



*Republic of Croatia
Ministry of Science and Education
Minister*

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Welcome to the Ocean Optics XXIV!

From the inception, the Ocean Optics Conference series has attracted a diverse audience of professionals and students addressing virtually every facet of optical oceanography including basic research, technological development, environmental management, and policy. The Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia were particularly delighted to learn that our beautiful coastal city of Dubrovnik has been chosen as the location of the Ocean Optics Conference this year.

Through the years, the city of Dubrovnik has gained a worldwide reputation as an appealing conference destination due to its pleasant climate, excellent service and competitive costs. Dubrovnik is indeed a unique city. You may recall that it is a UNESCO world heritage site and the birthplace of scientific greats such as Ruđer Bošković, a physicist, astronomer and mathematician; Marin Getaldić, who excelled in optics; and Benedikt Kotruljević, a Croatian scientist who introduced the world to double-entry bookkeeping.

Many years ago, these men recognized the importance of forging international partnerships – and of exchanging ideas with their contemporaries. They knew very well that this is the only way to move forward. Not just as an individual researcher, but also as society. To sum it up: they “collaborated to innovate”. This statement holds true even today. We must cooperate to tackle global challenges faced by our societies. Innovation and good science have always been, and will remain, key facilitators of change.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you – acknowledged experts in your respective fields – for taking part in this Ocean Optics Conference. Ocean optics attracts a diverse audience of active practitioners in this field, including oceanographers, marine ecologists, limnologists, optical engineers, marine resource managers, and policy professionals from around the world.

Thank you for sharing knowledge and for building professional ties here in Croatia and I wish you a very fruitful conference and a wonderful stay in Dubrovnik.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Divjak', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Full Prof. Blaženka Divjak, Ph.D