



1st Circular

NORDIC SCIENCE CENTRE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“VISITORS LEARN AT SCIENCE CENTRES”

Vantaa/Helsinki, Finland, September 15-17, 2010

Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre and the Finnish Museum of Technology, both long-standing NSCF Members, have the pleasure to invite you to this year's Annual Conference to be held in Vantaa and Helsinki, Finland, on September 15-17. The theme is topical: “Visitors Learn at Science Centres”. We are very pleased to announce Professor John Falk of the Oregon State University as our Key Note Speaker. He will speak on Thursday, September 16, on the theme “Identity and the Museum Visitor Experience”.

The Conference fee will be around 240 euro including all receptions, lunches, coffee breaks and excursions in the programme. An outline of the programme follows in the next pages.

Invitation to Contribute

The Organizing Committee invites NSCF Member Institutions to contribute to the programme. We welcome 15-minute presentations related to the theme of the Conference. Please provide an abstract using the attached form and send it by April 23, 2010 to Ms. Päivi Garner at Heureka (paivi.garner@heureka.fi).

Next Circular

The 2nd Circular will be mailed in the end of May with information on hotels and final programme.

Welcome to Finland and NSCF!

CONFERENCE VENUES

Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre (City of Vantaa)

Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre, is a unique high-level cultural and educational institution and one of Finland's most popular leisure time destinations. Visitors of all ages will find interesting, interactive hands-on exhibits to explore and fascinating planetarium films to see. Architecturally unique Heureka is also a popular venue for conferences and receptions.

Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre opened to the public on April 28, 1989. Heureka attracts on average 280 000 visitors a year. A total of almost 6 million visitors have visited the site since the opening. Apart from the main exhibition, Heureka usually displays two temporary exhibitions. Total exhibition space indoors amounts to 3500 m². During the summer season, an outdoor exhibition area, Science Park Galilei, is available. Heureka features a modern digital planetarium, Vattenfall Planetarium. Heureka is open around the year and it operates fully in three languages: Finnish, Swedish and English.

Located in the City of Vantaa next to the Tikkurila train station and near the Helsinki-Vantaa airport, Heureka is easy to access. The journey from Helsinki city centre to Tikkurila by local train takes about fifteen minutes. To reach Heureka from the airport by bus or taxi takes only about 10 minutes.

Heureka is operated by a non-profit organization, The Finnish Science Centre Foundation. The premises are owned by the City of Vantaa. The annual budget is about 9 million euro, and about half of it is earned. The number of staff full-time equivalents was about 90 in 2009 and the number of volunteers was about 70.

Heureka co-operates with other science centres in the world and is an active member in the main organisations in the field: ASTC (Association of Science-Technology Centers), ECSITE (The European Network of Science Centres and Museums) and NSCF (Nordisk Science Center Forbund).

Heureka has twenty years of experience in building exhibitions designed to tour. The rentals and sales of travelling exhibitions are operated by Heureka Overseas Productions Ltd. Heureka's exhibitions have travelled in more than twenty countries and attracted over 12 million visitors elsewhere in the world.



Museum of Technology (City of Helsinki)

The Museum of Technology in Helsinki collects, preserves and displays objects related to the development of Finnish technology and industry. It also studies the effects of that development on society and everyday life in Finland.

The Museum of Technology is the national specialist museum of technology in Finland. The Museum is owned by the Foundation of Museum of Technology, established in 1969. Themes of the Museum's permanent exhibitions range from metal to forest industry and from chemistry to communication technology. The Museum attracts on average 16.000 visitors yearly, about one third of these schoolchildren.

The Museum is situated on the Kuninkaankartano Island in the Old Town of Helsinki, between two rapids. In 1876, The Helsinki City Waterworks started filtering water there from the River Vantaa. The City Waterworks gave up the buildings in 1969 to the Museum of Technology. The rich history of the surrounding area and the Museum packed with stories of Finnish innovations make a visit to the museum well worth your while!

In 2006, the Museum launched the InnoApaja -project that develops new ways of learning in a museum environment. Learning paths created in this project offer a novel approach to the Museum. Visitors are able to examine exhibitions from different perspectives, e.g. materials, simple machines or innovations. This method focuses on supporting the learner's own creativity and problem-solving skills and on the cooperation between learners. At the same time, learners get a picture of the typical routes that innovation processes follow in business and industry.

From 2007 onwards, the Museum of Technology has been developing its operations as the Knowledge Centre of Technological History in Finland. The Museum's collections consist of approximately 55.000 objects, 50.000 photographs and a library of 50.000 books on technology.

Together with four other major museums and the Finnish Association of Museums, the Museum launched a three-year pedagogical project "Open Museum – Learning Environment for Adults" in 2010. This year the Museum also introduces two new exhibitions, "Did you say Radiation Protection? Stories of X-rays, radioactivity, etc..." on 28th of April, produced originally by the French Science Pavilion Montbéliard and "Metropolis and the Sea – 100 years of waste water cleaning" on 20th of October, produced by the Museum of Technology.





PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Wednesday, September 15

18.00 Get-together-party at Heureka

Thursday, September 16

9.30 Opening ceremony at Heureka

10.30 Key Note Address:

Professor John Falk, Oregon State University

Identity and Museum Visitor Experience

Discussion

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Conference Session I

15.30 Coffee break

16.30 Bus transportation to the Museum of Technology

17.00 Excursion programme

Informal Reception at the Museum

21.00 Transportation to conference hotels

Friday, September 17

- 09.00 Director Asger Høeg, Experimentarium:
When Do Visitors Learn at Science Centres?
Discussion
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 Conference Session II
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Behind the Scenes of Heureka
Demonstrations and laborations
- 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.30 NSCF Annual Meeting
- 17.00 End of Conference

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