

Danish Minister visits ESO Chile

Gonzalo Argandoña, Felix Mirabel (ESO)

On October 21, the Danish Minister for Education, Mr. Bertel Haarder, paid a visit to ESO in Santiago, accompanied by a small entourage including the Danish Ambassador to Chile, Anita Hugau.

Mr. Haarder, who had visited La Silla 15 years ago, was received by the ESO Representative in Chile, Felix Mirabel, and Claus Madsen, Head of the ESO Public Affairs Department. The guests were also introduced to two Danish fellows who currently work at ESO in Chile, Lise Christensen and Thomas Dall.

During the meeting, the minister was briefed on the current science operations in Chile, the relationship between ESO and Chile, the status of the ALMA project as well as on the progress regarding ESO's ELT plans.

The discussion also covered ESO's many-sided educational outreach activities, both in Chile and in Europe and how these initiatives can play a role in a larger effort to stimulate interest in the natural sciences amongst young people.

At the ESO office in Santiago, Bertel Haarder (Danish Minister of Education) talks to Lise Christensen. At the back, Claus Madsen, Felix Mirabel and Mrs. Haarder.



Photo: L. Lemus, ESO

The Danish Minister was particularly interested in science educational projects promoted by ESO in Chile and Europe. The picture shows children at the 2005 Fair of Physics that took place in October in Santiago, as part of the celebrations of the Chilean National Science and Technology Week.



Photo: G. Argandoña, ESO

Science on Stage 2005

Douglas Pierce-Price, Henri Boffin, Claus Madsen (ESO)

"Science on Stage", the European Science Teaching Festival, is a major educational outreach programme for science teachers. It aims to identify and foster innovation within formal science education by means of exchange of best practice, workshops and seminars involving educators from all over Europe.

Almost five hundred science educators from twenty-seven countries met in November at CERN, Geneva, for "Science on Stage" (SOS). The delegates had been selected through elaborate national procedures involving contests and national "festivals" in which participants were invited to present their ideas and projects.

The SOS programme and indeed the European Science Teaching Festival is arranged by the EIROforum, of which ESO is a member, and was developed from the successful "Physics on Stage" events.

An inspiring programme of presentations and workshops, and a lively fair where delegates could demonstrate exciting experiments and teaching projects, allowed educators to share techniques and take new ideas back to their schools across Europe.

This dedicated initiative for teachers, which is co-funded by the European Commission, aims to promote innovative science teaching in the formal education system. The event has gathered increasing support from education authorities, learned societies, and industry in