

6th World Archaeological Congress (WAC)

Event: 6th World Archaeological Congress 2008

Date: 29th June - 4th July 2008

Attendees: 1838 delegates from 79 countries | 28 exhibition stands | 210 posters

Venue: [University College Dublin, UCD](#)

Managed by: [Conference Partners](#)

Contact: Elva Hickey – Director of Conferences

E-mail : elva@conferencepartners.ie

Website : www.conferencepartners.ie / www.ucd.ie/wac-6

Background:

World Archaeological Congress WAC

The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) is the only fully international representative organisation of practicing archaeologists. Founded in 1986, WAC encourages open dialogue among all people genuinely concerned and interested in preceding times and traditions of old. Amongst these people are scholars from under-represented parts of the world, people belonging to the First Nations and descendent communities whose pasts are unveiled by archaeologists. One of WAC's primary functions is to hold an international congress every four to five years to offer discussion of new archaeological research as well as archaeological policy, practice and politics. Previous congresses were held in the United States, South Africa, India, Venezuela and England. Ireland had the very great honour of hosting the SIXTH WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS, which was held in UCD, Dublin in 2008.

The Brief

To organise a successful congress that would exceed participants' expectations whilst working within budget constraints. The budget had to ensure that 250 participants were provided with complimentary registration fees and accommodation as well subsidised travel. It was important to WAC that the registration fees remained low encouraging as many participants as possible to attend the congress. The ethos of WAC is to use renewable and recyclable products and of great importance was that the chosen PCO operated a green policy that was sustainable.

The Result

Following an extensive procurement process, Conference Partners were chosen as the PCO for the 6th World Archaeological Congress (WAC). This was largely to their extensive experience in organising large national and international conferences, their sustained ability to work to budget ensuring their clients never lose money on a conference and their continued and ongoing commitment to organising and sourcing sustainable conference materials.

Conference Partners and the local organising committee worked closely together to build a varied and engaging thematic programme complimented by a variety of social events. This afforded the participants an opportunity to savour the rich Irish culture, enjoy Dublin's lively social life and perhaps most significantly sample Ireland's remarkable archaeological heritage.

An intricate and detailed promotional plan ensured that attendance numbers grew from an expected 1,000 delegates to an actual of 1,838 delegates. This was due to extensive pre congress marketing, an exciting thematic programme and a customised registration system that made the delegate experience from the very beginning a positive and an affirming one.

The Event

University College Dublin was the chosen host venue. The college facilities are excellent and flexible in their nature and as such it enabled the plenary session and 18 parallel sessions to take place with ease and clarity throughout the week.

The team at Conference Partners along with the local organising committee handled the entire administration and logistical aspects of the congress. This enabled the LOC and scientific committee to concentrate on the composition and scientific content of the congress. This was reflected in the quality of the programme, a programme which saw over 216 parallel sessions and 5 plenary sessions take place and which involved key note speakers from around the world.

The social programme was an integral part of the WAC congress and involved a variety of events. These events took place over the course of the week throughout many venues across Dublin. This gave the participants the opportunity to see many of Dublin's historical venues and to meet in a relaxed environment whereby the delegates could network and reacquaint with old friends. The social programme included a welcome reception in UCD, a state reception in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham and a congress dinner in O'Reilly Hall UCD.

One of the most unique aspects to the WAC congress was the WAC Fringe. This ran parallel to the congress. It constituted a series of events and demonstrations designed by the Umha Aois, which recreated the techniques and artefacts from the Bronze Age. Throughout the week a series of events took place including theatre performances, reflective representations, Bronze Age sword displays and interactive demonstrations on the manufacturing process of Bronze Age clothing.

To sample some of Ireland's archaeological sites the participants had the opportunity to partake in mid-congress tours. Five different tours were organised which included Bru na Boinne – the Boyne Valley, Kilkenny – the fair city, Tara and Navan – royal landscapes, the Midlands – presenting the past and finally Dublin – from the Norse foundation to the Georgian capital. As part of each tour there was an evening reception to be enjoyed.

The two post congress tours that were organised gave participants further opportunities to "dig deeper" into the historical delights of Ireland. These tours lasted three days and transported delegates to the landscapes of Northern Ireland and the monumental Munster county.

A detailed and well planned accompanying persons' programme was instated allowing this important representation of the congress an opportunity to discover some of Dublin's tourist attractions with a mid-congress tour affording them a more in-depth discovery of Ireland.

Conference Partners Ltd.

Email info@conferencepartners.ie

Web www.conferencepartners.ie

Tel +353 1 296 86 88

Fax +353 1 296 86 78

Services Offered by Conference Partners:

- Online registration
- Financial management of the congress budget
- Logo and brand design
- Print and design of all materials
- Display materials
- Conference materials
- Website design and maintainance
- Publicity and promotion
- Venue management
- Onsite staffing
- Set design and stage management
- Audio-visual
- Accommodation booking
- Transport
- Social Programme and entertainment
- Mid congress tours and post congress tours
- Visa application
- Exhibition management
- Sponsorship and funding
- Poster management



Conference Partners Ltd.

Email info@conferencepartners.ie

Web www.conferencepartners.ie

Tel +353 1 296 86 88

Fax +353 1 296 86 78



Conference Partners Ltd.

Email info@conferencepartners.ie

Web www.conferencepartners.ie

Tel +353 1 296 86 88

Fax +353 1 296 86 78

