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SPECIAL ISSUE

with selected articles presented at

Green Conservation of Cultural Heritage

International Workshop



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<http://www.yococu.com/event/international-workshop-green-conservation-cultural-heritage/>

Aim:

Conservation and restoration of Cultural Heritage assets involves the potential exposure to risk factors for worker's health and the environment. From the toxicological point of view, restorers/conservators are commonly exposed to complex mixtures of different types of harmful substances that could be responsible for a wide array of toxic effects, from mild effects in the upper airways induced by harmful airborne particulate matter to the carcinogenic effects of certain treatment product, including also paints and pigments. The broad range of non-standardized - ethics require always case-by-case solutions - restoration techniques employed during the interventions on Cultural Heritage items often involves the use of solvent and other chemical mixtures as well as biocidal products, and leads to a challenging assessment of the actual risks. Frequently, artworks must be restored on-site and in indoor environments, often without taking adequate precautions. Moreover, the disposal of chemical waste may be very expensive and it could lead to serious consequences on the environment if it is not carried out properly, and affect people unrelated to the restoration procedure. It is now imperative to take ecological, economic and social aspects into consideration for looking at the conservation practice and supporting conservation science solutions. The International Workshop "Green Conservation on Cultural Heritage" has faced this challenge through the following discussion topics:

- a) state of art about "green conservation philosophy";
- b) alternative methodologies and eco-friendly products from biotechnologies and nanomaterial sectors, already available, capable to replace conservation methods and hazardous products for workers and environment used in traditional restoration treatments;
- c) new researches to more sustainable methods that take into account both the working conditions and the easiness to use;
- d) training programs, activities or studies on the awareness of restorers on health risks, arising from the use of chemicals during the restoration procedures.

The integration of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) with sustainability and green conservation practices is essential to achieve significant benefits to restorers' health and to protect the environment. This special issue aims to increase the dialogue and the reflection on the green methods applied to the conservation of Cultural Heritage and the reduction of hazardous wastes in conservation practices.

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