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The Australian National University  
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# Interim Circular: Planning in uncertain times

WSC2023 is conducted under the auspices of the  
International Association of Sanskrit Studies

From the WSC2023 National Planning Committee

Announcement on WSC2023 format to be made in early April 2022

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In spite of all the difficulties the world is facing, I still hope that you have been able to find some comfort, rest and peace in the New Year, be it in the winter of the Northern Hemisphere or the summer of the South.

As I am sure everyone is aware, the international situation is still highly unstable and unpredictable. For many, international travel remains impossible, borders are closed and quarantine restrictions are in place. Some places, including Australia, are experiencing unprecedented levels of COVID infection. The situation one or two months hence is unknowable, let alone a year from now.

As organisers of the WSC2023, we feel that the international community of scholars demands, needs and deserves some form of event in 2023. So many have already invested so much time and effort to date, either as organisers, Section coordinators and reviewers, not to mention the 600 or so scholars who have submitted successful abstracts.

While an online conference has some advantages, such as convenience, greater accessibility, lower overheads and so on, we are all aware of the very real benefits of running a face-to-face conference, and this remains our preferred option for 2023. If, however, international travel still seems out of reach, we have determined, with the approval of the IASS, that WSC2023 will proceed in some online format yet to be determined.

We had hoped to offer you some certainty and clarity in early 2022, but under the circumstances, we have chosen to delay a definitive announcement about the form of the conference until early April 2022. We hope that by that time, the international situation will be clearer. This will still allow plenty of time to book flights and accommodation and to arrange visas. If by April, travel still looks unlikely, we will begin planning for an online event. We will also make an announcement about updating abstracts at that time.

We thank you for your patience, understanding and ongoing support.

McComas Taylor  
On behalf of the WSC2023 National Organising Committee  
20 January 2022  
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