

Welcome from Kerastari village

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Welcome speech to the Radioastronomy workshop at Kerastari in June 2012 by
Giannoula Vigla, representing the inhabitants of the village.

*From Antikythera to the Square Kilometre Array: Lessons from the Ancients,
Kerastari, Greece
12-15 June 2012*

Today Kerastari lives an extraordinary special day.

We the villagers, who are here today but also those who could not attend, are touched and overjoyed because for the 3rd time Kerastari hosts this international radioastronomy workshop. We feel that our village is becoming a significant part of the international scientific community. And our joy is a gift by our beloved Tasso Tzioumis who chose this place for the workshop, as an affirmation of his love for our village.

It is moving for all of us the fact that in his study of the Universe he has placed Kerastari in such a significant place. All of us know that, when it is possible during his travels for his scientific duties, he always makes a stop in Greece, even for a single day, and visits Kerastari, whatever the time may be and however tired he may be.

And one more thing. Today this space is honoured which is the Primary School that Tasso attended, as did his siblings and all of us from Kerastari who are here today. And we feel delighted to hold the first event here today after its destruction by the accursed fire of 2007. Then we watched it burning and we were crying, but luckily its brilliant restoration followed for which we thank all those who helped by whatever means.

Tasso, we thank you and we congratulate you for the honour you do to our village and also for your brilliant scientific progress. We congratulate your family and your siblings and we honour the memory of your father Kosta Tzioumis, our beloved Mpanto, and the memory of your mother Sofia Krili, and we feel that their spirit too is rejoicing among us.

We wish every success for this Workshop and to all your scientific attainments.