

Announcement of: “The 4th Azarquiel School in Astronomy”

We are organizing (from the 11th to the 16th of June, 2017) the fourth “*Azarquiel School of Astronomy: A Bridge Between East and West*”, as a prosecution of a project started years ago in Granada, then continued in Beirut and in Istanbul.

The school was created in honor of the medieval Arab astronomer Azarquiel, from Cordoba, a distinguished scientist who had Muslims, Christians, Jews and even non-believers among his students, in a really modern view of science as a way for uniting people. The subtitle (“*A Bridge Between East and West*”) should make clear that we want to revive the best ancient traditions of the cultures in the Mediterranean area; out of these cultures (Egyptian, Persian, Greek, Roman, Christian, Arab, etc.) our modern society was slowly born.

This time we will site the school in Portopalo di Capo Passero (Siracuse - Italy); it's a fisherman's village in Southern Sicily, which continues the tradition of choosing regions of the Mediterranean area strongly influenced by both the Eastern and Western cultures. At the same time, it is the site where the Italian branch of the big experiment on neutrinos KM3NET will have its controlling laboratory. The Italian Institute for Nuclear Physics (INFN), which is in charge of the experiment for Italy, is also our main sponsor.

Due to this sponsorship and to the specific site, this time the school will be more specialized than in the three previous meetings, dealing with Nuclear Astrophysics and Stellar Physics, on one side, and with various branches of High-Energy Astrophysics, on the other.

The selected site for the accommodation and for the lessons is composed of two resorts owned by the same family, which seem to have the required characteristics and affordable prices (60 to 70 Euros for double rooms with breakfast, for either single or double occupancy). Some details of the program and of the site are already available at the site:

<https://agenda.infn.it/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=12080>

There you can find an application form and a form for the request of grants; these last will be primarily attributed to graduate students and PhD students who really need financial help for participating. We are presently thinking of about 15 to 20 full-board supports and a similar number of partial grants, covering only the local expenses. Each applying person is warned that the admission at the school is not automatic for a question of both space in the conference room and budget for the grants. A maximum of 40 – 45 attendants, plus teachers, can be accepted.

The attribution of grants will be decided by a selecting committee; the interested attendants will receive an invitation letter.

We urge therefore interested students and young researchers in physics or astrophysics to apply as soon as possible and not later than March, 10. They are also invited to present abstracts for short talks. As you will see from the site, we will have dedicated spaces in the program for these presentations; these, too, will be selected by the mentioned committee and the result will be communicated to the attendant. A booklet of abstracts will be available.

Anyhow, all applicants (even in the absence of a grant) will receive a confirmation by email in case of acceptance of their application (when needed, also a letter to facilitate the visa procedures).

We kindly ask you to start spreading the news. In the second announcement, due for mid-February, a poster with the indication of topics and teachers will be available.

The Scientific Board of the School

The Organizing Committee