

NEWSLETTER

New Concepts In Global Tectonics

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IGC 2004—URBINO INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS SOME NEW CONCEPTS IN GLOBAL TECTONICS, UNIVERSITY OF URBINO, ITALY, 29-31 AUGUST, 2004

A plurality of Earth views in place of plate tectonic paradigm is emerging from Urbino. (A search for unity in diversity) In the context of the 32nd International Geological Congress, the University of Urbino which is about to celebrate its 500th anniversary hosted the post-Congress Workshop PWO-09 from 29th to 31st August, 2004 dedicated to “*New Concepts in Global Tectonics: Emphasis on Some Fundamental Questions in Geology*”, convened and organized by Forese Carlo Wezel. This workshop was attended by thirty-seven participants from 14 different countries (USA, Canada, Brazil, Australia, Japan, China, Russia, Greece, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, and Italy). The scientific aim was that of discussing together the diverse hypotheses of global tectonics alternatives to that of plate tectonics. According to the unanimous opinion of the participants, plate tectonics is unable to explain the substantial volume of new facts which have accumulated in recent years without any internal contradictions and inadequacies. It would appear from the general comments of the participants that both the scientific level as well as the organizational one were considered of a high level. Each work presented was the centre of a wide-ranging and free scientific discussion which took place in an atmosphere of friendship, good-will, esteem and freedom, without giving weight to the too many prejudices arising from the particular point of view of each participant. The Renaissance beauty of Urbino, home of Raphael, Bramante and the patron of artists Duke Federico di Montefeltro, was an ally in creating a relaxed scientific atmosphere, fairly unusual in today’s scientific conferences. In his introduction, the convener expressed his hopes for overcoming the mental bias and resistance linked to the assumptions of the monolithic paradigm which has dominated the global tectonic scene in the last 37 years and which drives geologists, unknowingly, to “playing false together” in order to “defend” the accepted ideas taken for granted by geoscientists, rather than acknowledging the facts that call for change. To begin, in fact, from the Urbino workshop, he wished on the contrary the existence of a creative plurality in scientific ideas

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