



ASTROBIOLOGY

2017 - COYHAIQUE - CHILE

Conference in Coyhaique:

Astrobiology 2017: From southern Chile to the Universe

From November 26th to December 1st, experts in Astrobiology will gather in our country to present and discuss their research. For the first time, the region will be headquarters to an international event uniting multidisciplinary experts on the subject.

Are we alone in the Universe? Are there other planets we could inhabit? How did the Earth and the other planets in the Solar System form? For years, these questions, with a huge public impact, have been a recurring subject of discussion and have even been taken to the literature and movies. However, little is known about the researchers dedicated to resolving it.

Every three years, Commission F3 of the International Astronomy Union (IAU) to organize the International Astrobiology Conference, a unique event that brings together researchers and students from different disciplines such as biology, chemistry, geology, astronomy and sociology, in order to discuss about the latest results that allow us to improve our understanding of life in the Universe.

After rotating through Asia, Europe and North America, the selected destination for this year was the south of Chile, specifically in the city of Coyhaique. The event will be held from November 26th to the 1st of December at the Convention Center of the Patagonia Dreams Hotel, where the participation of over 300 scientists, researchers, professionals, academics and students are expected.

This will be the first time that this event is held in South America, in an unprecedented milestone for the region, especially in the Aysén zone of Chile. "It is a fantastic opportunity for pushing the development of this discipline in our country", claims Dr. Patricio Rojo, academic of the University of Chile and member of the F3 Commission of the IAU and Chairman of the Conference.

Moreover, this scientist adds that "this discipline should be of even higher relevance for us, considering all the advantages of our geography. Chile possesses a great variety of extreme environments from dry

and deserted to thermal sources and glaciers. These environments are also abundant close to Coyhaique”, he explains.

Invited Speakers

Confirmed participants include, among others, directors of research centers and worldly prestigious international Universities, such as Dr. Kathrin Altwegg for the University of Bern, Switzerland; Dr. Arnaud Belloche for the Max Planck Institute, Germany; Chris Impey, researcher from the University of Arizona and author of science divulgation books. And F3 Commission members include Nader Haghhighipour from the Institute of Astronomy and the Institute of Astrobiology of NASA at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Hervé Cottin from the University Paris Est Créteil (UPEC), France; Stephen Kane from San Francisco State University, USA; Gustavo Porto de Mello from the Valongo Observatory at Río de Janeiro.

Undoubtedly, Astrobiology 2017 will be an essential event for all researchers the wish to establish collaborations in order to widen their study areas and also a great opportunity for validation of Chile and the Aysén Region as an international destination for conferences, conventions and meetings of this magnitude.

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<http://astrobiology2017.org/>