Conference venue

ISLPED’15 will be hosted by Sapienza University of Rome, Faculty of Engineering at the Cloister of San Pietro in Vincoli (Saint Peter in Chains), a five-century-old building in the middle of the historical center of the “eternal city”.

The Cloister of Saint Peter “in Vincoli” was built between 1493 and 1503. At the centre of the cloister an elegant well and a small spouting fountain both realized in 1642. The cloister was originally part of the church of San Pietro in Vincoli (Saint Peter in Chains), built in its present form starting from 1470 to 1503, and best known for being the home of Michelangelo's statue of Moses, part of the tomb of Pope Julius II.

Situated at 200 meters airline from ISLPED venue, just east of the Roman Forum, the Colosseum or Coliseum (Italian: Colosseo), also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre is an elliptical amphitheatre in the centre of the city. Built of concrete and stone, it is considered one of the greatest works of Roman architecture and engineering. According to the Guinness World Records it is the largest amphitheatre in the world. Its construction was completed in 80 AD under emperor Titus. It has a capacity of 87,000 spectators, maximum length of 187 m (612 ft) and a maximum width of 157 m (515 ft). It was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles. In 2007 it was included among the New Seven Wonders of the World. The Colosseum is also depicted on the Italian version of the five-cent euro coin.

City of Rome

The historical city center of Rome, together with the Vatican, is included in the UNESCO World Heritage. It contains as many as 25,000 environmental and archaeological points of interest, and is divided into 22
Legend holds that Romulus and Remus, two children suckled by a she-wolf, founded Rome in 753 B.C. Historically, Rome was the center of the Roman Republic for six centuries B.C., then the Roman Empire’s hub for political and cultural life for 4 centuries, then from the IV Century on, the realm of Catholic Christianity, and after XV Century the place where plenty of Renaissance masterpieces were created and preserved.

Not far from the Colosseum we find the Terme di Caracalla (212-217), grandiose roman empire public baths, and the Circus Maximus, the ancient stadium used for horse and chariot races. Moving north along the River Tiber, one eventually comes across the Mausoleum of Augustus, and the Castle Sant’Angelo linked to the Vatican City by a fortified corridor. Also in Rome’s historical and nightlife center rises the Pantheon (c. 118-128), a temple for the divinities of the Olympus. Undoubtedly of interest are the magnificent columns that dot the city: Trajan’s Column, the Marcus Aurelius’s Column, raised between 176 and 192, in front of Palazzo Chigi (currently the seat of government) in Piazza Colonna.

Numerous as well are Rome’s unforgettable piazzas with their day- and night-life: Campo de' Fiori, with the statue of Giordano Bruno at its center, Piazza Navona, with Bernini’s Four Rivers Fountain; the Spanish Steps (Piazza di Spagna) with the celebrated stairway and fashion’s street Via Condotti; Piazza del Popolo and its characteristic “twin” churches; Piazza Venezia, with the Altare della Patria and the Campidoglio, Rome’s city hall; the Largo di Torre in Argentina; Piazza Trilussa and Piazza santa Maria in Trastevere, both in the picturesque quarter of Trastevere.

Other than the historical city center, the Vatican holds immense artistic treasures. St. Peter's Basilica (Italian: Basilica di San Pietro), a Renaissance church located within Vatican City is the most renowned work of Renaissance architecture and remains the largest church in the world. St. Peter's is regarded as one of the holiest Catholic sites. By Catholic tradition, the basilica is the burial site of its namesake Saint

quarters.
Peter, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. Close to the basilica there are the **Vatican Museums**, hosting hundreds of artistic masterpieces and the **Sistine Chapel**.

Other buildings on the extraterritorial properties of the Vatican within Rome include the most beautiful churches in the city: **Santa Maria Maggiore**, **San Giovanni in Laterano (St. John Lateran)** and **San Paolo Fuori Le Mura (St. Paul's Outside the Walls)**. These monuments have exerted great influence over the development of architecture and monumental artworks for much of the Christian world over the centuries.