

Call for Papers

The Association for Studies and Research on the Early Civilization in the Middle Asian Intercultural Space (MAIS)

Third Meeting
Tehran, June 2009

Dear Colleagues,

As first proposed in Ravenna on July 8th, 2007, an opportunity has presented itself to hold the next meeting of *The Association for Studies and Research on the Early Civilization in the Middle Asian Intercultural Space (MAIS)* in Iran. The conference, organized by the Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research (ICAR), will be held for 3-4 days in Tehran in June 2009. Details of the dates, program, and visa procedures will be announced by the end of March 2009.

The preparatory sessions organized by Italian colleagues at Ravenna in March 2006 and July 2007 have largely confirmed the proposition that since the Late Chalcolithic and for most of the Bronze Age, over a period of roughly 2000 years – from 4000 to 2000 BCE – in spite of a rugged geography of deserts and mountains, the vast region from Central Asia south of the river Syr Darya (Jaxartes or Sayhoun), Afghanistan, eastern Iran and Baluchistan, and from the late 4th millennium BCE, Eastern Arabia, formed an area of relative cultural integration, cutting across the borders of modern states. During the first half of the 3rd millennium BCE, Middle Asia may have given rise to a civilization of its own, distinct yet linked to other major cultural centers in the region, including Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley.

In the upcoming meeting would like to further explore all aspects of the proto-historical cultures of the MAIS, from Uzbekistan to Oman.

Please provide us with a preliminary statement of your intention to participate and an abstract of your paper in 300 words as soon as possible. Please direct all correspondence to irs.icra@gmail.com with a cc to hfazelin@ut.ac.ir.

Except for the cost of international ticket, accommodation and other expenses in Iran will be covered by the ICAR.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

With warmest regards.

Hasan Fazeli
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Iranian Center for Archaeological Research