

Welcome to the 29th ITM in Aveiro (Portugal)!

On behalf of the Organising Committee and the Pilot Country (Portugal) you are invited to participate in the 29th International Technical Meeting on Air Pollution Modelling and its Applications (NATO/SPS). The conference will be held in Aveiro (Portugal) and is organised by the Department of Environment and Planning, with the support of CESAM, of the University of Aveiro.

We never forget our start as Pilot Country in October 2001, just after the September 11th. It remembers the story of a famous 1995 violin concert by Itzhak Perlman at Lincoln Centre in New York City. Perlman, stricken with polio as a child, had to work with braces on both legs and crutches on both arms to produce his music. But on this particular night, after finally he got in place, a string broke near the very beginning of the concert. Everyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphony with only three strings, but that night Perlman persevered. He improvised the piece, he managed to use the remaining three strings and he achieved a veritable masterpiece, bringing tears to the eyes of the audience and enormous applauses. After the concert, he was asked how he was able to create such a marvellous music with only three strings. He replied: "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left".

That was the inspiration to all of us in the Pilot Country's team to determine what could be accomplished, after have lost at least one string, with what remained. A very brief balance of the last five ITM meetings shows that we had always more than 100 registrations and papers presented from more than 20 countries, with participated discussions. The high quality of the scientific results presented has shown us the interest to continue and to make an additional effort to attract more scientists, especially young researchers. The participation of invited speakers and authors with recognised worldwide scientific merit had also help on the preparation of attractive programmes and on the long history of success of this meeting.

For these reasons, it will be a privilege to have the 29th International Technical Meeting on Air Pollution Modelling and Its Applications in the lively atmosphere of the University of Aveiro that will make your visit, for sure, unforgettable!

We are pleased to acknowledge our local host, the University of Aveiro, as well as to remember our sponsors, especially the European Association for the Science of Air Pollution (EURASAP), the NATO/Science for Peace and Security Committee, the Office for the International Relations in Science and Higher Education of Portugal (GRICES) for the financial and technical support.

We look forward for your participation in Aveiro!

Carlos Borrego
ITM Chairman
Portugal Pilot Country

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Local Conference Organizer
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