

The Tunis Science City

Annual report 2012

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I- Activities

International conference: NAMES 3rd General Assembly Meeting

The Tunis Science City was the proud host of the NAMES 3rd General Assembly Meeting (GAM), on December 5 and 6, 2012. The conference was under the theme of Sustainable Development in Science Centers Strategic Planning and Management. Nationally and internationally renowned experts in environment and science communication were invited to take part in this conference. NAMES members in partnership with local and international associations also displayed, during the two-day conference, a hands-on science exhibition. It is worthy of note that the Tunis Science City jointly with science centers from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Kuwait was a founding member of NAMES. The purpose of NAMES network is to foster cooperation between North Africa and Middle Eastern science centers and to offer a wide range of opportunities to exchange expertise and areas of cooperation.

Reopening of the planetarium

The Tunis Science City's planetarium has recently been reopened after having been re-equipped with a full dome HD projection system, providing the public with the opportunity to immerse in the wonders of the cosmos and discover colored stars, giant planets and how to navigate their way through space.

"Science villages" Project

The Tunis Science City initiated in 2012 the idea of creating science villages in some regions of the country. The objective is to diffuse scientific culture nationwide. The first science village will be set up in Tataouine, then Kasserine, Kef and Gafsa.

Exhibitions

Saharan dinosaurs

Saharan dinosaurs' exhibition is still on display at the Tunis Science City. It is composed of five dinosaur replicas enabling the public from all walks and especially kids to get close and touch them. It is indeed an invitation to explore prehistoric life, and find out what the dinosaurs looked like, what they ate, how they evolved and how they become extinct.

Discovering the golden age of Arabic and Islamic science

From March 15 to July 15

In partnership with the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the Tunis Science City played host to an exhibition titled "*Discovering the golden age of Arabic Science*" from March 15 to July 5, 2012. This exhibition paid tribute to the contribution of the Arab scientific heritage to universal civilization. Thanks to the translation work of manuscripts from Greek, Indian and Chinese into Arabic, Arab and Muslim scholars made contributions of paramount importance to science, medicine, technology, philosophy and art. Thus, the Arabic and Islamic

knowledge and intellect spread throughout Europe, becoming an integral part of human civilization.

Celebrations

Mathematics day

Sunday, March 25

The Tunis Science City dedicated a whole day for mathematics. Mathematics are a truly baffling headache for some of us, but during this day, the public and particularly the young discovered more about them and realized that they are not so complicated.

International Water Day

Thursday, March 22

Each year on March 22, the whole world celebrates the International Day of Water, decreed by the United Nations since 1992. The objective of this day is to raise public awareness about the importance of water. As usual, the Tunis Science City has developed a whole programme related to this event, including games and contests with rewards and prizes.

World Earth Day

Sunday, April 22

The Life and Man Hall celebrated the World Earth Day through varied and rich open air activities encompassing exposés, workshops, games, etc. The purpose of this event is to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

Explora Day

Sunday, May 13

Each year, at the same date, at the Explora hall children aged from 6 to 16 years old can enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities, including fun scientific experiments, workshops, contests and exhibitions.

Chemistry Day

Monday, May 14

Man and Life pavilion celebrated the "Chemistry Day" via a rich and varied activity programme encompassing a series of workshops showcasing the importance of chemistry in our everyday life.

World No Tobacco Day

Thursday, May 31

The Tunis Science City, in collaboration with « la société tunisienne des maladies respiratoires et d'allergologie (STMRA) », celebrated the World No Tobacco Day on May 31 at the Man and Life Pavilion. The main objective is to draw global attention to the dangers of tobacco.

World environment Day

Tuesday, June 5

Man and Life pavilion celebrated the World environment day on June 5 through interactive workshops about the impact of climatic warming on environment, the different methods to waste removal, the struggle against desertification, and water pollution.

Solar observation day

Thursday, June 21

The Tunis Science City celebrated the Solar Day on June 21. Workshops as well as solar observation were part of the programme especially developed for this event.

Eratosthenes Day

Friday, December 21

It is an open day for all who are eager to learn more about the different methods of measurement used in astronomy in ancient times. The day included a series exposés and workshops.

World Space Week

November 2 and 3

The world celebrates each year from 4 to 10 October the world Space Week, which was declared by the UN General Assembly in 1999. The purpose of such a celebration is to highlight the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition. The theme of World Space Week 2012 was "Space for Human Safety and Security." A host of space-related activities including sky observation, workshops, exposés made it possible for the public to know more about the outer space. They were given the opportunity to learn how to make optimum use of space technologies.

Lectures for juniors

Environment in Tunisia

By Mr. Samir Meddeb

Friday, February 17

Environment in Tunisia is under growing pressure. It becomes more and more fragile. That is why one has to exploit it rationally, with the purpose of preserving its richness and ensure its sustainability for future generations.

The multiple use of water

By Mrs. Latifa Bouselmi

Friday, March 23

The water temple of Zaghouan or the aghlabid basins in Kairouan testify of the role and importance of water through the history of Tunisia. Indeed water is the basic need for all living creatures and is actually the source of life.. However, more than half of human beings will be living with water shortage in the next two decades warns a United Nations estimate. Global warming is not only the first and main cause for such a situation but also waste and inadequate management. They are both considered by experts as the main culprits behind growing water problems.

Yoga for well being

By Barbara Bendana, HATA YOGA and YOGA NIDRA master

Friday, May 4

Yoga is an ancient Indian art the purpose of which is to promote individual health and well-being through physical and mental exercise, deep breathe and relaxation. Indeed yoga gives us some space to refresh our mind, body and spirit and gets us to cope better with the stress of daily life.

Dental medicine

Friday, November 23

Healthy teeth are an important part of child health. That's why children should be encouraged to look after their teeth in order to prevent dental decay. How children look after their teeth from the time they are babies will make a difference to how they grow and how healthy they are.

Olive oil

Friday, December 21

The beneficial health effects of olive oil are due to both its high content of monounsaturated and its high content of antioxidative substances. Consequently, it offers protection against heart disease and has a beneficial effect on ulcers and gastritis. Olive oil is a major component in the Mediterranean diet. Evidence shows that Mediterranean populations have reduced risk for certain chronic diseases and extended life expectancy compared with other populations in the world.

Astronomy evenings

Universe pavilion organized many astronomy evenings in collaboration with the Tunisian Association of Astronomy, during which different activities about planets, calendars, astronomical phenomena, Venus Transit, the Sun, the celebration of the Solar Day, stars and comets were part of the programme.

Science on wheel

The Science on Wheel programme included, as usual, a wide range of rich and varied activities such as exposés, workshops, astronomical observations etc., offering excitement to children in the inner parts of the country.

Films screening

During 2012, four movies screened were as follows: "The fare of Whales", "Mines", the different species" and "Water in all its states".

Science cafés

Water and climatic changes

By Dr. Iyadh Zahar, Carthage University

Experts from around the world argue that water shortage may affect roughly three billion people if the temperature of our planet continues to increase. The UNESCO reminds that one person out of four worldwide has no access to drinking water. With the world's population growth, our resources of water are very likely to decrease while the irrigation needs will increase. What are the solutions that should be found?

Dyslexia

By Drs. Rafafi Rym and Sami Othman

Friday, February 10

Dyslexia is the difficulty for children in learning to read despite traditional instruction. It is considered to be as one of the reasons behind school failure. The child affected suffers from inattention. He has difficulties to articulate the words and sentences he reads.

We are 7 billion people on Earth and what after?

By Mr. Fethi Zouhair Nouri, University professor, expert in economy of energy

Friday, March 16

In collaboration with GIZ

According to the latest United Nations population estimates, world population reaches 7 billion which marks a frightening and horrifying number of people on the planet Earth, all sharing the same diminishing resources and all increasing environmental problems.

Can oasis go dry? Sustainable management of oasis facing climatic change

By Mrs. Elloumi, Mr Sabara

Friday, April 20

In collaboration with GIZ

An oasis is a bush green area in the midst of a desert, made fertile by a source of fresh water such as springs or rivers. Oasis provides habitat for animals as well as for humans. Climatic change has been threatening oasis ecosystems for some years. What are the solutions to safeguard these natural and fertile spots in the middle of a desert?

Climate change and ecosystem in Tunisia

In collaboration with GIZ

Friday, May 18

The GIEC in its 4th report assessed that the global warming is very likely to trigger ecosystem modifications. Those modifications if they occur will threaten the survival of animal and vegetal species. It is worthy of note that if some species can bear temperature variations, they cannot any way resist global warming, brutal and sustainable. It is scientifically proven today if the Earth continues to be heated, the ecosystem balance will undoubtedly be affected and for the worse will disappear.

The therapy of happiness

Friday, October 19

Mrs. Dallila Ghariani, personal development expert, debated about the NLP (Neuro Linguistics Programming). The word Neuro linguistic programming can be broken down to three distinct words: neuro, linguistic and programming. Neuro refers to the brain, Linguistics refers to the content and Programming is the way the content is converted into useful information. The neuro linguistic therapist analyzes every word we use and every move we make (facial expressions and body movements) and helps us understand the root cause. Then, he helps us remodel our thoughts and mental associations, as well as replace unhealthy traits with positive thoughts, and patterns that promote wellness.

Dietetics

By Mrs. Sophie Reverdi, Mrs. Leila Alouane, Mr. Nagati, Mr. Lorenzo Forlani and Mrs. Erich Alauzen

Friday, November 30

Nutrition and dietetics are fields related to food. They inform and guide people about the food they should take to improve the general health and to avoid certain diseases. Diet plays a very crucial role in the health and well-being of people. A good and balanced diet improves the quality of life to a great extent. People suffering from certain diseases need to take extra care of their eating habits and the kind of food they eat. Ignorance of this can aggravate the disease, whereas adherence to the right diet can help in speedy recovery. Poor eating habits and inadequate food intake are a major cause of lot of diseases.

Musico therapy

In collaboration with Association Tunisienne pour la Recherche en Musique et Musicologie.

Conducted by Mrs. Zohra Aissa, psychiatrist and President of "Association de musicothérapie", Mrs. Rihab Jebali, Associate professor at "Institut supérieur de Musique" of Sfax and Mr. Lassad Ben Hamida, President of "Association tunisienne pour la Recherche en Musique et Musicologie"

Friday, December 28

Does music have an effect on our emotions? Yes of course. Some studies have measured the effect of music on our psychology and behavior. Music can be positive force for mental health. It helps us to stay calm and relaxed. Children, teens, and even babies can take profit from listening to music, for music is a stimulant to intellectual and cognitive development.

Training sessions

Training session in astronomy and mathematics

May 15, 16 and 17

In line with the objectives established by the UNAWA and in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's and Family Affairs, the Tunis Science City organized on May 15 - 17, 2012 the astronomy and mathematics training sessions for scientific mediators of children's clubs nationwide. The purpose of this action is to set up spaces within children's clubs entirely dedicated to astronomy education in which the beauty and the splendor of the sky will be used to spark children's long term interest in science and technology.

Astronomy summer school for youngsters aged between 12 and 16 years old (astronomy initiation)

July 17-21

This summer school encompassed training sessions dedicated to youngsters with the purpose of initiating them to the universe and its beauty. Those sessions provided some basic information about how to identify the constellations and how to use a telescope right away.

Training session at the Life and Man pavilion

November 3-10

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Association tunisienne des sciences de la vie and with the support of the natural and life sciences teaching inspectors, the Tunis Science City organized two training sessions about pedagogical hands-on exhibits' conception. These sessions were dedicated to educational establishments' lab technicians in Ariana.

Astronomy training for children clubs and nursery schools animators

November 23-29

As part of the effort to spark kids 'interest in astronomy, the Tunis Science City's mediators organized at the universe pavilion two training sessions for 35 child clubs and kindergartens 'educators.

-November 23 and 24, 2012: Astronomy training for nursery schools' educators of Manouba governorate.

-November 27-29, 2012: Astronomy training for child clubs'educators of Manouba governorate.

Interactive design festival

March 16 and 17

The Tunis Science City organized, on March 16th and 17th, jointly with Createc Association, an interactive design festival. The latter included meetings between professionals and a contest on line, with the purpose of selecting two teams to participate in the competition taking place in Limoges-France, May 29-31. Lectures on webdesign and augmented reality, as well as job opportunities for young creators, were part of the programme.

The Digital Animation Festival

May 26 and 27

The Tunis Science City and the Createc association with the collaboration of the Institut français de Coopération organized the digital animation festival on May 26-27. During two days, the Tunis Science City's premises were converted into a place where digital art professionals and amateurs got together. The festival programme included lectures, round tables, workshops, and film screenings.

Events

-Open house days for teachers

Saturday, January 7

-Multimedia and language learning process

February 8-10

-Open house days about "wetlands"

Friday, February 10

-Invisibility, between myth and reality

By M. Stephan Enoch

Saturday, February 17

-Chemistry and Energetic challenges of the 21st century: water and sun's energy

Friday, February 24

-Science and technology National Fair

Thursday, March 22

-Scientific and technical exhibits from clubs

March 28 - 31

-Memory lapses

Friday, April 13

-3G Mobile network architecture, dimensioning and evolution

By Mr. Moez Bouaziz

Tuesday, April 17

-Personalized medicine

In partnership with Research and action association and in collaboration with Pasteur Institute of Tunis
Tuesday, April 17

-Complex systems day
April 23-24-25

-Cosmic phenomena: between science and fiction
By Dr. Abdelladhim Alsabti
Friday, April 27

-Nanomaterials (air, water and soil) for environmental remediation
By Pr. El Safty
Friday, May 25

-The Digital Animation Festival
May 26 and 27

-Science and environment
June 15 and 16

-Scientific camp in Kerkenah Iles
July 3-7

-English courses
July 8-21

-The Fourth international days for quantum and nanomaterials
September 15 and 16

-The 3rd national competition of “Injaz Tunisia” Association
Thursday, September 27

-Perfumes in Mediterranean antiquity
By Pr. Jean-Pierre Brun
Tuesday, October 2
In collaboration with the Institut français de Tunisie (IFT)

-Beauty and Truth in Mathematics and Physics
By Pr. Michael Atiyah
Tuesday, October 30

In collaboration with the Mediterranean Mathematical Sciences Association for (AMSM)

II- Publications

- Al Madar "History of chemistry"
- A trip to the dinosaurs land (n°2-3-4)
- Activities of the Tunis Science City (4 editions)
- Newsletter (n°27-28-29-30)

III-Partnership

Agreements

Partners	Date
Higher Institute of Internal Security Forces	Agreement signed on January 5
Créatec Association	Agreement signed on January 19
Ministry of Education and training	Agreement signed on March 19
Institut français de Tunisie	Agreement signed on May 4
Natural and life sciences association	Agreement signed on April 21
Research in action Association	Agreement signed on May 29
ATDUA Association	Agreement signed on May 29
SAT Association	Agreement signed on June 8
Mediterranean Association of mathematics	Agreement signed on June 8
UNESCO ALESCO Clubs	Agreement signed on June 8
Tunisian Association of telecommunication techniques (A3T)	Agreement signed on November 28

Events within the framework of partnerships

- Open house days for teachers, school inspectors and directors of educational establishments, on January 7, in collaboration with "New Education" association
- International Web Design Festival, on March 3, in collaboration with CREATEC Association
- Pedagogical scientific event, on March 19, in collaboration with "New Education" Association
- Associations Day, on March 19
- The National Science and technology fair, on March 22, in partnership with the National Centre for pedagogical Innovation and Intel Society,

- “Personalized medicine” on April 17, in partnership with Research and action association and in collaboration with Pasteur Institute of Tunis
- The Digital Animation Festival FAN 2012, on May 26-27 in collaboration with Créatec Association
- Democratic Transition for a sustainable environment, on June 13, in collaboration with ATDUA Association
- Congress of the Maghreb Union for Astronomy and Space Techniques Sciences, on June 28 - 30, in collaboration with SAT Association
- Lecture « Science et environnement », on June 15 and 16, in collaboration with UNESCO and ALECSO clubs
- Scientific camp in Kerkennah Iles on July 3-7, Ministry in charge of women’s affairs
- The 3rd national competition of “Injaz Tunisia” Association, on September 27, in partnership with “Injaz Tunisia” Association
- International Colloquium on « Algebraic Topology », on June 18-22, and “Beauty and Truth in Mathematics and Physics”, in collaboration with the Mediterranean Association for Mathematical Sciences (AMSM)
- Training session at Man and Life Pavilion, on November 3-10, in partnership with ATSVT Association

IV-International cooperation

- Ecsite annual conference 2012, from May 30 to June 3, in France
- Workshop in Pérou-Lima, on September 11-13
- NAMES 3rd General Assembly Meeting on December 5 and 6 in Tunis

V-Special guests

- January 6: Palestinian delegation
- June 16-21 : Mr. Pierre Audin, Head of mathematics department at Palais de la découverte, Mrs. Marie Thérèse Canard Head of biology department at Palais de la découverte, Mr. Michel Cabaret Director of L’Espace des sciences, in Rennes, and Mrs. Maëtte Chatrel the responsible for the organization of seminar at Espace des sciences, in Rennes.
- July 6 : Mr. Moncef Marzouki, President of the Tunisian Republic
- July 9 : M. Ahmed Zouil, Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1999.

VI-Press

Different activities of the Tunis Science City were covered by the media: newspaper, electronic media, radios, television channels, etc.

VII-Marketing

- Advertising through emailing campaign (email data base and SMS messages).
- Insertion of information about the Tunis Science City's events in electronic papers.
- Distribution of posters in relation to the Tunis Science City's events to cultural centers, educational private and public establishments (schools, universities, research laboratories...).
- Insertion of the Tunis Science City's logo in the posters of events hosted at the Tunis Science City by associations.
- Public opinion survey on the Tunis Science City's activities
- Approval by the steering board of the report on marketing actions (2nd phase) by Elka consulting Bureau relative to the conference rooms and auditoriums, the Abu Fehr guest house , and the Scientific shop.
- Sponsoring of the Names international conference 2012, Wifi 2012 festival....
- the purchase of 16 kids science books' copyright by "YAMAMA" publishing house.