

First Announcement
THE THIRD INTER-CONGRESS
OF
INDIAN NATIONAL CONFEDERATION AND ACADEMY OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS (INCAA)
In collaboration with
The Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh
On the Theme of
Man and Environment: The South Asian Perspective
Tentative Dates: 21-23 February, 2008

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Indian National Confederation and Academy of Anthropologists (INCAA) is pleased to announce that it will be organizing its third Inter-Congress in collaboration with the Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh in February, 2008 on the theme of "Man and Environment: The South Asian Perspective". The underlying spirit of the congress as ever would be the unified discipline of anthropology and hence would provide space for all its major sub-disciplines.

Disturbing reports on global warming and challenges posed by well acknowledged north-south divide on the questions relating to man and environment is presenting fresh opportunities to the community of anthropologists to re-register their contributions in the field. The threats from global climatic change have been clearly laid out in the fourth assessment report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climatic Change presented in April, 2007. The change will impact water resource, ecosystem, food production, coastal areas and cause substantial burden on health services. For years biological and socio-cultural anthropologists have been sending warnings based on their empirical researches on the impact that anthropogenic changes are having on human-nature equations.

The overreaching concern of anthropology has been not only how the people exploit environment, but also how culture might in turn be shaped by the environment. Anthropological knowledge has the potential to inform and instruct humans about how to construct sustainable ways of life. Cultural diversity has been the key to adaptation and adaptability of the human species. This has facilitated the global dispersal of *Homo sapiens* into a multitude of very different kinds of environments (biomes) from the tropics to the Arctic. Each biome presents a different combination of limitations and possibilities for relating society to nature.

Man lives in a variety of ecosystems warranting both biological and cultural adaptations. The technological advancements during the industrial revolution and thereafter, enabled resource overexploitation leading to rapid environmental degradation. The situation has come to a stage that humanity is standing at the cross-road of an impending environmental disaster having serious consequences. Developing economies in South Asia are struggling to balance degrading environments and challenges of industrial expansion. We in South Asia have to have Tribal Forest Rights Bill and find wasteland for Special Economic Zones, we have to protect Tiger and have laws to safeguard bio-diversity and patents to protect indigenous knowledge. We in south Asia need to protect our water bodies from Cola giants who pollute them but refuse to protect them; we have to caution our progeny in urban areas from becoming victims of lifestyle diseases like obesity, diabetes, cardio-vascular problems; and save millions in the tribal and

rural belts of the country from starvation deaths. These and many other questions daunt anthropological imagination seeking scientific enquiry, debate and documentation.

South Asia has highest incidence of HIV cases in the world. Poverty and migration to urban areas are rampant. Diarrhoea, Cholera, Dengue, etc. associated with floods, unhygienic conditions, and droughts, are expected to rise further in South Asia due to projected changes in the hydrological cycle associated with global warming. Keeping in view the greater vulnerability of South Asia to the consequences of the environmental change, the proposed inter-congress conceptualizes a forum that will deal with several such and many other questions, searching for some probable answers.

We hope that the focal theme of the congress would provide enough space to all the subdivisions of Anthropology in projecting the truly interdisciplinary science of man. The discussions hopefully would bring out a new vision to anthropology to develop it as a professional course with high competency element, using the strengths of holistic nature of the discipline but keeping into focus the present needs of the society.

Participation to the Congress is open to all academicians, researchers, activists, government and non-government functionaries interested in interdisciplinary and intersectional issues related to man and mankind.

We look forward to meet you at Chandigarh. Kindly fill the acknowledgement and pre-registration information in the format as given in this announcement paper and send it by 15th August, 2007 to the Organizing Secretary through e-mail: incaa_chd.2008@yahoo.co.in.

With best wishes,

INCAA Advisory Committee:

Prof. B.M. Das, Chairman, INCAA
Prof. A.K. Danda, Member-Secretary, INCAA
Prof. I.J.S. Bansal, Member, Governing Body, INCAA
Prof. V. Bhalla, Member, INCAA
Prof. R.K. Mutatkar, Past Chairperson of the organizing committee of 2nd Anthropological Congress
Director, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal
Director, Anthropological Survey of India

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Acknowledgement and Pre-Registration Format

Name:

Age and Sex:

Mailing Address:

Phone (O), (R), (Mobile):

E-mail address:

Academic discipline:

Educational qualifications:

Name of the Institution and Designation:

Area of interest and broad sub-discipline:

Special areas of interest:

Whether member of INCAA:

Suggestions about sessions to be organized at the Inter-Congress:

Send by 15th August, 2007 to :

Prof. Indu Talwar

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