

To the Executive Committee of the IAMS
c/o Birger Nygaard, General Secretary,
Denmark

Budapest, July 2004.

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,
Dear General Secretary,
Dear Birger,

It is a great honour to the recently established Central and Eastern European Association of Mission Studies (CEEAMS) to invite the next General Assembly of the International Association of Mission Studies to be held in Central Europe, more specifically, in Hungary. The General Meeting of the CEEAMS decided to extend this invitation at its meeting held on May 14th, 2004 in Budapest, Hungary.

With the significant changes which took place over the past one and half decades in Central and Eastern Europe missiology as a theological discipline has gained a new interest. As a result the initiative was taken to establish the Central and Eastern European Association of Mission Studies, as an interdenominational, ecumenical, international and intercultural association with objectives among others to promote the scholarly study of questions related to the mission of the Church, and to facilitate fellowship, cooperation and mutual assistance. After several decades of isolation new doors have opened to share experiences within Central and Eastern Europe. Existing centres for missiological education gained new vigour, several new chairs and institutes for missiological research have been established since.

The General Meeting of CEEAMS assessed that the best place to held the General Assembly of IAMS in 2008 would be Budapest, Hungary, because of the presence of the Protestant Institute for Mission Studies in Budapest. Also the central location and the excellent travelling facilities adhere this decision. The Board of the Protestant Institute for Mission Studies in her meeting of May 26th, 2004 took a decision to join CEEAMS in extending this invitation. The Board consists of representatives of its founders, the Reformed and Lutheran Churches in Hungary as well as the Gaspar Karoli Reformed University. as well as members of the Ecumenical Council of Churches. The Protestant Institute for Mission Studies maintains relationships with other denominations, in Hungary and in Central and Eastern Europe, including the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary.

Initial investigations have taken place with regard to a suitable place to host the General Assembly.

It is felt strongly by the steering committee of the CEEAMS that bringing the General Assembly of the IAMS to our region could give a strong impetus to the studies of missions from a global perspective, and open new avenues of missiological research, exchange and

cooperation within Central and Eastern Europe and with Western, but also with non-Western Christianity.

We hope that you seriously consider organizing the next General Assembly in the Centre of Europe, in Hungary.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Anne-Marie Kool
Chairman of the CEEAMS

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