

## PRESS RELEASE



THE FESTIVAL FOR THE EARTH

### Festival for the Earth returns to Venice on December 3-4, 2018

- *Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), CMCC Foundation - Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC), Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and the Botanical Garden of Padua partnering with the Festival's 3rd edition, co-produced by MRB Art and Ca' Foscari University Venice*
- *HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and IPCC Vice-Chair Youba Sokona to give opening speech at the Festival*
- *Top climatologist Nigel Tapper to contribute his views to the Festival's 2018 edition*
- *Winning project of the Best Climate Solutions Award 2018 to be revealed at Festival's gala dinner*
- *National Geographic, Radio Monte Carlo, ANSA, and LifeGate are 2018 media partners*

Monaco, 04 October 2018 – Festival for the Earth comes back to the most famous lagoon in the world for its 2018 edition, with a wide range of conferences, workshops, artist talks and events to be held in different locations around Venice on December 3 and 4. In its third edition, however, the Festival will also expand its reach to the Botanical Garden of Padua, one of the most ancient and beautiful in the world, which will host film projections and discussions at its Auditorium.

Once again, Festival's guest speakers will come from the top of the academia and professional world (Nobel, Pulitzer and Goldman Prize Winners will join us in Venice), but also members of influential international organizations. We are honored to announce that HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Mr. **Youba Sokona**, UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Vice-Chair will give the opening speeches of the Festival, followed among others by world renowned climatologist **Nigel Tapper**, who contributed to the IPCC study that resulted in the joint award of the Nobel Prize to Al Gore and the IPCC, by Pulitzer Prize **Daniel Fagin** and by Goldman Prize **Rossano Ercolini**.

#### OUR PARTNERS

In its third year of replica, Festival for the Earth 2018 can count on the strength of new *academic and strategic partnerships thanks to which the event has grown and developed over the years.*

- **Ca' Foscari University of Venice - Italy:** host of the first edition of the Festival in Venice, the University is home to internationally renowned research centers and scholars in the field of environmental studies and climate change.
- **Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation – Monaco:** since June 2006, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation works for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development. The Prince Albert Foundation is a partner of Festival for the Earth.
- **CMCC Foundation – Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) – Italy:** CMCC is a no-profit research organization that conducts and promotes scientific and applied activities within the scope of international climate change research. The specific objective of these research studies is to provide scientifically reliable, rigorous and updated results that will help to investigate, understand and represent the interactions between the climate system, the marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and society.
- **Oceanographic Museum – Monaco:** built on the side of the mythical Rock of Monaco, the Oceanographic Museum has been watching over the oceans for over a century. Founded by the Prince Albert I, great grandfather of H.S.H. Prince Albert II, it was designed as a Palace entirely dedicated to Art

and Science. Towering 85 m. above the waves, it offers a dazzling dive in search of over 6,000 specimens and stands as a place for discussions and culture, for sharing experiences regarding the protection of the ocean, the common heritage of humankind. From its aquariums to its historical collections, the Institute offers a unique opportunity to learn to understand, love and protect the ocean. Faithful to the vision of its Founder «to gather together in a common *eclat* the two driving forces of civilization: Art and Science», the Oceanographic Museum opens its doors to contemporary art and hosts major exhibitions. The Oceanographic Museum hosted the 2017 edition of Festival for the Earth.

- **Museum of Natural History of Venice - Italy:** set up in 1923 to house the most important scientific collections of that time, the Natural History Museum of Venice is one of the 11 venues managed by the *Fondazione Musei Civici di Venezia*. Over time, this material was added to make up the present rich, varied and fragile collection that spans 700 million years, with 2 million finds, zoological, entomological and botanical collections, fossils, as well as ethnographic collections and a library with over 40 thousand volumes. The Museum is primarily a scientific research organization, recognized by the Italian Ministry of Education, University & Research. Thanks to its important scientific collections, scientific library and to the expertise of the staff, the Museum carries out systematic research in the field of biology and ecology of the Lagoon of Venice and local environment.
- **University of Padua - Italy:** through its project "UniPadova Sostenibile", a container and catalyst of initiatives for a sustainable future, the University of Padua involves the entire university community in designing, developing and implementing good practices to protect the environment and human rights, and in transferring and disseminating such practices within the university and to the outside world.
- **The Botanical Garden of the University of Padova – Italy:** it is the world's oldest university garden of its kind, founded in 1545 so that students could research and recognize medicinal plants, known as "simples". Always a place of research, culture and education, the Botanical Garden of the University of Padua was recognized in 1997 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today it has more than 3500 species, five large greenhouses and an exhibition dedicated to the relationships between plants, man and the environment. In 2017 it welcomed 180,000 visitors from all over the world.

#### With the participation of the:

- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – Switzerland:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and potential future risks, and to put forward adaptation and mitigation options. It has 195 member states. IPCC reports are drafted and reviewed in several stages, thus guaranteeing objectivity and transparency. IPCC assessments provide governments, at all levels, with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies and are a key input into the international negotiations to tackle climate change.

#### OUR MISSION

Thanks to its new strategic partners, Festival for the Earth feels comfortable to fulfill its mission and many objectives intending to:

- **spread the word about climate change being AN ENORMOUS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY** for the future
- **accelerate the TRANSITION FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE**, through promoting & facilitating network opportunities among people who are making a difference, providing an environment for accelerating climate-friendly initiatives; also connecting universities (THINKERS), innovative companies (ENTREPRENEURS) and the general public (CITIZENS / CONSUMERS) in an ideal triangle, facilitating the **development of large start-up incubator/s**
- **contribute to the development of an ENVIRONMENTAL CULTURE in future generations**, via spreading positive and constructive messages to the general public, and informing and training people in relations to the opportunities opened by the environmental emergency. Festival for the Earth has closed

many **partnerships with schools and universities** for their students to participate to the Festival's sessions.

- **develop NEW BUSINESS IDEAS WORLDWIDE.** The Festival is promoting winning solutions coming from the prestigious **Best Climate Solutions Award**, launched in April 2018 and co-sponsored by the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change and the Festival for the Earth with focus on "Communicating climate change threats and opportunities". The author of the winning project will be invited to present his/her proposal during a high-profile gala event featuring among the guests Nobel, Pulitzer, and Goldman Prize winners (keynote speakers at Festival for the Earth), and will receive a prize of several thousand euros.

### **AN OUTSTANDING MAIN SPONSOR – VENINI S.P.A.**

Festival for the Earth is honored to have Venini S.p.A. as *main sponsor of the most important artistic installation of the Festival*. Founded in 1921 by Paolo Venini, a Milanese lawyer, and Giacomo Cappellin, a Venetian antiques dealer, Venini SpA is a model of excellence in the world of artistic glass. Venini boasts an unmatched colour palette: the Venini furnace is, in fact, the only one capable of producing 125 colours of glass. Creations bearing the Venini signature have become part of the permanent collections of museums of such calibre as the Metropolitan Museum and MoMA in New York, the Fondation Cartier in Paris, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Since 2016, the Damiani family (owners of the homonymous international luxury jewellery brand), have held the controlling interest in Venini S.p.A.

### **OUR MEDIA PARTNERS**

In order to give maximum visibility to its many guests and initiatives, in 2018 Festival for the Earth has partnered with major Italian and international media players. **Radio Monte Carlo** will be the Festival's official radio, while Italy's main news agency **ANSA**, which shares the interest in the topics dealt with, will collaborate with the Festival. Also **LifeGate**, Italy's leading point of reference for sustainability issues with a community of six million people, promoting sustainable lifestyles, is partnering with the Festival. We are honored to announce an important collaboration with **National Geographic**, one of the major international companies involved in research and conservation of the planet and in scientific dissemination. The event will also be covered and disseminated through the main *media* in the art sector such as magazines **Il Giornale delle Fondazioni**, **Espoarte** and **Artribune** and the art & science web portal **Noema**. **All our media partners share our concerns for the future of our planet and the desire for a quest for different solutions.**

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### **ABOUT FESTIVAL FOR THE EARTH**

Festival for the Earth is a 2-day international gathering aiming to propose to broader audiences possibilities of transformations, reflections and alternative modalities to reframe environmental issues. Knowledge access and information flows are highly important as actual environmental emergencies urge a radical change of perspective and practices. To this end the Festival for the Earth is conceived by the artist **Maria Rebecca Ballestra** as an **art project for social transformation** that aims to instigate creativeness directed at positive transformation processes in science, humanities, economy, ecology and art. The conference's location is alternating between Venice and the Principality of Monaco, two cities that are already linked by strong historical ties, two symbolic places where the relationship between "water" and land (characterized by its scarcity) has shaped both the minds of their citizens and their history. In December 2018 the Festival's third edition will return to Venice and will be hosted in the prestigious locations of Ca' Foscari University Venice, Ateneo Veneto, the Natural History Museum of Venice and the Botanical Garden of Padova.

For more information about the Festival and requests of interviews:

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