

“REMEMBERING THE FOUNDER OF ISES ITALIA”

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Vittorio Storelli, the founder of the Italian Section of ISES, passed away at the age of 91, on September 28, 2005.

An industrial engineer, who had a strong interest in what he called “Sun Science”, Storelli promoted the creation of the Italian Section of SES (Solar Energy Society, the precursor of ISES) during a study trip in the US in 1963. The Italian Section was the third to be established after those in Australia-New Zealand (1962) and in Chile (1963). The Section became effective in Naples on January 1, 1964.

Storelli put in an incommensurable amount of volunteer work and resources into the Italian Section, significantly contributing to networking nationally and internationally the small and widely scattered community of Italian solar scientists and engineers of the early 1960s. For Storelli there was only one way to get the newborn Italian Section on its feet “roll up your sleeves and go to work”, which is what he did as Secretary of the Section (1964-1978), as it's President (1978-1981), and as a committed member until his death.

He was deeply attached to the international character of ISES that he wanted strengthen, for example, by the establishment of “*Liason Offices named ISES-Africa, ISES-America and so on*”, as he wrote to ISES President Morse in August 1977, or by organizing an “International Meeting of all the Initiators of ISES Sections” as he wrote to ISES President Lorriman in March 1990. It was around that year that I met Storelli for the first time. Since then we have been friends, a friendship that grew over the last years while closely working for the History of the Italian Section and of ISES. His vivid memory and his well kept personal archive have been a continuous source of new information for me about overlooked important solar activities held in Italy in the 1960s and in the 1970s. I had a working telephone call with him just five days before he left us. Vittorio is survived by his wife Luciana and his daughter Jade Marie.