

MEDIA RELEASE

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AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS CALL FOR DATING ASSISTANCE

The 6th World Archaeological Congress held in Dublin, Ireland from 29 June to 4 July 2008 will respond to African archaeologists' call for assistance in obtaining dates for samples to properly delineate the chronological framework of archaeological sites.

“The economic divide between people in different parts of the world impacts upon the ability of archaeologists in Africa to access basic needs, such as dating samples,” said Professor Bayo Folorunso, of Nigeria, Vice-President of the World Archaeological Congress.

“The World Archaeological Congress is committed to scholars from different parts of the world assisting each other,” said Professor Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress. “Archaeologists from Africa need assistance with obtaining funding to date archaeological samples, and we will assist them. Their work is essential to a nuanced understanding of both regional and global archaeology.”

“However, it is important to remember that these are professional archaeologists who contribute to global archaeology. The World Archaeological Congress is based on reciprocal relationships between equals in order to enhance the intellectual richness of archaeology, not charitable acts from one part of the world to another.”

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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BACKGROUND:

The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization and is the only elected international body of practising archaeologists. WAC holds an international congress every four years to promote the exchange of the results of archaeological research; professional training and public education for disadvantaged nations, groups and communities; the empowerment and betterment of Indigenous groups and First Nations peoples; and the conservation of archaeological sites.

The World Archaeological Congress, by statute, has an Indigenous Council made up of Indigenous members. The current Indigenous Council has representatives from Australia, New Zealand, North America and South America.

The Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) was held from 29th June—4th July at the University College Dublin. This was the first World Archaeological Congress to be held in Ireland. It was attended by over 1,800 archaeologists, native peoples and international scholars from 74 nations. Motions from the Plenary session of the Congress were considered by subsequent meetings of the World Archaeological Congress Council and Executive.

The Congress Patron for WAC-6 was President Mary McAleese. Previous Congress Patrons include Harriet Mayor Fulbright, Prince Charles and Nelson Mandela.