

MEDIA RELEASE

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KEY JAPANESE MUSEUMS UNDER THREAT

The World Archaeological Congress expressed dismay on hearing that the Osaka prefectural museums are likely to be closed or subject to severe budget slashes.

“Japan has some of the best cultural heritage protection measures in the world, and some of the most outstanding museums,” said Professor Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress.

“The Osaka prefectural museums are among the most internationally oriented of Japan’s museums and are directly involved with the presentation and interpretation of a number of archaeological sites expected to be inscribed on the World Heritage list of UNESCO,” said Professor Smith.

“They are treasures for the Japanese people, and for the world at large. They promote international understanding.”

“The Osaka prefectural government should be working closely with archaeologists to develop creative cultural heritage management policies that can enhance this region economically and socially, and attract additional tourism income.”

The World Archaeological Congress supports the continued funding of the Osaka prefectural museums as important cultural heritage management institutions that provide unique content, are internationally recognized and whose value goes beyond short-term budget considerations.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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SUBJECT BACKGROUND:

The Osaka prefectural museums represent important periods and important social processes of Japanese prehistory and history. They are the Museum of Yayoi Culture, Chikatsu Asuka Museum, Senboku Museum of Archaeological Resources, and Sayamaike Museum.

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.