



**ICSS2010**  
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**2<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**ICSS 2010**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE**

**SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME  
JUNE 23rd-25th 2010**

"Don't wait, it's time to act" this is the message launched by Elinor Ostrom, the 2009 Nobel Memorial Prize Winner in Economic Sciences, at the second edition of the ICSS held at Sapienza University of Rome. "Each single individual, with their shopping habits, can do a lot. Buying with an eye to the future, paying attention to saving, being aware of the commons, these are elements that can help us build up a future based on sustainable development" said the professor of Economic Sciences at Indiana University also Director of the Centre for the Study of Diversity at Arizona State University, in the opening session of the 2010 ICSS.

**The Ministry for the Environment will cooperate to the birth of the new Sustainability Science**

The concern to collaborate and to talk with the institutions shows that the scientific community is fully aware of the importance of sharing knowledge as well as solutions, a view which was emphasized by Corrado Clini, Director General of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea; he also confirmed "the commitment to interact with the scientific community concerned with the new Sustainability Science for the implementation of the methodology necessary to carry out the various internationally promoted interdisciplinary actions."

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### **For the Nobel Prize Winner Ms Ostrom real success is achieved by correcting past mistakes**

An open exchange of views from seemingly distant tables at a time of compelling global challenges, able to make people aware of sustainable development and get them to act accordingly. "Well, we don't have to get discouraged by failure", this is the advice from Ms Ostrom, who reminded us that real success is achieved by correcting past mistakes, therefore, along with the dialogue among the different communities, there must be a long-term vision based on joined actions backed by daily efforts. "We have been exploiting the eco-system and draining its resources for too long", echoed Paolo Pastore from the Ministry for the Youth, "at the moment our effort is to be able to convert the present approach into an alternative one envisaging a new model of development; that entails great responsibility towards the new generations; actually only by promoting new cultural views we'll manage to get them aware of that."

### **FAO: the exploitation of resources is unsustainable**

Parviz Koochafkan, Director of FAO's Rural Development Division, talked about the issue of awareness for nearly half an hour, offering an overview of our planet, where there live about 9 billion individuals, 1.1 billion of them, mainly concentrated in the sub-Saharan areas, Central America and South-East Asia, with problems deriving from lack of food. He compares the level of weekly food expenditure for a family in Ciad (1.23 \$) with the one of an ordinary Australian household (340\$), also highlighting what occurs in a family in North Carolina (340\$), in India (40\$) or in Ecuador (31\$).

### **How to optimize production without affecting the environment?**

However, a serious problem is represented by the supply system, which, in developed countries, is compulsorily based on GDO, forcing anyone who has to eat to buy packaged food, thus producing waste and rubbish that draw on the sustainability system with an unwelcome economic impact. Developing countries, instead, can turn straight to the sources of production of food but they lack resources. On the one hand, therefore, more production is necessary, on the other less environmental impact is required, anyway, in both cases economic and environmental elements have to be properly tackled.

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The 2002 FAO mission with the GIAHS project (Global Important Agricultural heritage System), which enables to manage the agricultural heritage, adopting a combination of methods based on the balance of the local eco-system, envisages, though, the optimization of the various objectives. The project has enabled Perù, Tanzania, Kenya, Morocco, and the Philippines to develop sustainable farming, achieving a very high level of efficiency compatible with the territory, as far as flora and fauna are concerned.

### **Fundamental to re-establish the natural fertility of the soil**

“The demands from the farming sector are very complex”, says Miguel Altieri from Berkeley University in California, “new approaches have to be aware of business as unusual systems”. Therefore, to set them properly, local eco-system must be taken into account, reintroducing, wherever it is possible, the method of the diversification of crops, the use of natural nutritional elements in order to make the soil restore its fertility and restore a dynamic balance with the environment.

### **Chairman Vincenzo Naso and ICSS 2010 goals**

The first day of the 2010 ICSS was thus devoted to give a controversial picture of the planet, where the integration between human systems and environmental ones must be based on collective shared efforts. Introducing the three topical sessions devoted to the new Science of Sustainability, Prof. Naso, ICSS 2010 chairman, pointed out that “inequalities, the depletion of environmental resources and the worsening of individual welfare show the contradictions between global economic growth and the real life conditions of people.” And, considering the future environmental effects deriving from the latest BP oil rig disaster occurred in the Gulf of Mexico, prof. Naso went on saying that “this conference wants to build up the pillars for a new methodology of sustainability, involving multidisciplinary sectors of the academic world, with the final target to build up right now the welfare for the next generations.” In order to achieve this objective, the Director of CIRPS (Interuniversity Research Centre on Sustainable Development - Sapienza University of Rome) emphasized how important it is to widen the network of research centres. Now we look forward to the next six working sessions and the two panels, made up of representatives of industry and institutions, involving 60 speakers and 250 participants altogether, to see whether it is possible to come

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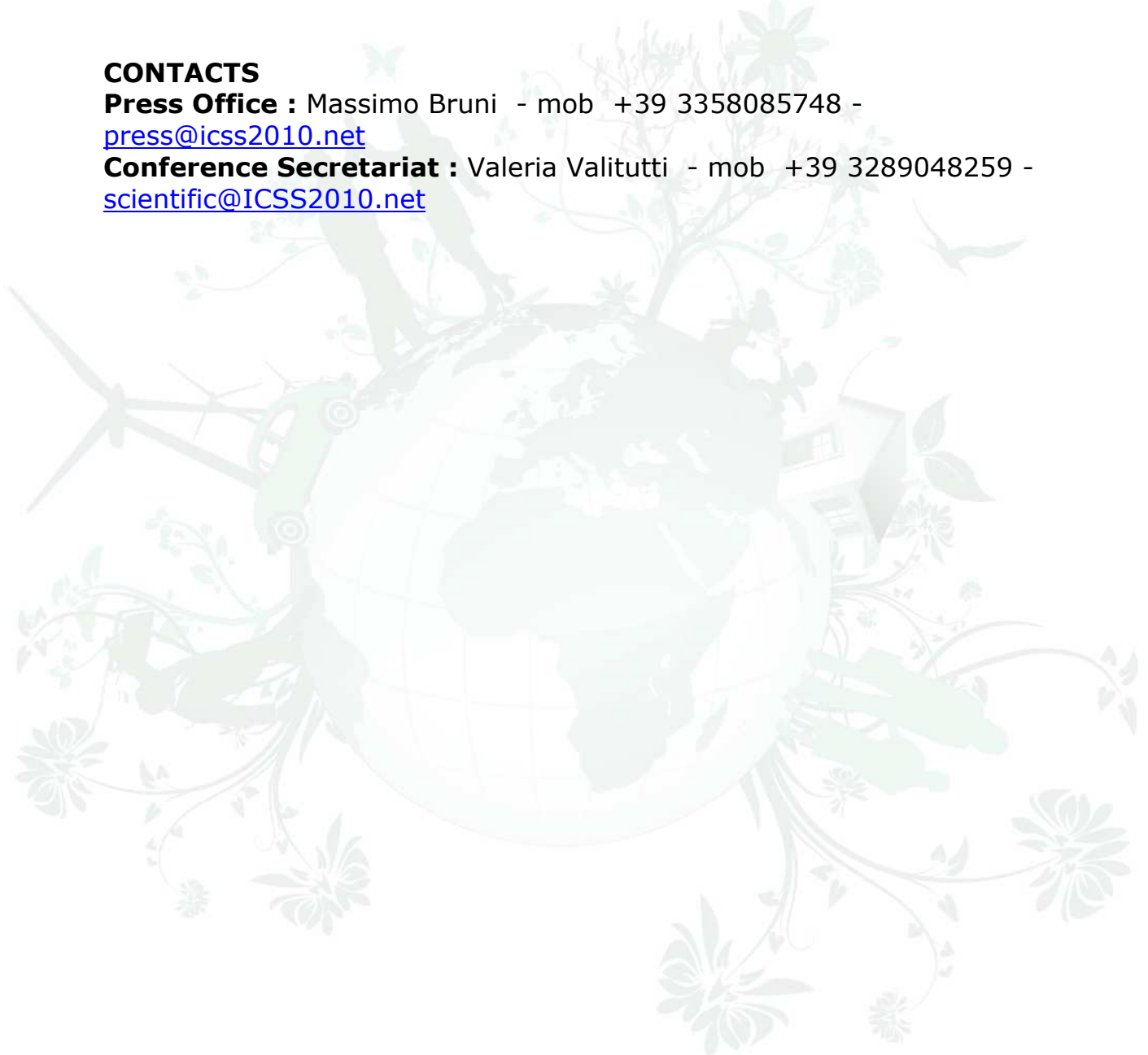
to shared views on the processes necessary to build up the new Science of Sustainability.

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