

Circular Letter # 4

**International Terraced Landscapes Alliance (Membership, Peru, Slovenia, Italy, Spain)**

August 12, 2011

This circular letter has a very specific purpose: try to involve more terraced landscape lovers into the alliance. Therefore we open the membership to all persons (researchers, promoters and practitioners - farmers) who are interested to form part of the international terraced landscape alliance (ITLA). ITLA is an informal network of the individual participants to the First Terraced Landscapes Conference, which was organised by the Prefectural Government of Honghe (Red River) Prefecture in Yunnan, China in November 2010. Please send in your registration form.

The participants formed ITLA and signed the Honghe Declaration, which is attached to this circular letter as a separate document. See also the ITLA section on the ALPTER website: [www.alpter.net](http://www.alpter.net), which is administered by Luca Lodatti in Venice, Italy.

The members of the ITLA commit to several activities from now on:

- develop further the inventory of terraced landscapes in their countries
- identify experienced farmers (male and female) specialised in the construction, maintenance and protection of terraced landscapes and those who are the stewards of the indigenous - local knowledge of the biodiversity of the terraces
- undertake case studies on specific areas with terraces involving the perspective and the vision of the local farmers about the terraced landscapes and cultures
- if possible, take part in the preparations and the realisation of the World Conference on Terraced Landscapes and Cultures in October 2013 in the Colca Valley of Peru.

More ideas were mentioned during the first session of the alliance, like

- promote exchange between members and country groups
- promote pilot areas for the protection and promotion of terraces
- establish a clearing house and a virtual resource center for terraced landscapes

The members established the alliance until the next Conference in Peru as a free membership of individuals, who engage in their respective countries and regions to develop country sections according to the local conditions.



## **Second Conference on Terraced Landscapes in Peru**

In the meantime since November 2010 the organising team for the next World Conference 2013 in Peru has met several times in Lima Peru and in May we have done the following progress:

### *Establishment of the Organising Team:*

John Earls and Ana Sabogal (Catholic University), Hilda Araujo (CITPA), Mourik Bueno de Mesquita (Centro Bartolomé de las Casas - Cusco), Efraín Malpartida (Agrarian University La Molina), Carlos Loret de Mola and Douglas Walsh (Cusichaca Andes), Aquilino Mejía (Desco-Sur - Arequipa), Maruja Salas and Timmi Tillmann (representing ITLA)

Formation of the Support Group under the leadership of Carmen Felipe Morales, with Luis Masson, Braulio Latorre, Elías Mujica, Juan Torres, Ann Kendall et alii.

Local groups were proposed for case studies and we are starting the identification of local experts from peasant communities in Peru.

Pending is the constitution of the International Committee formed by representatives of the different countries affiliated to the ITLA.

### *Place and venue of the Conference:*

Chivay, the capital of the Colca Valley, which offers a diversity of hotel accommodation and meeting facilities.



### *Time:*

It is proposed to hold the Conference in October 2013, which is the time of planting in the Colca Valley and the weather is pleasant.

### ***Seven Topics:***

1. Water and Climate Change
2. Agro-biodiversity
3. Food Sovereignty and Organic Agriculture
4. Social organisation of managing soils, water, labour and seeds - reconstruction of terraced landscapes
5. History and Cultures of terraced landscapes
6. Political context - laws and regulations - role of the state
7. Methods of inventory of terraced landscapes - GIS, PGIS, mapping, on site verification

### *Format of the World Conference:*

- A. Pre-Conference Excursions to Terraced Landscapes in different regions of Peru (3 - 6 days)
- B. Conference in Chivay - Working groups (3 days)
- C. Farmer expert forum - indigenous peoples dialogue (1 day)
- D. Community video screening and film festival (1 day)
- E. Clearinghouse on Terraced Landscapes Issues (1/2 day)
- F. Public Seminar (1 day) for students in Arequipa after the Conference

### *Next meeting of the Organising Committee*

The Peruvian group will meet early October 2011 in Lima to plan and organise a first National Workshop on Terraced Landscapes in Peru in January 2012 and to design the pre-announcement of the World Conference. The aim of the first National workshop is to analyse the state of the art of the terraced landscapes in Peru and establish a road map for Peru with regard to:

- I. Inventory of Terraced Landscapes
- II. Development of local case studies in different regions of Peru and involvement of student groups of different disciplines of different universities from Peru
- III. Identification of farmer experts for Terraced Landscapes and Agrobiodiversity
- IV. Complement the already existing Bibliography on Terraced Landscapes
- V. Publish pending articles from previous Terraced Landscapes Seminars (2007) in Peru
- VI. Organise the website and blog for the Next World Conference on Terraced Landscapes (Mourik Bueno de Mesquita and Carlos Steinmetz)

This first National Workshop will develop a work plan for the Conference and also for the organisation of the local workshops in different regions of Peru.

(Please register for the International Alliance for Terraced Landscapes - ITLA - to be able to receive information about the activities of its members and be involved in the preparations of the World Conference on Terraced Landscapes which ITLA is organising in autumn 2013 in the Colca Valley in Peru, South America. This registration is required also for the members who signed the declaration and work plan in Nov 2010 in Mengzi, but is especially an invitation to all terraced landscape lovers from all mountain regions in this world. This does not involve any financial commitment, but helps us to increase the number of people involved in the preparations of the next World Conference in Peru and to identify potential active members to develop the inventory and case studies in their respective countries or study region)

### **Meeting of the Italian section of the International Terraced Landscapes Alliance**

On June 20th a group of associations gathered spontaneously in Arnasco in Liguria to establish an Italian Section of the International Alliance of terraced landscapes, created from the first World Conference held in China in 2010. The idea is to bring together the many Italian researchers and activists, which keep alive the cultivations on terraces, addressing farmers as well as researchers and institutions.

#### **SUMMARY**

Meeting for the International Terraced Landscapes Alliance in Arnasco, June 20<sup>th</sup> 2011

#### **Participants**

With the aim of setting up the Italian section of the World Alliance for terraced landscapes gathered in Arnasco (SV) at the venue of the Olive oil Cooperative, the representatives of:

- ❖ the cooperative itself, with the president Luciano Galicia
- ❖ Consortium of the Quarantina, with president Massimo Angelini
- ❖ Veneto Region, Department of Planning, with the director Franco Alberti
- ❖ Department of Geography of the University of Padua, with Dr. Luca Lodatti
- ❖ the Association Dear Ancient Mountain Land of Verona, with the Acting President Plinio Pancirolli

Also took part in the meeting, as interested persons and supporters of the initiative:

- ❖ the Mayor of Arnasco
- ❖ the Councillor for Agriculture of the Liguria Region

- ❖ the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Province of Savona
- ❖ citizens of Arnasco, members of the Cooperative, teachers and experts of dry-stone building

and the representatives of the World Alliance for terraced landscapes:

- Timmi Tillmann and Maruja Salas

### Agenda

After the presentation of the participants and some words of support expressed by the Regional Alliance, Donatella Murtas - coordinator of the Consortium and the Cooperative Alliance - read the articles 2 and 3 of the Statute of form associations (Purpose and Activities), asking for comments and advice. All the attendance appreciated and shared what was written, highlighting:

- ❖ the difficulty to put into practice what is stated;
- ❖ the urgency of immediate and concrete practical initiatives.

It should be noted in particular the need to give priority to:

- ❖ starting a legally recognized school that trains and certifies the dry-stone builders;
- ❖ creating a website that plays a role of 'contact point' between the different Italian groups: [www.paesaggiterrazzati.it](http://www.paesaggiterrazzati.it)
- ❖ defining specific rules and laws (regional) highlighting the importance of terraced systems, introducing agility in working (eg. rebuild the walls of the traditional techniques by owners without special permits)
- ❖ preparing eligible projects to be submitted to the Regional Governments and the European Community;



It is also proposed:

- ❖ Italy as candidate for hosting the next World Conference in 2016.
- ❖ Donatella Murtas as the coordinator of the Italian Section of the Alliance.

Timmi Tillmann and Maruja Salas illustrated the initiatives occurring in other countries, especially the activities of the Peruvian Section with some decisions already taken on the world conference that will take place in Peru in October 2013.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce expressed its support and declared its willingness to realize operational projects aimed at developing the area.

At the meeting conclusion, the Constitutive Act of the Constituent Assembly and the Proceedings are signed by Massimo Angelini (Quarantine Consortium) and Luciano Galicia (Olive oil Cooperative ) as Members. The others present will have the option within 60 days to join as founding members or ordinary or supporting members. The Dear Ancient Land Association joins as a supporting member.

News about the meeting were given by the journalist Strizioli Romano, on newspapers and magazines online, and by Teresa Tacchella on television in TG3 Liguria.

July 11th 2011, Donatella Murtas

INFO: [do.murtas@gmail.com](mailto:do.murtas@gmail.com)



### **Val di Cembra, Trentino, Italy**

Maruja Salas and myself, we visited Val di Cembra and its terraces covered with vineyards in June 2011.

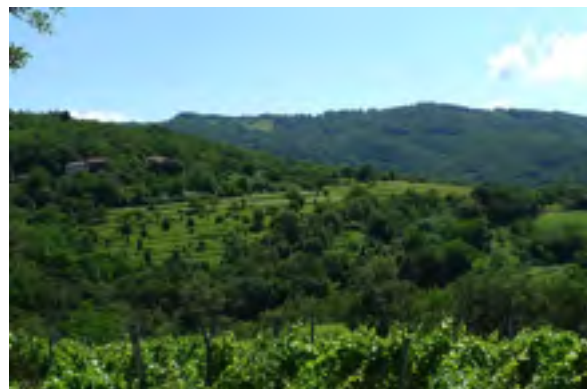
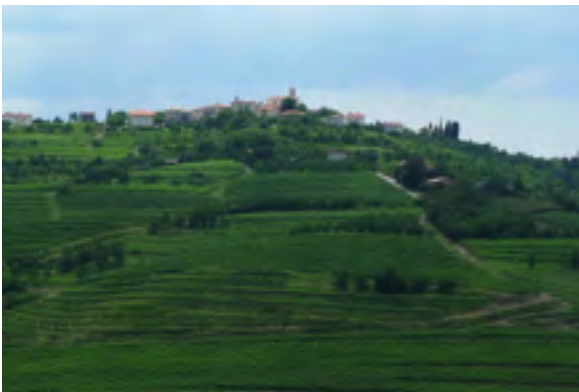
Damiano Zanotelli emphasized the importance of the terraced landscapes for the local people and its culture, and he will join the Italian Section of ITLA once it has been established on behalf of the Organisation in charge of developing the whole Valley.

## News from Slovenia

Dear friends and colleagues of the International Alliance for Terraced Landscapes (ITLA), here are some informations about the activities of ITLA Slovenia.

We are very happy to announce that we were approved by the Slovenian Research Agency a research project from 2011 to 2014 (3 years) to complete the inventory of the terraced landscapes in Slovenia. It is a joint activity between the Geographical institute Anton Melik (Drago Kladnik as project leader) and Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana (Lu\_ka A\_man Momirski as project leader).

Between June 9th and 13th Maruja Salas and Timmi Tillmann arrived to the Mediterranean part of the Slovene terraced landscapes. We have visited modern viticulture terraced in the southern Gori\_ka Brda, where mechanized farming was introduced in the last 60 years. The terraces are renovated and rebuilt and are thus in a good shape in comparison to terraces in other areas, although new methods of terrace construction alter the landscape and make the landscape appear very geometrical (see attached picture 11\_lower goriska brda).



The traditional viticultural, fruit-growing and agricultural (or gardening) terraces in flysch hills have mostly been abandoned and in many places are falling into decay (see 12\_upper goriska brda). In some places, especially in Brkini (the Brkini Hills), grass has replaced fields (see 13-brkini area). However, the abandonment of agricultural terraces is not a new phenomenon because early studies from 1954 to 1965 reported the extensive abandonment of cultivated terraces in Kopraska Brda (and Gori\_ka Brda). Here dry stone terraces could be found (see 14\_strunjan).



In Gori\_ka brda we attended a cherry festival, which proved that the awareness of terraced landscape is not very present in the farmers culture. On the contrary, the younger generations celebrating the holiday showed that the knowledge about the importance of the terraced landscape is increasing.



During the visit we had the opportunity to speak with Branimir Radikon, the director of the Agricultural institute of Nova Gorica (also involved in ALPTER project) about the troubles and future vision of the development of terraced landscapes and agricultural development and to invite him to take part at the future Conference in Peru.

ITLA Slovenia intends to (and is working on):

- organise a society of people, who support research and promotion of terraced landscape in Slovenia;
- organise a web site of this society to publish the activities of ITLA Slovenia;
- ask the Ministry of Science of Slovenia to open a bilateral cooperation between Peru and Slovenia (which is prepared but its signing has been postponed for unknown reasons);
- follow international calls for research and cooperation between different countries in order to do proceed with research, execution or promotion of terraced landscapes and inform ITLA international members for possible cooperation.

Prof. Dr. Lu\_ka A\_man Momirski  
Faculty of Architecture  
University of Ljubljana  
Zoisova 12  
1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenia  
Tel.: +386 41 62 33 02  
E-mail: [lucija.azman@fa.uni-lj.si](mailto:lucija.azman@fa.uni-lj.si)

## News from Spain

I am working at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), focusing my activity on terraced landscapes (which are largely present in Spain, and archaeologically documented since the second millennium before the present time). I am interested to organise the Spanish Section.

Contact Sabina Asins Velis [Sabina.Asins@uv.es](mailto:Sabina.Asins@uv.es) for further information about the Spanish Section.

