

GIFT 2007 - Geosciences in the City

Large urban settings are exposed to pollution created by human activities, such as power plants (emission of CO₂, CO, NO SO₂, soot), traffic (CO₂, CO, SO_x, hydrocarbons, noise), industrial plants and water waste and runoff. While the impact of anthropogenic factors are continuous and usually easily understood by the general public, it is not always obvious to evaluate how geological and natural factors influence our daily life because of their somewhat unpredictable nature (hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions...).

The purpose of the GIFT-2007 workshop is to illustrate how all these different factors interact and to make teachers and their students, and through them, the general public, aware of the complexity of the environmental problems in urban areas.

Towns such as Rome and Istanbul, because of their historical heritage, geographic/geological location and high concentration of inhabitants, represent areas where exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards are disproportionately high, and, therefore, will be a main target for the GIFT workshop.

The geological and natural setting of these towns will be discussed at length, and then the modern problems in these and other large urban areas will be described. Focus will also be on atmospheric pollution linked to the high population density and other factors such as the impact of floods on modern cities, where natural and anthropogenic factors play a role, and the approaches that urban authorities use to mitigate them. A short introduction to cities of the future will also be given.

Actions that can be undertaken by teachers in their classrooms to make their students aware of these problems will also be an important aspect of GIFT-2007.