

September 24, 2018

Prof. John Comerford  
The Graduation Program of the National Museum  
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Prof. Luis Fernando Dias Duarte  
The Graduation Program of the National Museum  
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Prof. Antonio Carlos de Souza Lima  
The Graduation Program of the National Museum  
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Prof. Lia Zanotta Machado  
President  
Brazilian Anthropological Association

Dear Prof. Comerford, Prof. Dias Duarte, Prof. de Souza Lima and Prof. Zanotta Machado,

On behalf of the World Anthropological Union (WAU), we would like to express our solidarity with the National Museum and our fellow anthropologists, scholars and students, who suffered an irreplaceable loss of decades of research data and materials gathered across Brazil and the planet. It is disheartening to know that two centuries of work was lost due to a fire which could have been prevented had investments been made into the infrastructure.

The WAU Steering Committee members were shocked to see the devastating images of the fires which raged through the collections, ravaging generations of heritage and research. We are confident that our Brazilian colleagues will undoubtedly rise from the ashes and ensure that the valuable research being pursued continues unabated. Nonetheless, we understand that this will require not only solidarity, but also resources and materials to ensure that the National Museum's exceptional work in the field of anthropology continues. Working with WAU members, we will certainly send out a call for donations to be made to the National Museum and the Graduate Program in Social Anthropology.



The WAU, comprised of two chambers, namely the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) and the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), could certainly send out a call to scholars who worked at the National Museum and have copies of archival and research materials from the National Museum to forward these as you work to reconstruct your archives.

Also, we would certainly call upon our members to donate books and other resources to the National Museum to help provide the needed tools to train students and to ensure that the National Museum can continue to be a guiding light in anthropological research, not only in Brazil but also globally. As has been suggested, we would encourage national anthropological associations to compile lists of what could be sent to avoid duplication and thus minimize shipping costs.

In order to provide help in a coordinated way, and not wanting to create additional confusion and chaos, we kindly invite you to let us know which type of help would be most appropriate and appreciated and how we can go about delivering it.

Again, we extend not only our solidarity but our willingness to do what we can to ensure that you will have an energetic rebirth.

Sincerely,



Junji Koizumi  
President of IUAES  
Professor Emeritus, Osaka University  
Auditor, the National Institutes  
for the Humanities (NIHU), Japan



Carmen Sílvia de Moraes Rial  
Chair of WCAA  
Professora Titular, Dep. Antropologia  
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

