

Dear colleagues,

I want to welcome you most cordially to the 17th International Conference on Cultural Heritage and New Technologies in the beautiful ambience of Vienna City Hall. These rooms are known as “Wappensäle” as the walls are decorated with the coats of arms, or “Wappen”, of Austria’s federal provinces and their capitals. This year’s conference focuses on “Urban Archaeology and Excavations (... to Reach and Unveil the Hidden Spirit of the Town)”, and logically continues the five-year conference cycle that started last year with “Prospection, Survey and Data Integration”. The programme here in Vienna concentrates on “archaeological excavations”, and will explore the topic in its various aspects and from different perspectives. You will have an opportunity to discuss rescue excavations, burial archaeology, building archaeology, ecclesiastical excavations and 3D reconstructions – to mention only a few of the sub-topics.

The many heritage objects damaged and destroyed this year in the earthquake in northern Italy, but also in the armed conflicts in different countries of the Middle East and North Africa, have shown just how important it is to have well-documented building archaeology, 3D reconstructions and laser scan records, but also conventional photos and aerial photos. We need both traditional and new technologies to reconstruct and document irreplaceable cultural heritage objects.

For the first time ever, there will also be an event for the “Vienna Cultural Heritage and New Technologies Video Award”, organised by 7reasons Medien GmbH. We believe it is important for our conference to provide an overview of the different technologies available, and I do hope that the award will become a permanent part of the conference programme.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the members of the scientific committee and the chairpersons. Without their great work and untiring effort, this conference, just like our past and future conferences, could not be running as smoothly as it is.

I also want to express my gratitude to the staff of the Department of Urban Archaeology, the Municipal Department for Automated Data Processing and ICT, as well as the Municipal Department for Building and Facility Management and the City of Vienna Surveyors for contributing considerably to the preparation and implementation of the conference.

Finally, I wish you all the best for a successful conference. I trust there will be plenty of new information, novel ideas and an inspiring exchange among experts during the coming three days, both for the conference participants and for exhibitors. At the same time, I hope that you will also find some time to savour Viennese hospitality and to enjoy your stay in Vienna.

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