



1st CALL FOR PAPERS

The 5th International Conference on Hands-on Science, HSCI2008, will be held in the science center of Pernambuco, Espaço Ciência, in the UNESCO World Heritage town of Olinda, Recife, in northeast Brazil from October 13 to 17, 2008.

In the footsteps of our successful previous conferences (www.hsci.info) attended by over 800 participants from 45 countries on 5 continents, with nearly five hundred different interesting and meaningful presentations, the 2008 Conference will again provide an ideal opportunity for presentation and open friendly discussion of all kinds of ideas experiences and works related to Science Education. For the first time the annual conference of the International Association Hands-on Science Network will take place outside the European Union. In Brazil very interesting pedagogical experiences were developed along the years. The open friendly spirit and enthusiasm of Brazilian teachers and educators, and the welcome environment of Brazil' "nordeste", guarantee the ideal conditions for an excellent profitable and enjoyable time for all participants. Open to contributions in all relevant subjects, we will focus this year "Formal and Informal Science Education". The general aim of the Conference is to promote an open broad and friendly exchange of experiences on good practices, syllabus and policy matters, social factors and the learning of science, and all other issues related to Science Education and its development... through an enlarged use of hands-on experiments in the classroom

...towards a better Science Education...

Proposals are invited for oral or poster presentations, workshops and group discussions, international cooperation project proposals, hands-on experiments demonstration sessions and Science Fair booths and exhibitions (all accepted contributions will be published in electronic format and in printed form). Inquiries should be addressed to the Conference Chair, Manuel Filipe Costa, Universidade do Minho, Dept. Física, 4710-057 Braga, Portugal, phone: +351253 604320, fax: 678981, email: mfcosta@fisica.uminho.pt or mfcosta.hsci@gmail.com. Conference website: www.hsci.info/HSCI2008/hsci2008.html.

Important dates:

Deadline for submission of abstracts: July 25, 2008 (www.hsci.info/HSCI2008/hsci2008.html)

Until September 5 late submissions might be accepted depending on space availability and on the quality of the work submitted.

Oral and poster presentations

Oral presentations may be between 10 and 40 minutes in duration. Poster presentations will be available for the full duration of the meeting. An abstract of up to 300 words describing the main points and conclusions of the presentation is expected.

Discussion workshops, hands-on experiments demonstrations and Science fair

Sessions will be scheduled for the discussion of particular topics (such as science museums and informal learning, scientific literacy, women and science, migrants and minorities, science and society, ethics, R&D, life-long learning,...). Proposals for other workshops' topics are encouraged. Schools, research institutions, commercial companies, science clubs, teams and or groups of students or teachers, and individuals may prepare a booth to present their work at the Conference' Science Fair. A short abstract of no more than 500 words describing the activity must be submitted by July 25, 2008.

Informal contacts between participants are considered of utmost importance. A diversified social and cultural program will be offered.

English is the official language of the Conference. Abstracts received in other languages before June 15 may also be accepted and translated into English.

****The H-Sci Network (www.hsci.info) exists to promote the development of Science education and scientific literacy. It encourages a generalized use of innovative hands-on experimental approaches to science and technology in-school teaching. In raising the profile and attractiveness of Science in Education, we aim also to increase the desirability of a career in Science for all.***