

SALUTACIÓ DE L'ALCALDESSA A L'ASSEMBLEA GENERAL D'ACCESS, CONGRÉS CIENTÍFIC SOBRE ELS EFECTES DEL CANVI CLIMÀTIC A L'ÀRTIC

7/3/2013. Neàpolis, Vilanova i la Geltrú

Good morning, welcome to Vilanova i la Geltrú.

It's a pleasure to host such an important event in our city, with some of the scientists who lead investigation on the Arctic.

We are happy to take part in ACCESS project and to offer our home for the debate on an issue that is crucial for the early future of our planet.

The scientists, you have a key role in this issue. But I think all of us, specially the institutions, we have also a very important job, which is to explain the significance of climate change in the Arctic.

We have the challenge to make citizens understand the importance of the research carried out on the Arctic. People should know well that the Arctic is a matter of all of us, although we live very far from that.

Because the climate change in the Arctic will have global impacts all around the world, on the environment, the economy and the society in the next decades. And it will affect on governments policies too.

So in Vilanova i la Geltrú we are proud to have a representative in ACCESS project. We are proud of the work developed by the research centre directed by Michel André, the Bioacoustic Applications Laboratory of the Catalan Polytechnic University.

We are pleased that this centre has found in Vilanova i la Geltrú the right place to develop its research on acoustic technology applied to the sea. And we are proud that this research centre takes part in the ACCESS project as the only representative in southern Europe.

This laboratory fits perfectly with the commitment of Vilanova i la Geltrú to Research, Innovation and Development. And also fits with our desire to promote the resources and the opportunities that the sea gives us.

In Vilanova i la Geltrú, the sea is a strategic area of work. We are a city on the sea and so we want to promote maritime tourism, gastronomy, commerce, nautical activities... and also the research and knowledge about the sea.

We strongly believe in the need of reconciling human activity on the sea and of taking care of the sea ecosystems' health. We believe it on the Mediterranean, but we also believe it on the Arctic, where things are changing rapidly.

I think it's fair to appreciate the work that you, the scientific community, are carrying out, and I cannot conclude without thanking you for your work.

I also thank the presence of a representative of the Government of Catalonia, who has so well understood the interest of the ACCESS assembly.

And finally I want to thank the presence of the director of the Polytechnic School in Vilanova. I'd like you to know that in Vilanova i la Geltrú the City Council and the University have a lot of common aims and we often work together. It's a pleasure to have such a good partner.

Thank you all for your attention.

I hope you have interesting days of debate and I wish that you feel at home and that you take away with you the best memories of Vilanova i la Geltrú.

Vilanova i la Geltrú, 7 de març de 2013