



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH
Gibraltar Culture and Heritage Agency
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PRESS RELEASE

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2014 - Calpe Conference - In the footsteps of the ancestors: a universal heritage of everyone

The annual Calpe Conference commences next Thursday 18th September, 2014, at the John Mackintosh Hall. This year promises to be a very special occasion as it brings together world specialists on the themes of human evolution and also world heritage. It is especially relevant given Gibraltar's current bid to nominate the Neanderthal caves for UNESCO World Heritage Status.

Among the speakers are Professor Minja Yang, former Deputy Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris, and Professor Don Johanson, one of the leading lights in modern palaeoanthropology and the discoverer of the famous fossil which has become popularly known as Lucy.

The programme has been adapted during this past week to accommodate a presentation on the recently discovered Neanderthal engraving at Gorham's Cave. Professor Francesco d'Errico and Dr Alain Queffelec of Bordeaux University are flying out especially to Gibraltar to describe the find on behalf of the team. Professor d'Errico is regarded as one of the world's leading specialists in cave art.

The conference also includes the screening of two films. The first is presented by Professor Christoph Zollikofer and Dr Marcia Ponce de Leon of the University of Zurich and relates to a human remains repatriation project which they undertook with the people and government of Chile. The second is the first screening in English of the film "The Colour of the Ovahimba" which was released last week in Paris. The film is brought to Gibraltar by Professor Francesco d'Errico himself, who was responsible for its production.

All in all, the programme promises to be varied and will touch on a variety of current issues, from repatriation of human fossils, case studies of existing world heritage sites, the presentation of an exciting online global course in palaeoanthropology to presentations of work being done in Gibraltar itself. It

should appeal to a wide public including those interested in heritage, history and art.

The public is encouraged to register through the museum website or by contacting the Gibraltar Museum on 200 74289 and asking for the Calpe Conference Secretariat. Local residents may register free and are asked to do so at the earliest opportunity.