

INVITATION TO ATTEND

Distinguished and Dear Colleagues and Friends:

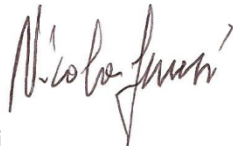
We are proud to announce that we are organizing the International Conference **"Biochars, Composts and Digestates. Production, Characterization, Regulation, Marketing, Uses and Environmental Impact"** (BCD 2013), which will be held **next 17-20 October 2013 in Bari, Italy.**

The Conference aims to encompass several aspects and offer ample opportunity to explore many current and relevant issues of Biochar, Compost and Digestate Sciences and Applications by providing an interactive forum for exchange of ideas and joint discussion on recent scientific and practical results and current issues related to technological processes, analysis and characterization, sustainable uses and certification, regulation and marketing aspects. This by bringing together and establishing durable and close relationships among established and younger scientists and researchers, specialists, technical and professional operators, industry and administrative representatives, policy makers and regulators operating in the field of waste, soil and water sciences, biochar, compost and digestate sciences and applications, agriculture and environmental sciences and ecotoxicology.

We are very pleased and honored to invite you to share this Event and contribute to its success by contributing your ideas, special session proposals, and any other comments you believe useful and constructive, by the end of February 2013.

This important scientific and social Event will be hosted in Bari, a city located on the sunny and attractive southern Adriatic coast, and surrounded by a beautiful countryside very rich in cultural and artistic heritage and historical monuments.

I am confident that BCD 2013 will be a very attractive, informative and memorable Event, and look forward to welcoming and meeting you in Bari next October 2013 for a unique, pleasant and unforgettable experience in a highly stimulating environment.



Nicola Senesi
President of BCD 2013 Conference

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Nicola Senesi (President), Teodoro Miano, Gennaro Brunetti, Claudio Coccozza, Valeria D'Orazio, Elisabetta Loffredo, M. Rosaria Provenzano, Donato Mondelli (Univ. of Bari), Giorgio S. Senesi (CNR-IMIP-Bari), Claudio Zaccone (Univ. of Foggia), Marcello Mastrorilli (CRA, Bari).

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

It will include renowned world scientists experts in the topics of the Conference. In course of completion, it will be available in the 2nd Circular.

RATIONALE (AND OBJECTIVES)

During the recent International Congress EUROSIL2012, Bari, Italy, 2-6 July 2012, a number of Symposia and Workshop were separately/concurrently held on the subjects of this Conference, which attracted several attendants and raised lively discussions and debates. No doubt, the theme is of universal interest, topical and up-to-date, but apparently there is not a unique solution for the best treatment of biowastes/biosolids, but different options, including biocharring, composting and digestion processes, can work better in one case/condition or in another one. As well, the uses of the products of the above treatments, that are biochars, composts and digestates, may be various and different. However, recent and next-future Conferences are apparently facing these subjects in a fractionated, specialized, and not-holistic approach. Thus, we have the clear feeling of the urgent need of an comprehensive, open-mind and confronting debate among scientists, researchers, professionals, operators and stakeholders interested and involved in these subjects to convene in a unique Conference in order to share different experiences, ideas and projects.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The Conference will focus on and develop the various aspects of scientific and applied Biochar, Compost and Digestate Science and Technology, including laboratory and field approaches and social, economical, marketing and regulatory implications in relation to the present and future needs and emergencies of a sustainable environment. Special emphasis will be devoted to the fundamental role of agriculture as a central and instrumental user, and soil as an instrumental but limited resource for a correct, sustainable and harmonized application.

The Scientific Programme of the Conference will be structured in four general topics focusing on the variety and complexity of Biochar, Compost and Digestate disciplines. Further, a number of special parallel sessions will enrich the Conference programme on the basis of proposals received from scientists, professionals, operators, and decision makers involved in these disciplines. This approach will strongly contribute to bringing in new and updated ideas, to develop strategic topics and actual and modern issues that hold promise and need further investigation.

PLENARY SESSIONS - MAIN SUBJECTS

The General Theme of the Conference is: "Biochars, Composts, and Digestates. Production, Characterization, Regulation, Marketing, Uses and Environmental Impact".

This overarching theme will be discussed holistically in four plenary sessions dealing with the following general topics:

1. Production technologies of biochars, composts and digestates by conversion of solid and fluid biowastes/biosolids
2. Analysis and characterization of biowastes, biochars, composts and digestates
3. Sustainable uses, applications and environmental impact of biochars, composts and digestates
4. Certification, regulation and marketing of biochars, composts and digestates

All of the above topics will be addressed in four, half-day plenary sessions in an interdisciplinary manner, including both scientific and applicative aspects.

Each Plenary Session will include at least one invited speaker and an appropriate number of voluntary oral presentations, whereas an unlimited number of contributions will be considered for poster presentation.

SPECIFIC SESSIONS - CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Any interested distinguished colleague is cordially invited and encouraged to submit proposal(s) for organizing and convening a special session on a particular topic of interest to the Conference. Proposals should be submitted **by 28 February 2013 by writing to the Conference President** (e-mail: nicola.senesi@uniba.it).

Proposals must include the names and affiliations of Convener(s), and title, main scientific/technical objectives, and a brief description of the topic proposed.

All proposals received will be duly considered, reviewed and evaluated. Conveners will be informed of the acceptance by the end of March 2013.

Conveners will be invited to promoting their session in all appropriate ways, and by inviting potential contributors to submit abstracts.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Any interested person is cordially invited to submit abstract(s) to the various scientific sessions of the Conference.

An informative sheet and a specific window "Abstract Submission" is available on the Congress website www.bcd2013.eu which allows the participants to submit the abstract(s) and indicate the preferred/appropriate session and the preference for an oral or poster presentation.

The Abstract Call is open and the deadline for submission is strictly fixed on 31 March 2013.

Abstract Submission and Format

English is the official Conference and Abstract language. **Abstract(s) submission is possible only on-line using the format posted together with relevant instructions on the window "Abstract Submission" on the Congress website www.bcd2013.eu.** If you have problems with the on-line submission, please e-mail your Abstract as an attachment file to the Organizing Secretariat info@bcd2013.eu.

Your Abstract will be evaluated duly for allocation as oral or poster presentation. The time available for oral presentations is limited, thus, if you submit an Abstract for oral presentation and it is refused as such, it will be moved to the poster session. However, before final acceptance as a poster, your confirmation will be requested.

Authors will be notified of the acceptance and form of presentation (oral or poster) of submitted Abstracts by 30 April 2013.

At least one Author (the presenting Author) will be requested to register with payment of the registration fee by 30 June 2013, in order to keep the Abstract/presentation in the final Conference programme.

Oral and Poster Presentations

Voluntary oral and poster presentations will be allocated in the appropriate oral and poster sessions.

Speakers will be informed of the day and time of their oral presentation, whereas posters should be placed in the assigned board in the early morning of the assigned day and removed in the evening of the same day.

Oral and poster contributions will be regarded as scientifically equivalent.

All presentations (oral and posters) must be in English.

Abstracts on Flash Drive

All accepted and presented Abstracts will be included in a flash drive that will be distributed to all registered attendants together with the congress kit.

GENERAL PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

	THU 17	FRI 18	SAT 19	SUN 20
8.00 – 8.30		<i>Poster set up</i>	<i>Poster set up</i>	
8.30 – 10.00		Plenary Session 2	Plenary Session 3	Plenary Session 4
10.00 – 10.30		<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10.30 – 12.00		Plenary Session 2	Plenary Session 3	Plenary Session 4
12.00 – 13.30	Registration opens <i>@ 12.00</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
13.30 – 15.00	Opening Ceremony <i>@ 14.00</i>	Poster visit	Poster visit	Special parallel Sessions
15.00 – 16.30	Plenary Session 1	Special parallel Sessions	Special parallel Sessions	Special parallel Sessions
16.30 – 17.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	Concluding Remarks
17.00 – 18.30	Plenary Session 1	Special parallel Sessions	Special parallel Sessions	
18.30 – 20.00	<i>Welcome reception (19.00-21.00)</i>	Poster visit	Poster visit	
		<i>Poster removal</i>	<i>Poster removal</i>	

REGISTRATION FEES (in Euro)

REGISTRATION FEE	EARLY	REGULAR	LATE
	by 31 May 2013	by 31 JULY 2013	after 31 JULY 2013 and on-site
Regular Attendants	€ 380,00	€ 450,00	€ 520,00
Certified Students*	€ 250,00	€ 290,00	€ 330,00
Accompanying persons	€ 100,00	€ 120,00	€ 150,00

All fees are 21% VAT included.

*Proof of student status must be provided by a relevant certificate signed by the tutor and must be sent by fax (+39- 0805245166) or email (info@bcd2013.eu) soon after the registration, otherwise the form cannot be accepted.

Please register on-line at www.bcd2013.eu.

The registration fee includes:

Attendants/Students: Welcome Cocktail at the venue on Thursday 17 October, access to opening and closing ceremonies, all scientific sessions, exhibition and poster areas and coffee breaks, name badge, congress kit, scientific programme, USB flash drive of Abstracts, certificate of attendance, and insurance coverage at the congress site only.

Accompanying persons: Welcome Cocktail at the venue on Thursday 17 October, name badge, map of the city of Bari, guided tour in the Old City of Bari on Friday 18 October with entrance ticket, and insurance coverage at the congress site and during guided tour only.

The fee does not include anything not specifically mentioned above under the heading "the registration fee includes".

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Payments can be made by **Credit Card** (Visa, MasterCard, Cartasì, Diners Club) only.

In case of problems to use credit card, payment can be accepted also by Bank Transfer after contacting info@bcd2013.eu for needed details.

Note: A receipt of payment will be issued to all registered participants. If a pro-forma invoice is needed, please submit an e-mail request to: info@bcd2013.eu.

CONFIRMATION

The secretariat will issue you a confirmation letter of all booked services, only upon receipt of payments. Invoices will be handled by email.

A participant who has not an email address is invited to contact the secretariat for further information.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

Cancellations must be sent in writing only by FAX to Selecto Srl. Any refund will depend on the date of reception of the cancellation (the date reported on the fax will be proof), and on the following conditions:

Regular and Student attendants and Accompanying persons

By 15 August 2013: the refund will be 70% of the fee.

By 15 September 2013: the refund will be 30% of the fee.

After 15 September 2013: no refund of the fee.

Note: All refunds will be processed by Selecto Srl after the congress.

CHANGES AND/OR AMENDMENTS

Selecto Srl reserves the right to make any changes for organizational or logistics reasons, which will be promptly notified by e-mail.

2nd CIRCULAR

The 2nd Circular will be issued and available on the Conference website by the end of May 2013

CONFERENCE DATES AND VENUE

17-20 October 2013

Hotel Congress Center in downtown, Bari, Italy

HOW TO REACH THE CONFERENCE VENUE

By Plane

Bari is connected to Europe and the entire World through a large number of direct national and international flights and connections via Rome and Milan airports.

Bari-Palese "Karol Wojtyla" international airport is about 12 km from Bari. Taxi cab transportation is available from the airport and a blue coloured shuttle bus continuously connects the airport with the Main Railway Station at Piazza Aldo Moro, downtown Bari. www.pugliaairports.it

By Train

The Main Railway Station of Bari is connected by long distance express trains to Rome, Milan, Napoli, Brindisi, Lecce and Taranto. www.trenitalia.it

By Car

Bari is connected to all Italian cities by highway A14 and several other national roads.

For further information on transportation please visit the congress website www.bcd2013.eu

ACCOMMODATION

Rooms at a favorable price will be reserved at the Conference Hotel venue and several other city hotels of various categories and prices. The 2nd circular will include all detailed information on hotel reservation.

VISA

No visa is required for citizens of the European Union and several other world Countries. However, Visa may be required for some countries. Please check with the Italian Consulate in your country and provide yourself for your Visa issue. We suggest to request in due time (at least three months before the Conference dates) any needed supporting invitation letter in order to avoid problems of late Visa issue.

EXHIBITION AREA/EXHIBITORS/SPONSORS

An Exhibition Area will be available at the Conference Venue for business operators to present their products and promote their business. The Exhibition Area will be open to visit by participants. All information for Exhibitors and Sponsors can be found at www.bcd2013.eu. Sponsors and exhibitors must contact the organizing secretariat SELECTO (see address, phone, fax and e-mail below).

DEADLINES

28 February, 2013: Submission of specific session proposals

31 March, 2013: Submission of Abstracts

30 April 2013: Notice to Authors on the acceptance and form of presentation

Early May 2013: 2nd Circular available on the website

31 May 2013: Deadline for payment of early registration fee

31 July 2013: Deadline for payment of regular registration fee

17-20 October 2013: Conference, late and on-site registration

THE CITY HOSTING THE CONFERENCE



The city of Bari is located on the sunny and warm Adriatic coast in Southeastern Italy, in the Region of Puglia of which is the regional capital. Bari counts around 400,000 inhabitants, is a very commercially active and tourist attractive city provided with a modern airport with several daily international and national flights and a port featuring daily ferry connections with Greece, Albania, Montenegro and Croatia.

The city features an old **medieval area** rich in renowned monuments, including the Romanic Basilica of San Nicola and the Cathedral of the 11th-12th century, several medieval, romanic and baroque and renaissance churches and buildings of various styles, narrow streets and small squares permeated by a suggestive atmosphere, and several small restaurants, pubs and bars.

The old city is surrounded by the active and crowded **city centre** that features long straight streets and avenues, several buildings of the 19th-20th century, including the central University building, the Ateneo, elegant shops, restaurants of all types, pubs and bars. A typical feature of Bari is the impressive boulevard along the seashore (*Lungomare*), about 2-km long, with the old small harbor still hosting small fishing boats. The Symposium will take place at a Hotel Congress Center in downtown Bari. The 2nd circular will include detailed information on the venue and the facilities available to participants.

The city centre is surrounded by the **modern and wider city** that includes the scientific Campus of the University of Bari and the Polytechnic of Bari, and several other Research Institutes.

The beaches south and north of the city are renowned for their fine white sands often surrounded by pine woods and cliffs of calcareous rock. **The province of Bari** and the region of Puglia offer a number of beautiful towns, both on the coast and on the hills, rich of culture, monuments and architectural features, and an agricultural land rich of centuries-old olive trees, vineyards and orchards.

INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Prof. Nicola Senesi, Conference President

Dipartimento di Scienze del Suolo, della Pianta e degli Alimenti (DISSPA)
University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Via G. Amendola 165/A, 70126 Bari - Italy

Tel.: +39 0805442853

Fax: +39 0805442850

e-mail: nicola.senesi@uniba.it

Prof. Teodoro Miano, Conference Vice-President

Dipartimento di Scienze del Suolo, della Pianta e degli Alimenti (DISSPA)
University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Via G. Amendola 165/A, 70126 Bari - Italy

Tel.: +39 0805442857

Fax: +39 0805442850

e-mail: teodoro.miano@uniba.it

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT

SELECTO

Eventi & Relazioni Pubbliche

Selecto Srl

Society of Quality Management System

Via Roberto da Bari, 108 - 70122 Bari - Italy

Tel. +39 0805218556 - Fax +39 0805245166

E-mail: info@selectocongressi.com

Website: www.selectocongressi.com