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WAC Inter-Congress in Jamaica

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Call for Papers:

WAC Inter-Congress in Jamaica May 20-27, 2007

Past announcement from Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC), <http://www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org>:

The WAC Executive wishes to advise that plans to hold WAC-6 Congress in Jamaica have changed. At the time of writing, there is insufficient financial support to adequately support participants from Indigenous groups and economically disadvantaged countries. Since the full participation of these groups is essential to the decision-making processes that are integral to WAC Congresses, we have decided to postpone WAC-6. The necessary support is within reach and we have several suitable venues under consideration.



The WAC meeting at Jamaica will now be held as an Inter-Congress. It will take place at the scheduled time, in May, 2007. The Executive would like to offer sincere gratitude to the Archaeological Society of Jamaica, and especially Dorrick Gray, Ainsley Henriques, Leslie-Gail Atkinson, Audene Brooks and Evelyn Thompson. Their efforts on behalf of WAC and on behalf of the archaeologists of Jamaica have been tremendous.

The Executive will announce the new date and venue of WAC-6 within the next two months. We anticipate a WAC-6 date of mid-2008 at the latest. In the meantime, we all look forward to a very successful Inter-Congress in Jamaica, in May, 2007.

WAC Inter-Congress in Jamaica, May 20-27, 2007

The WAC was founded in 1985 as the only representative, fully international organization of practicing archaeologists. It encourages open dialogue between archaeologists and others concerned about the past, including First Nationals people whose pasts are told by archaeologists. One of WAC's primary functions is to hold an international congress every four years and several inter-congresses each year to offer discussion on new archaeological research, as well as

archaeological policy, practice and politics. Previous congresses have been held in England, Venezuela, India, South Africa and Washington, D.C. It will be the first time that a WAC Inter-Congress will be held in Jamaica. In May 2007, the Caribbean will celebrate 200 years since the abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade. This will be an important backdrop for the staging of WAC's Inter-Congress under the theme of "Threats to Archaeology, its Importance, Values & Development."

The Inter-Congress in Jamaica promises to be a unique experience. The island has a long and interesting role in the Americas. It was once one of the island homes of the Classic Taino, the people who greeted Columbus on his second voyage. The island's fabled sugar industry and its history of enslavement will be recognized in 2007, the 200th anniversary of the end of the British slave trade. The Inter-Congress is being held on the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), itself the site of two 17th century sugar estates. This campus today offers vistas of Caribbean academia not to be found elsewhere in the region.

The Archaeological Society of Jamaica (ASJ), Inter-Congress hosting organization, now in its third decade, has mobilized to make the Inter-Congress memorable. Our website, www.asjam.com, has links to all aspects of Jamaica including places to stay, the UWI campus, and arrival information. More detailed information concerning our Call for Papers is available at <http://www.asjam.com/call.php>. Proposals for themes, such as African Diaspora, Maroon Societies, Plantation Archaeology, and Post-Emancipation Free Villages, will be accepted for consideration through November 15, 2006. Proposals for sessions will be accepted through November 30, 2006. The deadline for abstracts for individual papers is December 29, 2006. Individual papers may be submitted prior to February 28, 2007, and will be assigned to appropriate sessions and themes. Abstracts of 150-250 words should be submitted via email or mailed the following addresses: email: wacicjamaica@gmail.com, or WAC Inter-Congress, c/o Mr. Dorrick Gray, Archaeological Society of Jamaica, Archaeology Lab, Department of History and Archaeology, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, W.I.