

Recent Activities at the University of Malta - Gozo Campus

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The Gozo Lace Day

The annual event “Gozo Lace Day” was organised for the fourteenth consecutive year on 25th April 2010 at the University of Malta – Gozo Campus. As in previous years the event included a number of exhibitions and demonstrations of Gozo lace and talks on matters related to lace-making.

Present for the event were the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, Professor Lino Briguglio, Director of the Gozo Campus, Mr Anton Tabone, former Speaker of the House of Representatives as guest speaker and Ms Consiglia Azzopardi, coordinator of the Lace Making Programme.

A large number of lace makers and friends both from Malta and Gozo attended the event. The exhibits included contemporary lace master-pieces and textile crafts. There were a number of stands one of which was mounted by the International Organisation of Needle and Bobbin Lace (OIDFA).

The Gozo Lace Day is becoming more and more popular and one can say that it has now established itself in the gozitan cultural calendar.

End of Semester Examinations

During the month of June 54 end-of-semester examinations were held at the Gozo Campus. The major part of these examinations are related to the courses being held at the Gozo Campus. Some examinations, however, are related to courses being held at the Msida Campus. The Gozitan students following such courses in Malta had the opportunity to sit for the exams in Gozo.

The IOI-KIDS Spot the Jellyfish

On the 4th June the International Ocean Institute - Malta Operational Centre of the University of Malta held a launching event to promote an initiative entitled ‘IOI-KIDS Spot the Jellyfish’ at the University Gozo Campus. This initiative aims to increase awareness, especially amongst younger generations, about the local diversity of jellyfish species, through a hands-on exercise involving the reporting of sightings of jellyfish around our shores and beaches. In so doing this initiative will supply useful data for local marine scientists and tourist authorities through a citizen-science approach, while also helping bathers avoid stinging jellies!



Some of the exhibits at the Gozo Lace Day



Dr Alan Deidun giving a presentation on the various species of jellyfish found in the waters around our islands.

During the event the Hon. Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo, stated that the presence of jellyfish in beaches around Malta and Gozo is a worrying phenomenon, because it not only affects the Maltese but also tourists and eventually our economy. Hon. Debono said that this initiative can be considered as another step in the effort to enhance Gozo as an eco-island.

Professor Aldo Drago, the director of the IOI-Malta Operational Centre, outlined the aims of this initiative, while Dr Alan Deidun, a biologist within the same centre, gave an interesting presentation on the various species of jellyfish found in the waters surrounding our islands. Professor Lino Briguglio, director of the University Gozo Campus delivered the introductory speech.

This initiative enjoys the support of Malta Tourism Authority (MTA), Nature Trust, EkoSkola, the BlueFlag Malta programme and the Friends of the Earth.

Photovoltaic System at the Gozo Campus

As part of the activities in connection with the generation of Green Energy, the University of Malta submitted a proposal for ERDF funding. The proposal deals with the installation of a

photovoltaic system on the roof of the University Gozo Campus. An on-site visit was carried out last year and details worked out for the area available for the installation of such a system.

It has been established that on the available roof area of the Gozo Campus, it is possible to install about 21 kWp solar panels, generating an annual 35,000 kWh of electrical energy, considering a 1650 kW generation from 1 kWp. This will also contribute an annual reduction of 31 tonnes of CO₂ emissions, considering an emission factor of 0.8782 kg CO₂/kWh. The proposed solar energy generation would correspond to around 75% of the Gozo Campus annual consumption.

The proposal also contributes to the Eco-Gozo objective of the Government and the reduction of CO₂ emissions will result in consequent environmental benefits to Gozitan society.

The proposal has been accepted for ERDF funding by the Planning and Priorities Coordination Department (PPCD) in the Office of the Prime Minister.

Joseph Calleja is Administrator of the University of Malta - Gozo Campus.