

MEDIA RELEASE

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DIGITAL DIVIDE NEEDS BRIDGING

The World Archaeological Congress stresses the need for institutions and individuals to provide free or at cost access to their digital and technical resources and skills in order to foster development of transformative global access and capacities.

The World Archaeological Congress supports the development of training programmes to build capacity where needed and requested and to communicate digital methods in heritage at all levels.

“The digital divide between countries is widening,” said Professor Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress. “Equal access to digital technology is an essential part of a more equitable world.”

The World Archaeological Congress supports the wider involvement of global communities through the development and sharing of digital approaches.

The World Archaeological Congress is establishing a working group to work in this area.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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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.