



**8th EGU Alexander von Humboldt International Conference on
Natural Disasters, Global Change, and the Preservation of World Heritage Sites**

Cusco, Peru, November 12th - 16th, 2012

**Organized by
Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco (UNSAAC)
Facultad de Ingeniería Civil
and the European Geosciences Union (EGU)**

Scope:

The World Heritage Operational Guidelines of the United Nations Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) states that “The cultural heritage and the natural heritage are among the priceless and irreplaceable possessions, not only of each nation, but of mankind as a whole. The loss, through deterioration or disappearance, of any of these most prized possessions constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all the peoples in the world. Parts of that heritage, because of their exceptional qualities, can be considered to be of outstanding universal value and as such worthy of special protection against the dangers which increasingly threaten them.”.

However, throughout human history, natural disasters, such as earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, etc., have damaged or destroyed several historical sites around the world. Global changes due to human activities add a new dimension.

In the last decades, thanks to the technological development of instruments, software, and data acquisition systems, fields such as geo-environmental engineering, along with geophysical/geotechnical investigations, are providing better tools for disaster prevention of manmade buildings, which are of great importance also for historical sites.

Thus, the aim of this conference is to bring together geoscientists, engineers, seismologists, geologists, architects, and other specialists, to discuss natural disasters and their prevention, with particular emphasis on World Heritage sites. A special session will be devoted to Inca ruins, in particular those of Macchu Picchu (celebrating the 100 years anniversary of their rediscovery in 1911).

Broad Topics (to be introduced by invited Keynote Speakers):

Contributions from all relevant fields of Geosciences, as well as, Engineering and Architecture are welcome. In particular, we invite contributions to the following topics:

- Global Change and Natural Disasters (earthquakes, floods, landslides, volcanoes, tsunamis, etc.)
- Natural disaster prevention
- Seismic responses of historical buildings and their vulnerability (techniques used in buildings, structural and material systems, laboratory and field testing, etc.)
- Geophysical/Geotechnical surveys for scenario modelling and simulation
- Effects of extreme climate and/or meteorological disastrous events (El Nino, Global Warming, Hurricanes, etc.)
- Special Session about Inca ruins (Macchu Picchu, etc.) with 1 day field trip to Macchu Picchu

Keynote Speakers

To be determined

Conference Language:

English

Scientific Program Committee:

Peter Fabian, EGU, TU Munich (TUM), Germany

Ken Tokeshi, University of Western Sydney, Australia

Carlo Laj, LSCE-IPSL, France

Pablo Lagos, Instituto Geofisico del Peru(IGP), Lima, Peru

Julio Rojas-Bravo, Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco, Peru

Carlos Fernandez Baca Vidal, Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco, Peru

Logistics:

Several 90 minute domestic flights connect Cusco to the Peruvian capital Lima which has international air connections to all continents.

Local Organizing Committee:

Julio Rojas-Bravo (Chairman)

Sandro Gutierrez

Cesar Arbulu

Carlos Fernandez Baca Vidal

Details related to abstract submission, registration, accommodations, sightseeing and Excursions will be given in the Second Circular (December 2011) and on the conference homepage <http://meetings.copernicus.org/avh8/>

Those who are interested in receiving the Second Circular of this conference directly can contact fabian@wzw.tum.de

September 6th, 2011

Peter Fabian (EGU)

Julio Rojas-Bravo (UNSAAC)

Please display this Circular and/or make it available to other colleagues who might be interested.