Malta, Gozo and Comino, the inhabited islands of the Maltese archipelago, lie at almost the exact geographical heart of the Mediterranean Sea. With Sicily some 60 miles to the North, Tripoli 220 miles to the South and Tunis 200 miles to the West, Malta is virtually at the crossroads between continents. The islands’ strategic position has, in fact, made them subject to a succession of rulers, who in turn left their influence on the country and language as we know them today. Malta’s prehistory dates back to 5000 B.C., whilst its documented past is traceable over a period of 2000 years.

Malta is a member of the United Nations and its various organisations and ever since 1964 has taken an active role in United Nations affairs. In 1967 Malta launched the idea of seabed resources being the common heritage of mankind. Malta joined the European Union on 1 May, 2004.

The national language is Maltese which is a complex derivative of Semitic and Romance languages using a primarily Latin alphabet but also including a number of additional letters which originate in the Arab language. English is also an official language.

The climate is typically Mediterranean, having mild winters and hot summers. Malta has a population of 400,000 and is visited annually by over one million tourists. Air Malta and other international airlines link Malta with the major European and North African cities. There are daily connections to London (Heathrow and Gatwick Airports) and Rome as well as frequent direct flights to Milan, Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt, Athens, Tunis, Cairo, Tel Aviv and Dubai. Malta has recently become a destination for low cost airlines traveling from many different cities.

We are pleased to announce that the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists will be held in Malta from 16 - 21 September, 2008.

We invite you to visit the beautiful Mediterranean island of Malta and explore its long history that goes back thousands of years.

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A sophisticated telecommunications system and widespread access to cardphone/internet booths and internet cafes, ensure easy international links.

About the University

The University of Malta is the highest teaching institution of the State by which it is mainly financed and is open to all those who have the requisite qualifications. Over the past few years, the University has reviewed its structures in order to be in line with the Bologna process which envisages the establishment of the European Higher Education Area by 2010. There are some 10,000 students including over 750 foreign/exchange students from nearly 80 different countries, following full-time or part-time degree and diploma courses, many of them run on the modular or credit system. Over 2,500 students graduate in various disciplines annually. The degree courses at the University are designed to produce highly qualified professionals, with experience of research, who will play key roles in industry, commerce and public affairs in general. There are a further 3,000 pre-tertiary students at the Junior College which is also managed by the University.

There are a number of fields which the University has identified as priority areas. Chief among these, are relations with industry and the strengthening of the Engineering departments; the further development of information technology, computer science and artificial intelligence; the University’s contribution to the improvement of primary and secondary education and the forging of inter-university links to stimulate international educational exchange.

The Foundation for International Studies is located in Valletta, in a building which originally housed the University of Malta. Over the years its Conference Unit has handled conferences and programmes for international organisations and associations, such as the European Commission, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNEP and UNHCR. Among the illustrious personalities who have graced the podium at the Aula Magna one finds former President of Italy, Francesco Cossiga; the enunciator of the doctrine of the Common Heritage of Mankind, Prof. Arvid Pardo; Prince Ranier III of Monaco; the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres; winner of the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize, Prof. Joseph Rotblat; and former Director General of UNESCO, Prof. Federico Mayor.
Heritage Malta

Heritage Malta is the national agency of the Government of Malta set up in 2002 under the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act and entrusted with the management of national museums and heritage sites and their collections in Malta and Gozo, including seven UNESCO world heritage sites.

Following the recognition of four key aspects of the national cultural heritage, namely management, conservation, interpretation and marketing, Heritage Malta bases all its activities bearing in mind that all our national museums and sites have an important role to play in education, learning, access and the generation of revenue to be reinvested in the heritage sector.

Heritage Malta therefore seeks to act as a champion for education and outreach programmes not only by supporting school-based learning, but also by encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to broaden their horizons through the museums’ collections. This is done, among others, by developing a programme of events to develop museums as active and inclusive cultural centres. Most importantly, Heritage Malta is committed to provide physical and intellectual access to a wider audience in all its sites and museums by enhancing access to disadvantaged groups, especially persons with disability, and by facilitating the interpretation of its sites and collections. Heritage Malta is also aware that heritage can act as a catalyst for Malta's tourism potential and consequently contribute significantly to the economy. It therefore seeks to improve the service and experience to all visitors in order to foster a more favourable image on a national as well as on an international level.

Under the auspices of the University, the Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage (the teaching and research arm of Heritage Malta) conducts undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Conservation Science.

Venue

The EAA’s 14th Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Malta, Msida.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be available in hotels (3 & 4 star).

Information

The First Announcement and other details will be available shortly on the dedicated website: http://events.um.edu.mt/eaa2008

Trips and Excursions

The organisers will provide pre-conference and post-conference trips which will give participants the opportunity to visit nearby Sicily (90kms) as well as Malta’s sister island Gozo and the fascinating historical and archaeological sites.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Malta!
16 – 21 September 2008