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IUAES
International UNION of
ANTHROPOLOGICAL and
ETHNOLOGICAL sciences



1st July 2020

Letter from WAU for anthropology colleagues globally

Dear Colleagues,

Most of you are probably aware that the 19th IUAES-WAU World Anthropology Congress in 2023 is to be held as stipulated by the Constitution of WAU (World Anthropological Union) and that it is with the collaboration and joint efforts of both of its chambers, namely the IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) and the WCAA (World Council of Anthropological Associations).

As announced at the General Assembly at the 18th IUAES World Congress in Florianopolis in 2018, the next World Congress was to be held in India with the help of four Indian institutions, namely KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences), the Indian Anthropological Association, Sambalpur University and Utkal University. However, there were domestic and international protests of a grave nature against KISS. To avoid any controversy and considering the rather serious nature of the allegations, and not desirous to take any sides in the controversy, the IUAES Executive Committee took a decision to withdraw collaboration with KISS, a decision that was made clear in a letter circulated on 17th of August 2020 ([Letter Aug 2020](#); [FAQ Oct 2020](#)). That decision was a consensus and that decision is final. It was made for the development of anthropology of the world.

However, KISS did not agree to this decision and has since then made all kinds of efforts to obtain its position as the organizer of the 2023 Congress. In its efforts, it has not only managed to misinform many colleagues, it has resorted to actions, like creating two websites to announce a World Anthropology Congress that is in no way endorsed by WAU or the IUAES. The WAU Steering Committee (which includes leaders of the WCAA and the IUAES) and the IUAES Executive Committee itself want to make sure that anthropologists around the world know that the congress announced recently by KISS as taking place in January 2023 is not the 19th IUAES-WAU World Anthropology Congress 2023. The official congress of the IUAES and WAU is to be held in Delhi, and more details will be available soon on the official congress website at iuaes2023delhi.org.

All members of WCAA and IUAES, who comprise WAU, are making a collective request to the anthropological community around the world to come together to make the 19th IUAES-WAU World Anthropology Congress in India a great success.

Sincerely,

Junji Koizumi
President, IUAES
Co-Chair, WAU

Isaac Nyamongo
Chair, WCAA
Co-Chair, WAU

on behalf of the Steering Committee of WAU, the World Anthropological Union