



Smithsonian Affiliations

September 29, 2005

To all participants
International Conference on Rivers and Civilization
Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Major River Basins

On behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, I am pleased to offer this letter in support of the *International Conference on Rivers and Civilization: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Major River Basins*, scheduled for June 25-28, 2006 which is being co-hosted by the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, a Smithsonian Affiliate, and the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

As current events have clearly shown, there is a great need to better understand rivers, oceans and waterways and how they contribute to the heritage and well-being of humanity. The list of topics and speakers for the *International Conference* reflects the prestigious scholarly nature of this gathering, as well as its world-wide importance. We are confident that the knowledge gained and disseminated through this conference will be of enormous benefit to all who are concerned with the interrelationships between water environments and human populations, and congratulate the conference organizers for taking on this important mission. Best wishes for a most successful event.

Sincerely,

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