

PRESS RELEASE

Earth, Wind, Water, Fire:

"Regensburg Recommendation" on Environmental Challenges adopted at the OWHC Northwest-European Regional Conference 2008

The international conference "Earth, Wind, Water, Fire - Environmental Challenges to Urban World Heritage" that took place in the German World Heritage town Regensburg from September 16 till 18 was a great success. Experts from more than fifteen European countries came to the medieval city in Southern Germany to attend the Northwest-European Regional Conference of the "Organization of World Heritage Cities" (OWHC). After three days of inspiring presentations and discussions, the conference participants jointly adopted the "Regensburg Recommendation". The paper formulates basic strategies on the protection of historic towns from environmental risks and natural hazards.

The conference started on Tuesday September 16 inter alia with welcoming addresses and keynote speeches of Regensburg's Deputy Mayoress and Councillor for Planning and Construction Christine Schimpfermann, the "Organization of World Heritage Cities" Interim Secretary General Lee Minaidis, as well as Dr. Mechtild Rössler, Chief of the Europe and North America Section at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the President of ICOMOS International Prof. Michael Petzet.

With numerous presentations on "Earth", "Wind", "Water" and "Fire" the conference covered a wide spectrum of natural risks to urban World Heritage sites. Many representatives of Northwest-European OWHC-member cities like Beemster (Netherlands), Bath

and Edinburgh (Great Britain), Karlskrona (Sweden), Bergen and Røros (Norway) or Bamberg and Quedlinburg (Germany) contributed presentations on their experiences with environmental challenges and on different protection strategies.

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