pietro al Natisone. The museum is dedicated to the cultural landscape that runs from the Julian Alps to the sea, from the Mangart to the gulf of Trieste. The Museum was conceived as an active, dynamic, welcoming and stimulating space, founded on communication. The story of the locations is told through thematising aspects that characterise the culture of the territory.

The creator and curator of SMO is architect Donatella Ruttar, who enthusiastically supports and organises not only the museum but also activities such as the round table entitled **Which future for terraced landscapes?** and in addition, walk inside the abandoned terraced landscape. During the first we have learned how in the 16th century two families that inhabited Topolove started to build stonewalls to drain the water on the steep slopes.
Later the participants of the event have visited Kozolec, monument of the Slovenian rural architecture. On the opening of the 22nd Festival Stazione di Topolò the provincial councillor for culture, Gianni Torrents, underlined that Topolovo demonstrates how realities on the margins of society (and national states) and inhabited by the Slovenian minority, actually entered the center of the world. This conclusion might be as well a promising look into the rediscovery of the old terraced landscapes of Natisone Valleys. (Lučka Ažman Momirski, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Valtellina (Italy)

After the presentation at Villa Contarini the ITLA team went to Sondrio in Valtellina to visit another field site. We had the chance to stay in Ponte in Valtellina in Via Paradiso B&B for one night well cared for by Norma, who had presented the field site in Villa Contarini. Her husband Giovanni, who organises the Jazz Festival Ambria Jazz during July and August, is a splendid example how valleys with terraced landscapes engage in cultural identity and local initiatives to give life to the formerly abandoned regions.

Massimo Spinelli from the Valtellina Development Foundation (a landscape architect and planner) guided us with Norma to visit Triasso terraces managed by the Cooperativa Agraria de Triasso and Sasella, and we were very happy to taste their delicious wine still in barrels. Valtellina has applied for a world heritage site (http://www.vnz.it/News/Documento_7.pdf) to Unesco.

We had more highlights during our visit: shopping at the shop for local products Il Sarazeno where buckwheat products from Valtellina are offered; dining at Trattoria Olmo restaurant, specialised in blueberry dishes; visiting the restored houses and palaces in Ponte in Valtellina guided by Norma, who is in charge of the restoration.

We were impressed by the visit as it shows a vibrant terraced landscape valley in Northern Italy, were the
inhabitants engage in recover their cultural identity, their heritage and make the best out of the mountain livelihood by producing wine, fruits, grains.

It is a very attractive field site, where you will find committed farmers and professionals to defend the terraces, their culture and products.

(timmi & maruja)

Vienne (France)

South of Lyon the farmers of Condrieu and Ampuis have reconstructed the formerly abandoned Roman time terraces for their excellent wine - white wine Condrieu and red wine Côte-Rôtie. Early September we could visit 2 vineyards, one in Condrieu the second in Ampuis, thanks to the support from the tourism office in Vienne and the office of the Natural Park of Pilat.

Christophe Pichon explained how in the last 40 years the wine producers of the Western slopes of the river Rhone have recovered many hectares of old Roman terraces for the production of high quality wine.

At the domaine Semaska we could see the grape harvest for the superb Côte-Rôtie wine and understand the land tenure ship, where long term leases allow the farmers to restore the terraces and replant vineyards while the owners of the land receive a revenue due to the high demand for costly wines of this appellation. The family of winemakers cultivate a spiritual link to the soil, to the land, they are still close to nature and love their wines.

We learned that there is a network of dry stone builders for the maintenance of terraces, there are publications and even exist a manual on terrace construction. Even if it is very costly to reconstruct the abandoned terrace areas it is thanks to the engagement of farmers like Mr. Pichon, who in the long term benefit from their wine production but also love their land and the attractive landscape.

(timmi, maruja, silvia & alain)
Call for Papers -
To publish in a scientific journal (Scopus, AHCI, SRJ indicator 0.168; H-index 3).
Theme of the journal: Terraced landscapes in the world
Manuscripts should be submitted on December 31st, 2015.
Submitted papers should not be previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.
At least two reviewers will referee all submissions.
Please send your interest to publish a paper to Lučka Ažman Momirski E-mail: lucija.azman@fa.uni-lj.si
The deadline for submission of interest is October 31st, 2015.
Author guidelines and detailed instructions will be directed to interested authors after November 1, 2015.

Video about the Second Congress - Terrazas para la vida
The Center Bartolomé de las Casas from Cusco and ITLA have sponsored the first video about the Second Congress with testimonies of the farmer participants. Filmmaker Rosío Achahui has recorded the contributions of the terrace farmers from Peru and Bolivia during the Congress in May 2014 in Cusco, and Cuyayhuasi (Maja Tillmann and Rodrigo Otero) cooperated with the editing of the 21’ video, which came out last month.
The video is available from CBC
Mourik Bueno de Mesquita
mourik@casadelcorregidor.pe
Second Peasant Forum in Peru (May 2016)

The Center Bartolomé de las Casas and ITLA International are planning to organise the Second Peasant Forum of Andean Communities with Terraced Landscapes in May 2016, especially to promote local initiatives to defend and strengthen terraced landscapes and cultures by learning from local activists in the different valleys of Peru.

Outcome will be a testimonial video from the terrace guardians to be presented in the Third World Conference in October 2016 and a base document for wisdom dialogues with academics and for a political dialogue with the local, regional and national authorities in Peru. More information in the next circular letter.

Sorry for delaying the circular this time, due to painful kidney stones, busy travels to Italy, South Sudan, Thailand, Burma and France and as a gardener dedicated to the harvest of potatoes, pumpkins, walnuts, apples, grapes.

Our next travels will take us to Bhutan, Burma and Peru.

Timmi Tillmann (ViSdP)

ITLA International