

1st

International Conference on Natural Hazards & Infrastructure*: Protection, Design, Rehabilitation ICONHIC 2016

When: **28 – 30 June, 2016**

Where: **Chania, Crete, Greece**

Local Organizing Committee:

Soil Mechanics Laboratory, National Technical University of Athens

* *Infrastructure* : Buildings, transport and power networks , bridges and lifelines, reservoirs, waste water treatment facilities and ICT installations.

Natural Hazards : Earthquake and Tsunami, Landslides, Floods, Hurricanes

1. Why is this Conference different & how it supplements established Conferences ?

- BRINGS TO LIGHT A VERY HOT TOPIC:** Recent natural disasters, such as the 2008 Midwest floods and Katrina Hurricane in the United States, the Soudelor Typhoon in China, the earthquakes in Sichuan, China and the Canterbury earthquakes in New Zealand, the 2010 „Big Freeze“ in the UK, the eruption of the Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland and a host of other modern natural disasters have all highlighted the vulnerability of infrastructure to natural hazards.
- A GAME SHIFT IS REQUIRED:** Protecting infrastructure from extreme events calls for an integrated approach to hazard assessment considering the correlated nature of natural hazards, cascading hazards and cascading effects.
- IN A WORLD OF INCREASINGLY INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH** this conference aims to bring together specialists from different scientific fields (*e.g. earthquake engineers, geophysicists, tsunami experts, geologists, seismologists, flood experts*) in order to promote “out of the box” thinking and cross-fertilization.
- The **STATE OF THE ART** and the **STATE OF PRACTICE** is progressing towards maturity : new findings and technology advances need to be disseminated.

2. Novelties of the Conference Set-up

-  **COMPETITIVE REGISTRATION FEE** : a regular fee of 300 € - 480 € for early bird and late registration is planned.
-  **RAPID SUBMISSION PROCESS** : The abstract and paper submission processes will be merged, keeping only one paper submission deadline. Authors will only submit a 1-paragraph abstract **any time before the paper submission** deadline. Abstract review will take no longer than 3 days; the full paper could then be submitted immediately.
-  **RAPID INTERNATIONAL DISSEMINATION IS PROMOTED**: by condensing the paper submission process (to only 8 months), the conference encourages the publication of the latest and most innovative research and practice.
-  **STIMULATING THEME SESSIONS** (examples) :
 - Case Studies of Mega Disasters ■ Engineering in Harsh Environments (e.g. *offshore, arctic*) ■ Monitoring Systems for Large-scale Civil Infrastructures
 - Use of Intelligent materials (ex. *super-elastic alloys, nanotechnologies* e.t.c)
-  **STRONG INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION** : Special Sessions will be organized by industrial partners to present applied research results and innovative industrial applications.

3. The City of Chania



- The city of Chania lies on the **north coast of west Crete** and is the capital of Chania Prefecture. The city of Chania is one of the most beautiful cities of Greece world-known for : traditional architecture, many beautiful beaches, small fertile plains, high mountains and deep gorges and the famous Cretan Cuisine.
- The **international airport** of Chania is directly connected to Athens but there are also several charter flights from all over Europe during the summer.



4. The Venue: Sea-front Resort



The Conference Hall

High Comfort Accommodation in a 5 Star Resort

Ideally situated on the stunning sandy beach of Chania.

> 300 luxuriously appointed and elegantly furnished rooms and suites

Conference Hall amenities:

- State of the art facilities and the latest audiovisual equipment.
- Capacity of **1500 delegates**.
- Exhibition area of > **1000 sqm**

5. The Field Trip: a tour at the Knossos Palace



Three and a half thousand years ago, the Santorini island was devastated by one of the worst natural disasters since the Ice Age - a huge **volcanic eruption**. This cataclysm happened 100 km from the island of Crete, the home of the thriving Minoan civilization. Fifty years after the eruption, that civilization was in ruins. Did the volcano deliver a death blow to the Minoans? Is it possible that a huge **tsunami wave** caused by Santorini Volcano hit the shores of Crete completely destroying the Minoan Civilization? It's a question that has haunted historians and scientists for decades.

The scheduled field trip, by the end of the Conference, seeks for an unforgettable visit to the lost world of the Minoans that has intrigued people for thousands of years. Their palace at Knossos which dates back to circa 2000 BC was vast and elaborate, with Europe's first paved roads and running water and beautiful and delicate frescoes.

6. The Accompanying Persons' Program

*Among the endless Possibilities that Chania offers,
the accompanying Persons may :*

- GET FAMILIAR WITH THE CITY OF CHANIA** by wandering around its streets, visiting its museums and admiring the different architectural styles presenting the historical route of the city.
- SWIM IN THE FAMOUS BEACH OF BALOS.** Balos is surely the mostly photographed beach in Crete, famous for its turquoise waters, the wild natural beauty and the beautiful exotic scenery.



- ENJOY ECO-FRIENDLY TOURISM :** Visit the authentic 17th century mountain Milia. This is a unique experience to escape in a different world, where the philosophy of "back to basics" has found true meaning.

