

MEDIA RELEASE

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MICHAEL DAY DELIVERS INAUGURAL PETER UCKO LECTURE

The World Archaeological Congress is pleased to announce that Professor Michael Day has delivered the inaugural Peter Ucko Lecture in recognition of his significant contributions to world archaeology.

Professor Day was the first President of the World Archaeological Congress.

Professor Day's lecture focussed on Peter Ucko's role in the establishment of the World Archaeological Congress, and its subsequent growth and development.

"Professor Day's support for Peter Ucko and for the notion of a World Archaeological Congress was a critical factor in its establishment and early success," said Professor Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress.

"While Peter Ucko was a driving force, the establishment of the World Archaeological Congress depended on the commitment and standing of the key people who supported him. Michael Day's input was critical to its success."

"Professor Day's contributions to world archaeology lie not only in his personal services but also in his critical input to the establishment of this group."

The World Archaeological Congress congratulates Professor Day for his many career achievements and hopes that his work continues to inspire new generations of scholars.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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SUBJECT BACKGROUND:

Peter Ucko, who passed away in 2007, was the driving force behind the establishment of the World Archaeological Congress. The Peter Ucko Memorial Award was established to recognize scholars at any stage in their career who have made significant contributions to world archaeology.

WAC 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 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.