



08 May - 13 May 2013

11ο Διεθνές Συνέδριο Αειφόρου Τουριστικής Ανάπτυξης
Διατήρησης & Προστασίας Φυσικής & Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς.

YPERIA 2013

11th International Convention of Sustainable Tourism
Preservation & Protection of Natural & Cultural Heritage.

Amorgos, May 9, 2013

WELCOMING SPEECH

Irene GIANNAKOPOULOS

Good evening everyone and on behalf of the whole team of Aegialis Hotel & Spa, welcome to this 11th International Convention on Sustainable Tourism, Preservation & Protection of the Environment and cultural heritage – Yperia 2013.

Yperia took its name from one of the ancient names of Amorgos (other names were Pagali, Karkisia, Melania) and was founded in 2003 by the Woman Cultural Association of Tholaria in Aegiali in cooperation with Aegialis Hotel & Spa, as a will to inform the public about Amorgos Island and Greece in general.

The members of the board, under the Presidency of Mrs. Irene Giannakopoulos, thought that this information could be easily spread around the world, through the Media and organized the 1st Yperia inviting journalists interested in Tourism and Travelling, but also local authorities, Political Representatives, Scientists and people from Arts.

It was also decided this International Meeting to be dedicated to the French producer Mr. Luc Besson, as an honor and recognition for his contribution to the development of Amorgos island through his successful movie “The Big Blue”, filmed on Amorgos, which made the island famous around the world.

Our objective is to promote and advertise the cultural background and artistic interest of Amorgos and Cyclades to and through people who worship culturally-rich areas, who respect the environment and who will speak about our islands abroad.

For this purpose, YPERIA committee plans every year a wide range of activities in cooperation with the archaeological services and cultural institutions.

All topics of the conventions are related to Sustainable Tourism, Environment & Cultural Heritage. These last years, alternative forms of tourism started to be put on and some projects regarding the preservation and protection of Amorgos environment and patrimony are starting to gather people and to become more concrete.

It is our pleasure to present you, through Yperia 2013 these new projects and also to discuss with you about the opportunities that alternative tourism can offer.

I have to say tonight, that we are extremely honored and delighted to have you here with us knowing that many of you travel long distances and try to insert this event in busy schedules. It somehow reminds us all how important this event is.

Yperia has now reached 11 successful years and this is a great blessing worth thanking for. Behind this success are people and I would like to thank some of them particularly for their work, participation and trust in YPERIA:

- Mrs Tatiana KOUMOUTSI and Mr Dimitris GKOLTSIS from the International Short Film Festival of Athens PSAROKOKALO for joining us this year and giving us the chance to present PSAROKOKALO Festival on Amorgos.
- Mrs Sofia GEORGIADIOU from the International Short Film Festival of Dramas for her contribution
- Mrs Argyro MESIMERI & Mr Notis FORSOS from the festival of THESSALONIKI for their faithful collaboration
- The architects Georgio MARTINO, , Dimitris PIKIONIS and Vivianna METALLINOY for their incredible work on Amorgos in matter of cultural heritage protection
- Mr Vassilis LAOPODIS & Mr Nikos GOUMENAKIS from CulturePolis NGO for their conferences about Cultural Heritage
- Mrs Eleni METHODIOU, Archaeologist and specialist of the European Union
- The producers Luiza BARCAN, Critina ANDREI, Mladen VELIMIROVIC, Michael JAGD and all the other ones that are part to our 4th International Short Film Festival but unfortunately missing today.
- The journalists Ulla JAGD, Pamela MCLENNAN, Milda LEVANDRAITYTE, Eleni SEVASTI SIMANTIRI, Ilias KAPETANAKIS, Makis SELAMATZIDIS
- Mr. Vadim VERBICKIJ, Tour Operator from Russia
- The architect Mr. Antonios Vlavianos
- The sculptor Mr. Nikos Karpouzis
- Mrs. Miekke Dillo with her artist group from the Netherlands.
- And of course the Director of ERT Satellite Mr Giorgos DAMPASIS and his wife Mrs Lilika DAMPASIS,

By promoting, with your help, Amorgos, the projects going on but also awareness about our environment and culture heritage, it is our hope that YPERIA will play a significant role in bringing about change.

I hope that you are all as excited as I am to be involved in this week end and to discover all the great movies from all around the world producers sent us for this 4th International Short Movie Festival of Amorgos.

Once again welcome and enjoy!!