

Brief C. V. of Mirco Elena

Physicist and researcher (ret.) based in Trento, northern Italy. (An area with linguistic and cultural minorities, that in the '60s resorted to terrorism to obtain a large degree of self rule. This was achieved thanks to agreements between the governments of Italy and Austria. This background makes him particularly attentive to human rights protection and to international disputes).

Thesis in astrophysics. Professional career in materials science (esp. modification of materials by thin films and ion beams and characterization of surfaces). Member of the Board of Isodarco and of the Italian Union of Scientists for Disarmament (USPID). Cooperates with RUNIPACE, the network of Italian Universities for Peace.

Has studied environmental and energy issues (different sources, efficiency aspects, geopolitical implications, nuclear proliferation, ...).

Journalist and science popularizer. Lecturer at conferences and at public events organized by institutions, schools, public libraries, associations, etc. Author of articles in newspapers and periodicals; for several years has prepared the weekly column "Terra Nostra (Our Earth)" in the L'Adige newspaper. Author of books on scientific and cultural issues. Author and presenter of TV and radio series on science, geopolitics, and human rights issues. Translator of books and articles.

Organizer of cultural and scientific events. Has designed and produced exhibits on nuclear energy, nuclear weapons and on the Chernobyl disaster.

Traveler "à la Kapuschinski", independently experiencing and exploring the cultures and traditions of many countries, living together with their inhabitants and enjoying in particular the nations which still maintain traditional characteristics, distinguishing them from the "Western Model" (e.g.: Iran, Indonesia, China, Mongolia, India, Morocco, Ethiopia, Central Asian republics, Japan, Bolivia, Peru, ...). Extensive experience of China, where, on different occasions, has visited autonomously almost all its provinces, spending in total more than one year. Author with Yu Jin of the book "Cina e Italia allo specchio (China and Italy in the mirror)".