

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

15th International Echinoderm Conference (15th IEC)



Meeting Description

The IEC is the largest international event on all disciplines related to the biology, taxonomy, paleontology, fisheries, management, etc. of all kinds of echinoderms. For the 15th IEC in Cancún, México, contributions in English on any topic pertaining to all kinds of echinoderms that are of scientific interest will be considered.

The conference theme will be "*Echinoderms: from molecules to continents*".

The 15th IEC will commence on a Sunday afternoon with registration and an evening meet-and-greet cocktail at the venue. The formal scientific sessions will begin Monday morning and continue through Friday afternoon. Posters will be presented on Tuesday evening. A free day will be scheduled for Wednesday. The conference dinner will take place on Thursday evening. There will be many opportunities for pre-, mid-, and post-conference excursions.

Venue and Accommodation

Venue: Spring 2015. The exact dates will be posted as soon we have made the proper arrangements.

Cancún has the distinction of being the one Caribbean destination with the infrastructure, modern amenities (spruced up in 2006) and service philosophy to rival leisure destinations worldwide. Unlike many other parts of the Caribbean and Mexico, Cancun was built for tourism, and continues to meet the needs of its over 3.3 million

annual visitors. Cancun delivers to travelers the best of many worlds: the Caribbean and Mexico; modern and ancient; action packed and laid back.

Cancún has numerous hotels providing accommodation to suit all budgets, we strongly encourage participants to take advantage of the extremely competitive rates offered by different hotels, both for the convenience of staying at the Conference Venue and because of the long distances and transfer times between hotels along the Hotel District, and especially between the hotel district and the city of Cancún (17 km and over 1 h during rush hours). Instructions for room reservations and payment --as well as more information on the conference-- will be provided in the official conference web site, which will become operational in 2015.

Cancún

Cancún, a modern city/tourist resort founded in 1970 in the state of Quintana Roo, México (eastern coast of the Yucatan peninsula), has become one of the most popular destinations in the Caribbean region. Cancun International Airport receives the greatest variety of foreign airlines and the largest amount of foreign visitors in the country, and is connected to numerous cities in Mexico, the USA, Canada, Central and South America, and Europe.

For more information please visit: <http://www.visitmexico.com/en>

Registration

Depending on the number of participants, registration is expected to be in the range of US \$500-650 for Regular registrants and US \$300-350 for full-time Student registrants.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Cancun in spring 2015!

Francisco A. Solís-Marín

Conveners, 15th IEC

iec15th@gmail.com