

## CONGRESS SCHEDULE

- 24 March (Thurs)  
10:00-12:00 Opening Ceremony  
14:00-18:00 Keynote Addresses (Opening Session)  
18:00-20:00 Reception
- 25 March (Fri)  
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session 1  
11:00-13:00, 14:00-16:00, 16:30-18:30 Sessions
- 26 March (Sat)  
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session 2  
11:00-13:00, 14:00-16:00, 16:30-18:30 Sessions
- 27 March (Sun)  
Excursions (half-day or full-day)  
9:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00 Special Sessions
- 28 March (Mon)  
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session 3  
11:00-13:00, 14:00-16:00, 16:30-18:30 Sessions
- 29 March (Tue)  
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session 4  
11:00-13:00, 14:00-16:00, 16:30-18:30 Sessions  
19:00-22:00 Banquet
- 30 March (Wed)  
9:00-10:30 Plenary Session 5  
11:00-13:00, 14:00-16:00 Sessions  
16:00-18:00 General Assembly, Closing Ceremony

## PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Congress Secretariat of the JARS and the Congress Academic Program Committee (CAPC) welcome proposals for papers on any aspect of the study of religion. Papers may treat religious phenomena from any culture and historical period, and from a wide variety of academic disciplines, including philosophy, history, sociology, philology, anthropology, psychology, and iconography.

The presentation of papers will take place during the time set aside for group sessions in the above schedule. Members of the IAHR may propose organized panels, symposia, roundtable sessions, or individual papers.

**ORGANIZED PANELS.** Ordinarily panels are composed of 3 or 4 participants and, if desired, a respondent. The convener is expected to coordinate the entire event in advance and typically serves as chair for the session, which runs for 2 hours.

**SYMPOSIA.** Any group of scholars engaged in a particular project that is aimed at publication may submit a proposal for a symposium. Papers for symposia are expected to be circulated well in advance of the congress itself. It is the responsibility of the organizer of the symposium to contact the participants and to present a

formal proposal to the CAPC at the earliest possible date. Symposia are assigned a session of 2 hours which may be used as deemed fit.

**ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS.** Roundtable sessions, made up of 10 persons or less, are intended to facilitate in-depth discussion among scholars engaged in research on a particular topic. Once a proposal has been accepted, it is expected that papers be distributed among participants in advance of the congress.

**INDIVIDUAL PAPERS.** Papers prepared by individuals and not associated with any pre-arranged session will be organized according to subject matter and arranged into group sessions. These sessions will run for 2 hours and include 3 or 4 papers.

## LANGUAGE POLICY

The official languages of the IAHR are English, French, and the language of the host country (in this case, Japanese). This policy is not intended to exclude other languages. Participants are welcome to use the language of their choice if they feel there is a sufficient audience.

## SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Those wishing to attend the congress, need to submit the following information to the Congress Secretariat of the JARS (see the address at the end of this leaflet), on or before 31 December 2003:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Institutional affiliation and official title (where applicable)
4. Area of research
5. Telephone and Fax number
6. E-mail address

Those wishing to submit a presentation proposal, should include the following information as well:

7. Attendance with or without a paper
8. Type of presentation (individual paper, panel, symposium, or roundtable discussion)
9. Title of paper or proposed session (provisional)
10. Language to be used
11. Provisional list of panelists (where applicable)

For detailed information, consult the congress website. Inquiries concerning proposals for panels, symposia, roundtable sessions, or individual papers may be made to Prof. Gerrie TER HAAR at [terhaar@iss.nl](mailto:terhaar@iss.nl), or to Prof. TSURUOKA Yoshio at [tsuruoka@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:tsuruoka@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp).

## ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS

The submission of a proposal prior to the 31 December 2003 deadline does not guarantee its acceptance. The final decision will be taken by the Congress organizers in March 2004. Once a proposal has been accepted, the appropriate registration fee needs to be paid before 30 September 2004 for formal inclusion in the program.

## GENERAL THEME OF THE CONGRESS

### *Religion: Conflict and Peace*

The conference theme addresses one of the most urgent issues of our time—conflict and peace—and one that is being widely discussed in academic circles today. Scholars of religion can make an important contribution to the debate by analysing the role of religion in conflict and peace, and the role of religious traditions in their various forms. The theme concerns ancient as well as living religions. Historical, sociological, anthropological, psychological, textual, iconographical, and philosophical approaches all have relevant contributions to make.

The conference theme is basically concerned with religion and power. It attempts to explore the many facets of human conflict, social stability, and the relationships between majorities and minorities, authorities and dissenters, revolution and evolution, male and female, “us” and “them,” etc. It assumes that religion is a social and cultural factor or, as some would say, a social and cultural construction. Religion is also associated with political power in either an implicit or explicit manner, which provides another important aspect of study.

Religion may serve as an identity marker in the maintenance of ethnic, social, or political stability. But it can also serve as an identity marker in conflicts of this nature. Religion does not need to be the cause of, or a contributing factor to violent conflict between social groups. Religion and religious ideology can also serve to regulate social violence. At the time of the cold war, religion was often regarded as a constructive factor contributing to stability and peace. In recent decades, however, there has been growing concern about its destructive side, seemingly intensifying conflicts between civilizations. At the same time, there are increasing signs of hope that conflicts can be resolved through dialogue between civilizations.

Religion can promote discourses of oppression that regulate relations between genders, generations, classes, or other social groups. It can also provide models for an ideal society and for ideal relations between genders and groups. Religion can be a tool in the service of freedom, whether political or existential. Growing violence, political oppression, and poverty can contribute to the emergence of new religious movements that are seen to indicate a better future for those who are suffering, but may themselves become the cause of serious new conflicts.

Religions often have traditions in which exemplary individual, semi-immortal figures, or deities have been victorious in attaining peace and emancipation. On the other hand, gods may be mirror images of their mortal servants, constantly at war with each other, spreading intrigue and misery in the

divine and human worlds. The gods may serve as the ultimate justification for violence and hatred, or for peace and harmony between mortals. Some religious figures may invoke doom, exciting instability, and frenzy, while others may serve as promoters of peace.

In this congress we intend to pursue these matters in such a way as to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the issues. We look forward to exciting scholar debates that will illumine the ways in which historical and contemporary religions have contributed, and continue to contribute to conflict and peace. The study of these phenomena will also lead us to renewed reflection on theories of religion and methodologies in the study of religion.

The theme of this congress invites panels and symposia on a variety of topics, including:

- ◆ religion and war
- ◆ religion and violence
- ◆ religious persecution
- ◆ religion and human rights
- ◆ religion and identity
- ◆ religious conflict in the media
- ◆ religious conflict on the internet
- ◆ religion and globalization
- ◆ religion and migration
- ◆ religion and terrorism
- ◆ religious fundamentalism
- ◆ sacred canons of peace
- ◆ sacred canons of violence
- ◆ gods of war and peace

**KEYNOTE ADDRESSES.** The opening session on “Religions and Dialogue among Civilizations” will be open to the general public. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on what religions can do to contribute to peace in the world, and what role the scholarly study of religion might have in this respect.

**SPECIAL SESSIONS.** A number of special sessions are being organized with a focus on Japanese religions. Several of the presentations will be delivered in Japanese.

**PLENARY SESSIONS.** Each of the five days of the congress will open with a plenary session, consisting of presentations and responses by a panel of experts on one of the five sub-themes of the congress: Religious Dimensions of War and Peace; Technology, Life, and Death; Global Religions and Local Cultures; Boundaries and Segregations; and Method and Theory in the Study of Religion.

The organization of both the opening symposium and the special and plenary sessions is being coordinated by the IAHR and the Congress Secretariat of the JARS, but we welcome your suggestions and ideas. The subject of a presentation in any category need not be directly related to the general theme or sub-themes of the congress.

#### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- 31 DECEMBER 2003. Proposals for individual papers, panels, symposia, and roundtable sessions.
- APRIL 2004. Notification of acceptance of proposals; mailing of a second circular.
- 30 SEPTEMBER 2004. Payment of early registration fees by those whose proposals have been accepted, and submission of abstracts for the same to the Congress Secretariat. No exceptions will be made, and it is therefore important that organizers of group sessions insure that all of their participants are duly registered by this date.

#### REGISTRATION FEES

- Early Registration Fee . . . . . US\$300
- Late Registration Fee . . . . . US\$350
- Students (Early Registration) . . . . . US\$150
- Students (Late Registration) . . . . . US\$200
- Accompanying person . . . . . US\$100

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Congress Secretariat of the JARS and the Executive Committee of the IAHR are prepared to make limited funds available for participants who need financial assistance for travel to Japan. Details will be provided in the second circular or on the website.

#### ACCOMMODATIONS

The proposed site of the congress, the Takanawa Prince Hotel, is located within walking distance of Shinagawa Station, approximately one hour by train from Tokyo (Narita) International Airport. A variety of other accommodations are available in the area, from luxury to more economical hotels. A typical city hotel will cost between US\$70 and US\$100 per night, and more economical hotels, between US\$40 and US\$70.

#### CONTACT ADDRESSES

All proposals, suggestions, opinions, and questions should be directed to the following address. A “form for proposals” will be published on the website of the congress.

Prof. SHIMAZONO Susumu, President of the JARS  
Congress Secretariat, 19th World Congress of the IAHR  
Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Letters  
University of Tokyo  
7-3-1, Hongō, Bunkyo-ku  
Tokyo, Japan 113-0033  
TEL (81) 3-5841-3765 FAX (81) 3-5841-3888  
E-mail address: iahr@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp  
Congress website: <http://www.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/iahr2005/>

# IAHR

TOKYO 2005

## xixth World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions

The 19th World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) will be held in Tokyo, Japan, in 2005. The organizers wish to announce the opening of registration, and to issue a formal call for papers and the proposal of group sessions.

Congress Chair	TAMARU Noriyoshi
World Congress Advisory Committee	Peter ANTES
International Congress Committee	Armin W. Geertz
Congress Secretariat, President of the Japan Association for Religious Studies	SHIMAZONO Susumu
Congress Academic Program Committee	Gerrie TER HAAR

#### SPONSORING BODIES

Science Council of Japan  
Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences  
Humaines (CIPSH)  
Japanese Association for Religious Studies

**DATES** 24–30 March 2005 (7 days)  
**VENUE** Takanawa Prince Hotel, Shinagawa, Tokyo  
**THEME** Religion: Conflict and Peace

The IAHR is a worldwide body of national and regional associations for the study of religion. It is a member of the CIPSH, which functions under the auspices of Unesco. Founded in 1950, the IAHR aims to promote the academic study of the history of religions through international collaboration among scholars. An IAHR World Congress is held once every five years. For further information concerning the IAHR, kindly consult its permanent web page at <http://www.iahr.dk> or contact the General Secretary, Armin W. GEERTZ ([geertz@teologi.au.dk](mailto:geertz@teologi.au.dk)).

The 19th World Congress in Tokyo, 2005, will be held under the joint sponsorship of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies (JARS) and the Science Council of Japan, in collaboration with other associations. This is the second congress to be sponsored by the JARS, having hosted the 9th congress in 1958. In addition, the year 2005 marks the 75th anniversary of the JARS and the centennial of the inauguration of a program of Religious Studies in the University of Tokyo.