



Newsletter N° 2 February 2009

Chile Welcomes You...



World Congress promoted in Slovenia

Representatives from across the world participated in a World Federation of Occupational Therapy Council meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia from September 8th to September 12th, 2008.

The Chilean representatives were Enrique Henny and Alejandro Guajardo, who participated in the meeting and were in charge of promoting the 2010 World Congress in Chile.

The meeting was an excellent opportunity to communicate progress on the organization of the WFOT World Congress, and the presentation was very well received by the representatives present, who demonstrated great interest in participating in May 2010. National representatives also committed to becoming active promoters of the Congress in their respective countries.

There is no doubt that the WFOT World Congress is the main activity that brings us together as Occupational Therapists and this motivates us to attend this event.

The ongoing work in Chile was congratulated by all the participants in Ljubljana, which reinforces our commitment to making it an historic event for Occupational Therapy, in the sense that this will be the first WFOT World Congress to be held in a Spanish speaking country and also the first time it will be bilingual. In short, it will drive significant progress for our discipline.



Occupational Therapy in Chile

1960 A commission is created to promote rehabilitation in Chile. Representatives of the World Health Organization, Ministry of Health and University of Chile begin working to introduce O.T. in Chile. These are the first moves towards introducing O.T. in Chile.

5 Chilean students are sent to the National Handicapped Rehabilitation Commission of the Ministry of Health and Social Action in Argentina. They begin their studies in 1963.

1963 An experimental O.T. course is created at the University of Chile.

1966 After the graduation of the first O.T. students in Chile and those sent to Argentina, the University of Chile creates the "Occupational Therapy Course," as part of the School of Medical Technology. The study program is based on WFOT recommendations. Brígida Flores was the Sub-Director of the course.

The first Occupational Therapy departments were created in the mid 1960's.

1967 The National Association of Occupational Therapists is created; Ms. Eliana Vidal is its first President.

1967 The 5 Occupational Therapists educated in Argentina revalidate their academic degrees. The first cohorts of Chilean O.T.s graduate.

1969 WFOT recognizes the O.T. course for a temporary 5 year period.

Call for Papers

We invite you to submit your papers for the WFOT World Congress.

Please visit <http://www.wfot.org/wfot2010> for more information.

Closing Date: 15 April 2009

1971 The first national convention of O.T. is held and most of the occupational therapists in the country participate. The University of Chile decides to change the O.T. education from a course to a full degree program.

1980 Chile is accepted as a permanent member of the WFOT.

1990 The O.T. professional degree is created: after 5 years of study, students graduate as Occupational Therapists.

1995 The academic degree of Bachelor of Occupational Science is introduced.

1997 608 Occupational Therapists have graduated from the University of Chile at this point.

2008 There are 10 Occupational Therapy Programs in Chile, at both public and private universities. The programs lead to the academic degree of BSc in Occupational Science.



Jenny Pascoe, WFOT Congress Project Officer

Jenny Pascoe visited Chile last August as part of the collaboration between the WFOT Congress of 2006 and the XV Congress of 2010, and in her new role as WFOT Congress Project Officer.

Jenny Pascoe was Co-President (Co-Convenor) of the Scientific Program Committee at the WFOT Congress of Sydney 2006. As Co-President (Co-Convenor) she actively participated in every stage of the scientific program for the Congress in Australia. Jenny was recently appointed to the position of WFOT Congress Project Officer.

During her visit to Chile, Jenny participated in multiple activities with the local organizing committee, especially with the academic and marketing committees. The academic committee had the chance to share the progress they have made towards the development of a program including the various themes being prepared for the upcoming Congress. With Jenny collaboration, the academic committee is ready to continue its work towards designing a wide ranging and attractive academic program that will appeal to occupational therapists from across the world.

The organizing committee has appointed Think Business Events as the official organizer of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists 15th World Congress.



For enquiries please contact: wfot2010@wfot.org

An Invitation From the birthplace of our Wines...

The valleys near the capital city of Santiago boast many scenic wineries and wine routes. The visitor has a chance to learn the secrets of the Chilean wine culture, to get to know the beautiful vineyards, colorful towns and to enjoy the gastronomic, craft and cultural traditions of rural Chile.

The most well developed wine routes are those of the valleys of Colchagua, Casablanca, Maule, San Felipe and Curicó, where the visitor will be able to enjoy the winemaking process and taste wine varieties such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Carmenère.



“Wine opens the doors in wide amazement, and in the refuge of the months its body of soaked and reddened wings does fly”
Pablo Neruda

English Translation by Silvia Antonia Brandon Pérez

OUR COUNTRY...

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Chile is in the southeast of South America. Its continental territory extends 4.200 km, while adding the Chilean Antarctic territory extends its length to approximately 8.000 km. Easter Island, the archipelago of Juan Fernández, the isles of San Félix, San Ambrosio, Salas y Gómez, the 200 miles of territorial seas and the corresponding continental platform are also a part of Chile.

FRONTIERS

North: Peru
East: Bolivia and Argentina
West: Pacific Ocean
South: South Pole

POPULATION

Population: 15,589,147
Population density: 20.4 inhabitants per square Km
Average age: 30,04 years.
Language: Spanish and some native languages like Mapudungún (or Mapuche), Quechua and Rapa Nui.

More tourist information in:
www.visit-chile.org

