Dear Colleagues,

The 9th meeting of WBRG will be convened by the Henan Administration of Cultural Heritage, and the Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology in Zhengzhou City, Henan province, China from April 14 (arrival) to 20 (departure), 2013. This will be the first meeting of the Worked Bone Research Group to be held outside of Europe!

Henan province comprising the agriculturally rich flood plains of the Yellow River has long and complex history starting in the Paleolithic and taking strong hold in Neolithic times. It was here that writing began and many of the Old Kingdoms of China were located here making it archaeologically one of the most exciting provinces in the whole of China.

We acknowledge that travel expenses to China and to Zhengzhou (which has its own airport and is a hub for high-speed trains) will be high. For this reason, we are proposing to cover the costs of accommodation, food and the excursion to sites in Henan province.

In order to be able to organize the meeting and apply for support money we need to get your registration information before January 31, 2013. The deadline for submitting a title and abstract (no longer than 250 words) is March 1, 2013. The abstract format should include your name, institution and country, and e-mail.

We have room for around 40 presentations of 20 minutes each with 5 minutes discussion over three-days. Excursions in Henan province will take place over two days including two to three World Cultural Heritage sites, museums and archaeological sites.

If there is enough interest we could also help organize a post conference tour to Xi'an, Shaanxi province to visit the famous tomb of the first Emperor (Qin terra-cotta warrior and horse figurines). It is easy to get to Beijing and Xi'an from Zhengzhou by train.

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am looking forward to seeing you in Zhengzhou!

With best wishes

Xiaolin Ma

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