



The SEAC 2014 conference in Malta.

Malta was the host for the annual SEAC (European Society for Astronomy in Culture) 2014 Annual Conference held at University Campus Valletta, popularly known as the Old University Building, going back to the 16th Century. As a Venue it was a perfect setting for our gathering, with modern facilities located in an historical building in the heart of Valletta. Nearly 120 delegates coming from all over the world attended the 5 day conference which was official opened by Hon Dr Owen Bonici, the Maltese Minister responsible for Cultural Affairs.

The theme of the Conference was, Materiality of the Sky, which subdivided into the following areas:

- Cosmology and Cosmvision
 - Maltese Archaeoastronomy
 - Astronomical orientations
 - Astronomy in Culture in Historical Times
 - Egypt and Mediterranean
 - Eastern Europe and Asia
 - Myth, Symbols and their Meaning
- and a Poster Presentation

There were nearly 80 papers and poster presentations in total, divided into the above-mentioned classifications. After each session, time was set aside for discussion and at the end of the conference, a Panel discussion took place.

In this review, I find it appropriate to mention that more than 20 % of the total number of conference delegates actually were Sophia Centre related participants, including their companions.

Beside the scholarly side of the conference, there were also several tours and excursions visiting various prehistoric temple sites of which the main attraction for many was the observation of the Autumn Equinox Sunrise seen from inside the Mnajdra Temple. The general consensus from the delegates seems to be that the conference held a high scholarly level with a series of interesting presentations and was overall well-organized. Delegates left with an unforgettable experience of Maltese history and culture, and above all a memory of a friendly and hospitable nation. Welcome back to Malta!



Group photograph of SEAC delegates in the Temple of Mnajdra taken by Daniel Cilia

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SEAC 2014
