

c/o Department of Social Sciences, University of Pardubice, Studentská 95, 53210 Pardubice,
Czech Republic

Mr Huancai Li
c/o State Ethnic Affairs Commission of the People's Republic of China
252 Taipingqiao Dajie, Xicheng District,
Beijing 100800
P.R. China

July 21, 2009

Dear Mr Huancai Li

On July 6, 2009 I received an invitation letter for Prof. Nas, Prof. Vargas, Prof. Sunderland, Prof. Shahshahani and myself, signed by you, indicating that on July 26, on the eve of the 16th World Congress of International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), the named IUAES high officials will meet in Beijing with „a senior State leader of China“. We were told in the letter (copy enclosed) that we have to arrange, in fact re-arrange our travel and that expenses will be bought by the Organizing Committee of the 16th International Congress of IUAES. This invitation was a surprise to me as I was not at all planning to travel via through Beijing on my way to Kunming. No agenda for the meeting was mentioned except that it is „in honor of the IUAES leadership“.

At the same time as the letter was coming, there was a massacre happening in Urumqi where the local Uyghurs protested against killings of their compatriots in Kwantung. There were nearly 200 people dead, more than 1000 people were injured according to official sources. Unofficial sources spoke about many more casualties. Although this grave event directly touching the field of activities of your Commission, namely ethnic affairs, there were no signs either directly from PRC SEAC or from the Chinese Association of Anthropology and Ethnology. My life experience of studying ethnic problems in other countries (e.g. South Africa, West Africa, Soviet Union and Europe) have taught me that conflicts of the size like that in Urumqi this July or Lhasa last year are not and cannot be caused just by some malicious plotters. There must be also a deal of responsibility on the side of the power holders, your Commission not excluded. However, no self-criticism and constructive proposal for remedy has come out from China till this very day.

Therefore, I have to turn down your invitation for the above ethical reasons. Human rights were served a crippling blow in Urumqi by apparently wrong analysis and heavy-handed response of the Chinese state, your Commission included. I will not meet and shake hands with people who must be responsible for the above tragedy. I will not accept reimbursement monies and other perks mentioned from the Chinese state. I protest in this way against policies which smack of demographic aggression and ethnocide.

I also will not participate in the Kunming congress (to be held next week, July 27-31, 2009) because I do not want to be part of overt and/or tacit legitimization of evidently erroneous handling of nationality question in China. As a person with a particularly strong IUAES loyalty who participated in almost all its congresses and other events starting from Permanent Council meeting in Prague back in 1962 I was very keen on participating and playing active role as a Distinguished Speaker, member of the Executive Council (EC) of IUAES, Czech member of the Permanent Council of IUAES, chairperson of the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology (COTA) and thrice paper giver. The above mentioned reasons, however, thwarted these intentions. Under present circumstance I would not feel free to express my thoughts and research findings.

There are however also additional reasons which I feel obliged to mention. A considerable number of would-be participants from abroad were unable to obtain Chinese visa and therefore had to call off their participation in spite of the fact that they received official invitation letters and were put on the official programme of the congress. A number of sessions/ panels were ruined as a result. This is a breach of the solemn commitment of the organizers.

Many ethnic scholars from Yunnan and other provinces were not able to register for financial, technical and other reasons. According to the clause 5 of the Announcement which I received two days ago and which I also attach „Those who haven't got Invitations from the Organizing Committee in 2009, please do not come to Kunming for the Congress, where they are not permitted to enter the Venue according to the registration policy. “ I find this clause not acceptable as it had been alright at past IUAES congresses, inter-congresses and its other events to accept bona fide anthropologists and ethnologists on an ad hoc basis. As the foreign delegates had all to be in possession of invitation letters so that they could apply for Chinese visa, I cannot but understand clause 5 as a clear warning to all those Chinese would-be delegates whether belonging to one of ethnic minorities or the Han majority that they will be kept out of bounds of the congress if they were not explicitly invited. Again this is a very serious breach of the openness policy of IUAES and of the solemnly promulgated commitments of the Chinese organizers to ensure participation of all bona fide scholars. The more is the clause unacceptable if we realize that one of the major reasons for choosing Kunming and China as the venue of the congress has been the existence of a large number of ethnic minorities and a host of studies on them by both Han and minority scholars.

Last but not least I should mention that the response of the organizers was not persuasive as regards the huge spread of pandemic of H1N1 flu in all parts of the world and China is not excluded. Are delegates coming in on planes containing one passenger suspected of having contracted the flu virus because they were among close by passengers to be put into quarantine and thus made to miss the congress? How will they be medically treated if found infected?

Before I close up this letter, please let me express my regrets that matters mentioned above which compel me to call off my participation in the Kunming congress may be seen as throwing shade on the good work of the organizers and the academic results achieved by Chinese anthropologists and ethnologists. I have lot of admiration for them and they know it. I would like to emphasize that this letter was written by myself alone and I express my views freely as I did when I criticised apartheid policies in South Africa, misguided theories and practices in ethnic field in the Soviet Union or failure of American anthropologists to warn the then U.S. government of the adverse consequences of its war plans and acts in Iraq. Anthropologists and ethnologists by the nature of their work which includes ethics of research, respect for human life and culture, do not know of any „internal affairs“, especially if human rights are violated.

Respectfully yours,

(signed)

Petr Skalník

IUAES Vice-President

COTA Chairperson

cc: Members of the EC of IUAES, chairpersons of research commissions of IUAES, individual members of IUAES, delegates to 16th World Congress of IUAES to be held at Kunming 27-31 July 2009, officials of World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA), European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Pan African Association of Anthropologists (PAAA), Czech Association of Social Anthropologists (CASA), Czech National Committee for Anthropology and Ethnology, anthropologists and ethnologists worldwide

中华人民共和国国家民族事务委员会

STATE ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

致：国际人类学与民族学联合会执委会秘书长
彼德·纳斯 教授

地址：Institute of Cultural and Social Studies, Leiden University,
Leiden, The NETHERLANDS

重要会见确认函

尊敬的纳斯秘书长：

受国际人类学与民族学联合会第十六届世界大会筹备委员会秘书长黄忠彩先生委托，我谨在此向您致意，并再次确认，筹委会已郑重邀请一位中国国家领导人于2009年7月26日上午在北京会见联合会主要领导，请您与国际人类学与民族学联合会执委会主席瓦格斯教授，前主席埃里克·桑德兰教授，以及副主席彼得·斯加尔尼克教授和索黑拉·米尔沙姆·沙赫沙哈尼教授出席。

因此次会见安排在大会召开之前，请您务必于7月25日或根据航班情况提前1-2天，抵达北京，会见完毕后由工作人员陪同赴昆明参加大会。此行的国际旅费及在华期间的食宿交通费用，由国际人类学与民族学联合会第十六届大会筹委会提供。

因为时间较短，我们难以为邀访的贵宾购买国际机票和保险并寄至府上，建议你们先行购买来华往返国际机票(公务舱)和保险，待来华后，我们将根据付费的正式发票和机票原件支付相关费用。

访华具体日程将于稍后发送给您，供参考。

期待在北京与您会面。

李焕才

IUAES 第十六届大会筹委会 李焕才

2009年7月6日

此件抄送：①国际人类学与民族学联合会执委会主席 路易斯·阿尔贝塔·瓦格斯 教授

地址：Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, Ciudad Universitaria UNAM, Coyoacán DF, 04510 MEXICO

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中华人民共和国国家民族事务委员会

STATE ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

To: Professor & Dr. Peter J.M. Nas,
Secretary-General of the Executive Committee IUAES
Institute of Cultural and Social Studies,
Leiden University, Leiden,
The NETHERLANDS

July 6, 2009

Dear Secretary-General Nas,

Re: Confirmation Letter regarding an Important Meeting

I am honored, entrusted by Secretary-General Huang Zhongcai of the Organizing Committee of the 16th International Congress of IUAES, to extend our cordial greetings to you, and to re-confirm that an important meeting with a senior State leader of China has been arranged in honor of the IUAES leadership, in Beijing, on July 26, 2009, for which the invitation are hereby sincerely forwarded to you, as well as to Professor Luis Alberto Vargas, President of the Executive Committee IUAES, Prof. Eric Sunderland, Ex-President of the Committee, and Profs. Soheila Mirshams Shahshahani and Petr Skalník, Vice Presidents of the Committee.

As the important meeting is arranged before the International Congress, in Beijing, it is highly recommended that you make due arrangement to arrive in Beijing directly, on July 25, or 1-2 days earlier based on availability of air flights. After the meeting, you will be accompanied by work staff of the Organizing Committee to go to Kunming for the Congress. Expenses of the proposed visit, including international airfares and local transportation and accommodation within China, will be borne by the Organizing Committee of the 16th International Congress of IUAES.

Due to the short of time in purchasing and mailing the international air tickets and related insurances by us for our honorary guests, we recommend you book the international air tickets (business class, round trip) and related insurances yourself first, which will later be refunded during your stay in China upon receiving the formal receipt (invoice) of payment and the original air tickets.

The itinerary of the visit will be prepared and emailed to you soon for your reference.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Beijing.

Yours sincerely,



Huancai Li
Organizing Committee of the 16th International Congress of IUAES
#252 Taipingqiao Dajie, Xicheng District,
Beijing 100800, P.R. China
Tel: 86-10-6650 8411 Fax: 86-10-6602 4923

Cc: ① Prof. Luis Alberto Vargas, President of the Executive Committee IUAES
Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, Ciudad Universitaria UNAM, Coyoacán D.F., 04510 MEXICO
② Professor Eric Sunderland, Ex-President of the Executive Committee IUAES
Y Bryn, Ffriddoedd Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2EH, The UNITED KINGDOM
③ Prof. Petr Skalník, Vice President of the Executive Committee IUAES
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④ Prof. Soheila Mirshams Shahshahani, Vice President of the Executive Committee IUAES
Shahid Beheshti University, Department of Social Sciences, Tehran, IRAN

Announcement: The 16th World Congress of IUAES Is Coming

July 18, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

The 16th World Congress of IUAES will be held in the city of Kunming, China, from July 27 to July 31, 2009. The Organizing work is now well prepared.

1. The Congress Program and the Congress Handbook have been posted on the conference website, please go to the website (www.icaes2008.org):

The Congress Handbook Download [pdf format](#) [doc format](#)

The Congress Program Download [pdf format](#) [doc format](#)

2. The time and place of Registration

A. Time:

July 25th-26th, 6:00-24:00; July 27th-30th, 8:00-20:00; July 31st, 8: 00-12:00

B. Place: All participants must have **Invitation Letter** and **Passport/ID** when they register in the following registration desks:

a) Participants living in any of the **sixteen hotels recommended by the ICAES within Kunming City** may register in the following sixteen hotels:

- 1) **Grand Park Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/grandParkEn.jsp>)
- 2) **Kai Wah Plaza International Hotel**
(<https://www.icaes2008.org/kaiWahPlazaEn.jsp>)
- 3) **Horizon Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/horizonEn.jsp>)
- 4) **Economic Trade Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/economicTradeEh.jsp>)
- 5) **Telecominternational Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/tailien.jsp>)
- 6) **Kunming Jingjiang Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/jinJiangEn.jsp>)
- 7) **the Golden Dragon Hotel**
(<https://www.icaes2008.org/goldenDragonEn.jsp>)
- 8) **Weilong Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/weiLongHotelEn.jsp>)
- 9) **Kunming New Era Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/jiyuanen.jsp>)
- 10) **Uchoice Hotel Kunming** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/xiqiaoen.jsp>)
- 11) **Golden Spring Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/jinQuanen.jsp>)
- 12) **HNA Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/haiHangHotelen.jsp>)
- 13) **Kunming Seagull Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/haiouen.jsp>)
- 14) **LianYun Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/lianyun.jsp>)
- 15) **Green Lake View Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/cuiyien.jsp>)
- 16) **Sheyuan Hotel** (<https://www.icaes2008.org/sheyuanen.jsp>)

b) Participants living in other hotels may register in **the first floor lobby of the Wenyuan Building, Dongluyuan, Yunnan University** or in the **Students Hostel**,

West Yard, Lotus Campus of Yunnan Nationalities University.

3. Reimbursement of Air Ticket Grant

For reimbursement for the participants who got travel grant from the Organizing Committee and have purchased the tickets by themselves, please hold the **Approval Letter** and the **Air ticket**, go to **Room 105, Wenyuan Building, Yunnan University**.

4. If you have any questions about weather, or volunteer service in Kunming etc, please contact: 0871-5036656, ynuicaes@hotmail.com.

5. Those who haven't got Invitations from the Organizing Committee in 2009, please do not come to Kunming for the Congress, where they are not permitted to enter the Venue according to the registration policy.

6. The academic office will move from Beijing to Kunming since July 23, therefore, our new contact telephone will be:

0871—5036656 (Academic Service/Secretary)

0871—3601802、3601804 (Room Booking)

0871—3601803 (Tickets and Travels Advice)

Fax:0871—3601801

Our telephones in Beijing office: 8610-68938386, 68932100 , Fax: 8610-68932100, will be closed.

Email: icaes2009@126.com

We look forward to seeing you in Kunming,

The Organizing Committee of the 16th IUAES World Congress