

## INAUGURAL ADDRESSES

*I am particularly pleased to greet on the University of Bari behalf and in my own name all participants of this 8<sup>th</sup> Salt Water Intrusion Meeting.*

*Moreover, I take the opportunity to express my esteem for the organizer of this important Bari-meeting, prof. Cotecchia and for his untiring collaborators.*

*For years, by now, Prof. Cotecchia with his rare skill, his original researches and his high level teaching honours the Bari-atheneum and has created a School which has made a name for itself in international field.*

*The subject of this Experts meeting is of great importance for our region being calcareous in type and rich in coasts. Hence the occurrence of the sea water intrusion phenomenon which, in the long run, affects, in a considerable and worrying way, underground water resources all over Apulian territory.*

*It is a subject to which Prof. Cotecchia's School has been devoting, for more than three decades, most of his scientific interests.*

*The acquisitions which have been achieved account for an all-important factor since they provide reliable data about the hydrological condition, in order to establish the real possibilities of groundwaters utilization, and in a region almost lacking in surface waters such studies take on a vital character.*

*But in this place I like to call to our mind that our University has started with all other Universities looking on to the Mediterranean Sea a scientific cooperation, since we are persuaded that many problems are common both scientifically and practically, then only through common efforts can they find an acceptable solution, and of course underground waters and the sea influence on them stand for a problem common to the Mediterranean area.*

*We hope that in the near future the scientific cooperation among populations, by means of a reappraisal of culture, can provide the tools likely to solve the problems of our communities.*

*With these intentions and being sure that your works will be fruitful I thank you once again and express my sincerest good wishes for a good job.*

LUIGI AMBROSI

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*I am particularly glad to greet, on Provincial Government behalf and in my own name, all guests attending this meeting.*

*Such an international meeting of specific experiences and of high professional nature is reason of our pride and worthy of our territory's inhabitants attention.*

*The matters which are going to be debated in this qualified session are of vital importance for Apulian economy and we are particularly grateful to*

*Prof. Cotecchia not only for having so diligently organized this meeting, but even because we acknowledge him as the first in Apulia, who has drawn our attention to sea water intrusion affecting underground water resources, showing his great interest while dealing with this phenomenon concerning our region and, most of all, our provincial territory.*

*In Italy very few regions suffer from a similar hydrogeological situation such as the Apulian one: the peculiar type of the soil, though showing the classical beauty of Mediterranean landscape, with unforgettable views to the tourist's eyes, brings about number of problems of waters supply; thanks to Prof. Cotecchia and his valid collaborators our worrying hydrogeological situation has been focused.*

*The presence of the sea surrounding all our territory and the particular karst nature of the soil, together with our populations living exigencies have determined worrisome phenomena of our underground water resources salt-contamination due to indiscriminate takings throughout the territory needed for agriculture, zootechny and industry.*

*It's high time we diligently and energetically have to correct the hydrogeological imbalance, thus starting a sensible reorder and recovery of our underground water resource.*

*Only during these last years had we a regional law at our disposal urging the intervention of the public administration on the matter of water resource safeguarding and more generally of the territory.*

*The spirit of this law today forces us to make cautions, suitable and opportune choices.*

*These are the reasons why we look with extreme interest at this meeting specifically oriented toward the most meaningful hydrogeological aspects of our territory and at the results it shall produce.*

*We administrators shall be attentive to every signal and to the comparison of the experiences of the Countries here represented; moreover we shall take care of coordinating such signals coming from the scientific field with political exigencies.*

*We are sure that Prof. Cotecchia's scientific experience and his collaborators further strengthened by the results of this meeting shall let us the tool to make those sensible choices likely to solve the water supply concern without hydrological troubles.*

*Added to the inaugural address, I would like to tank and say good job to you since your results shall help us in carrying on our duty in a better way.*

MARIA MICCOLIS