



GRAN CANARIA

Geothermal resources



Photo: Cab GC

↑ **Nemesio Pérez, Antonio Morales and Raúl García Brink (l-r) presented the positive results of the first phase**

"If we could find useful geothermal resources on our island, it would be like winning the lottery" said Gran Canaria's Island President Antonio Morales at a recent press conference in the capital.

Together with Nemesio Pérez, Director of the Canary Islands Volcanological Institute Involcan, and the Island Energy Councillor Raúl García Brink, he recently presented the results of the first phase of the study. About two years ago, the first steps were taken to gen-

erate electricity from water heated by the earth and examples of this can be found in France, Germany and Iceland. If thermal water at a temperature of around 150 degrees Celsius is found, it could be used in a binary cycle power plant, as the system works from a temperature of 105 degrees. The first phase, in which €535,000 were invested, most of which was financed by the Island Council, and €100,000 by Involcan, consisted of a geophysical, geo-

chemical and geological survey. "This is comparable to a blood test and X-ray examination of a human being" Morales explained. The result is positive and proves that there are usable water resources, especially in the south and south east of the island. In a further step, which will consume another half a million euros and take about one and a half years, three points are now to be determined at which test drillings will then be carried out in a final phase.

Each of these wells is expected to cost six million euros to dig and must therefore be well placed. They will penetrate two and a half kilometres into the earth. What is important for the researchers is the location of the usable water and how easy it would be to extract it. The simpler it is, the more economical the project will be. "The costs of geothermal energy are roughly comparable to those of wind energy. Together with the use of the wind and sun and the Chira-Soria hydroelectric power plant, geothermal energy could be an important step towards supplying us with mainly self-sufficient energy from renewable sources" explained Brink.

"Geothermal energy has been treated like a stepchild with ignorance and inactivity in the Canary Islands. The geothermal potential of the island has been known for a long time, but the institutions did not want to know about its use. The situation is different in the Azores, where more than 60,000 people are already supplied with electricity generated from geothermal sources" Pérez remarked ironically. In Gran Canaria, the second phase is now under way in order to identify as precisely as possible the most promising points for test drilling. ■

INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT

One, two, three... tell me again

Within the framework of the project 1, 2, 3. tell me again, the Tenerife Island Council has launched an intergenerational programme to strengthen the links between the younger and older generations, for the benefit of both.

The Ansina socio-cultural dynamisation programme is being carried out in cooperation with primary schools and homes for the elderly. It's intended to stimulate the exchange of experiences and knowledge and the organisation of joint activities, involving two collectives which despite their age differences, have a great deal to say to each other. Such activities are also considered to be a key element to active ageing.

In a first meeting of primary school classes from Santa Cruz and La Laguna at a retirement home in their city, stories and poems were read, and together they created a short story and some illustrations, during which above all, they laughed together.

The Ansina programme has been in existence for almost 30 years and is based on four cornerstones: a healthy lifestyle, social awareness, participation in social life and learning, and active leisure. In this way, the physical, psychological and social well-being of senior citizens is promoted continuously and in a varied manner. In addition, senior citizens are integrated into society. Ansina looks after more than 200 senior citizens' centres where they regularly carry out various programmes to revitalise everyday life for the residents. ■



Photo: Cab. Tife

↑ **The young and the old have fun together and inspire each other**

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