

## **EDITORIAL**

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### **World Anthropology Congress**

The World Anthropology Congress (2023) is being organized this year in India at two separate places by two different organizing committee. International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) is holding this event on the theme of ‘Marginalities, Uncertainties, and World Anthropologies: Enlivening Past and Envisioning Future’ in Delhi during 14-20 October, 2023. Another World Anthropology Congress themed on ‘Anthropology in Public Sphere: Indigeneity, Social Justice, Sustainability and Global Peace’ will take place in Bhubaneswar during 9-14 August, 2023 under the aegis of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) and the United Indian Anthropology Forum (UIAF) in collaboration with Utkal and Sambalpur Universities along with the Government of Odisha. While the IUAES congress is hosting its 19<sup>th</sup> quadrennial event, the congress in Bhubaneswar is being organized for the first time.

### **A brief history of the Genesis of IUAES**

The World Congress of Anthropology has a chequered history since its beginning in 1934 in London. Then it was hosted by International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (ICAES) which split out of the International Congress of Anthropology and Pre-historic Archaeology (ICAPA) founded in 1865. In fact, the main organizers of Bhubaneswar congress were initially attached with IUAES. Therefore, it can be said that the history repeats here to certain extent, but how much? Only the future will give the answer. IUAES was founded in 1948. The congress did not hold during Second World War years. After the war, the two organizations namely ICAES and ICAPA, came to work together. However, their complete merger was effected in 1968. Since 2008, the congress has been renamed IUAES - World Anthropology Congress.

### **Report of the First Session of ICAES in Man in India**

The report of the first Anthropology Congress of 1934 was published in *Man in India*. The congress was held in London from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1934. Let me retrieve the report from the pages of *Man in India* (Volume 14, Nos. 3 & 4, 1934; Pp. 312-313):

### **"ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES AND NEWS**

Scientific Congresses: The first session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (Congres International des sciences

Anthropologiques et Ethnologiques) was held in London from 30th July to 4th August last under the patronage of H.R.H the Duke of York. Owing to the illness of the Duke of York, His Royal Highness Prince George Opened the Congress. Delegates were sent from 42 countries, India being them. The Earl of Onslow was elected President. The sections included: A (a) Anatomy and Physical Anthropology; (b) Anthropometry ; B Psychology ; C Demography and Population Problems ; D (a) Ethnography (General); D (b) Ethnography ( African); D (c) Ethnography ( American); E Technology (Arts and Crafts) ; F Sociology ; G Religions ; H Language and Writing. A sub-section on Indian Ethnography was also formed. The Presidents of the respective sections were: A. – (a) Prof. Sir Grafton Elliot Smith; A. (b) Prof. H.J. Fluere B. – Prof. F.C. Bartlett; C. – Prof. C.B. Fawcett; D (a). – Dr. A.C. Haddon; D (b). Rev. E.W. Smith; D (c). - Mr. T.A. Jayce ; E. – Dr. Henry Balfour; F. – Prof. C.G. Seligman; G. - Rev. E.O. James; H. – Dr. Alan H. Gardner. Special arrangements had been made for the exhibition of ethnographical and archaeological collections, notable among them being materials collected from El Khargesh by Miss G. Caton-Thompson and Miss E.W. Gardner; the famous Maudslay Maya palster casts and collections from British Honduras; and the prehistoric potteries collected by Sir Aurel Stein from Persia and Beluchistan.

It has been announced that the next Congress will take place at Copenhagen in 1938, and Prof. T. Thomsen of Copenhagen has been elected the general President. A summary of the proceedings of all the sections was given in 'MAN' for September, 1934."

[The original spelling and punctuations have been kept. – E.]

### **An optimistic note**

In the past, the World Anthropology Congress was held in India in 1978. After that, there were two inter-congresses in 2004 in Kolkata and Ranchi, and in 2012 in Bhubaneswar. This gala event of the anthropologists across the world beckons a unique opportunity for the anthropologists of India to have a rewarding exposure with far reaching implications. It is hoped that there will be no exception this time as well. The only melancholy note that pinches is the division among a section of Indian anthropologists. Nevertheless, we should be optimistic of a brighter future ahead, that holds the spirit of unity of anthropology undying.

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