



10th International Convention of Sustainable Tourism  
Preservation & Protection of Natural & Cultural Heritage

ΥΠΕΡΙΑ 2012

10ο Διεθνές Συνέδριο Αειφόρου Τουριστικής Ανάπτυξης  
Διατήρησης & Προστασίας Φυσικής & Πολιτισμικής Κληρονομιάς

18/4 - 22/4 2012

Aegialis Hotel & Spa  
Amorgos 19 April 2012

## Welcoming Speech

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Over the four coming days of this beautiful and interesting International Convention you will have the pleasure of enjoying the blue sea surrounding us and discover the mysterious island of Amorgos.

This famous Big Blue, warmed by the sun and filled by the bright colors of the spring... Observing this calm natural combination of shapes and colors it is incredible to believe that a few thousand years ago, in exactly the same environment, men struggled to create a rich civilization and to maintain in peace

A civilization that traveled like the Olympic flame to illuminate a big part of the ancient world. This small island, a crossroad of cultures, met through the centuries many cultures and develop its own particularities.

Its strong and rich could be testify by the many names given to the Amorgos from the moment of his existence until our days. One of those names was YPERIA, when at some other time we find it under the mane of Platagi, Melania but also Karkisia.

Three important cities/states were existing on the island in the antiquity. Each of them was independent having its own government and individual monetary system.

Amorgos is of important archaeological interest. The famous Greek researcher Antonis Miliarakis used to say that "if one day systematic excavations should take place somewhere in Greece, they should start on the island of Amorgos"

The established annual Convention Yperia aims to focus on Tourism and Culture and an International exchange and dialogue patrimony promotion and protection.

Welcome to the 10th meeting YPERIA in Amorgos.