

WELCOME ADDRESS

Mr Vojno Kundić, director general, "Rudjer Bošković" Institute

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Conference, which is - in my opinion - a further step to foster an interdisciplinary approach to the application of isotopes to many fields, ranging from archaeology to hydrology.

Let me mention just a few examples of the potential use of isotopic analyses from our own experience. Over the past 10 years of successful operation of our Radiocarbon Laboratory our Institute has been involved in several projects for developing water resources in the Middle East and North Africa. Isotopic analyses of groundwater helped to solve hydrological problems connected with these projects. Monitoring of our environment for pollution is a permanent task of our laboratories. Reports on radioactivity level in air, surface waters and rainwater are regularly transmitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. We keep records on the present status of radioactive isotope concentration in our environment, having in mind the beginning of peaceful use of nuclear energy in the very near future in the electric power plant in Krško, only 30 miles from the place of this Conference. Another application of isotopic analyses is in an entirely different world - that of human history. We are proud of being able to contribute to unveil the sequence of events in the history of mankind which took place on our soil. From the remnants of Homo Krapinensis to the artifacts of Illyrian tribes and later Slavic settlers, a continuous flow of samples are coming into hands of our experts in the Radiocarbon Laboratory. All samples are measured, the results are discussed with competent scientists, then published in scientific literature and

stored in the memory of the University Computer Center . Finally , during your visit to Plitvice National Park you will see another , but definitely not the last one , example of a fruitful cooperation among physicists , chemists and environmentalists in an effort to preserve the nature .

Once again I would like to welcome our guests and thank you for your coming and contribution to this Conference . I am sure that your invited lectures will markedly increase the scientific level of this Conference and help to disseminate the up-to-date knowledge and technology . The aim of this Conference is to spread the scientific knowledge , to give an impetus to the application of exact scientific methods in research and economy and to establish a cordial friendship among all of us .

I wish you a successful workday and a pleasant trip to Plitvice National Park . Thank you oncemore .