



Cities on Volcanoes 9
November 20-25, 2016
Puerto Varas, Chile

'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'



Promoting volcanoes on a budget, the mucytec geology room renovation project

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Keywords: museum, geology room, chilean volcanoes, interactive exhibit, non-formal science education

The Science and Technology Museum of Santiago (MUCYTEC) was the first interactive science focused museum of Chile (1985). It is a private nonprofit organization living on donations and a small economic contribution from the city council. MUCYTEC has a Geology Room which has not been renovated in decades, it looks old fashioned. However, MUCYTEC still receives many visits from public schools, 70.000 a year. Geology Room mainly focuses on Earth's history, mineral resources and volcanoes, which is the most undeveloped area. In order to update exhibits, research Centres from Universidad de Chile (NMTM and CEGA) peered up to renovate the Geology Room. For this, the centres leverage resources for USD\$25.000, which is a modest budget for all the work that needs to be done: the only current information about Chilean volcanoes at MUSYTEC is a set of eight volcano photographs. With limited resources, our objective is to create one interactive module, capable of explaining volcano edifice geometry, the ascent of magma and the different types of volcanic eruptions, distinguishing between effusive and explosive behaviour, showing the effect of magma components: gasses, crystals and melt. Also, we want to include a description of the chilean volcanic arc for awareness of their location. Beyond budget, our biggest challenge is to create an exhibit that lasts over time that also respects the museums' identity, characterized by the use of lights: switches that turn on and off to show and and hide information. Our first model sketch must be presented in April 2017. There are no experts in museology in our team, however we are a motivated group of postgraduate geology students and science communicators seeking for advice from an enthusiastic crowd like the one at CoV9. We believe there could not be a better opportunity to gather feedback for our project.