

Dear Colleagues, Members and Friends of the S.I.E.,

the world of Iranian studies is running towards a new era, with its numerous changes and transformations playing a strong impact also on the scientific and academical dimension. In this context information, and in particular a selected one, is basic.

Thus, it is a pleasure for me to present now, as promised in September 1999 in Paris at the end of our last meeting, the official web site of the S.I.E., which - as we hope - will try to represent a useful tool for scholars and students working on Iranian studies all over the world. As you know, the target of the Societas Iranologica Europaea is to enforce, develop and support ancient, middle and modern Iranian studies in the fields of philology, linguistics, literature, history of religions, arts, archaeology, preservation of the cultural heritage, anthropology, philosophy, ethnology, geography, human sciences, law studies, etc. The range is very wide and, notwithstanding the European dimension of the present Institution, members from all over the world are accepted and deeply welcome. With such a target we need more space and visibility, and probably also the members of our Societas wanting to expand their activities. By means of the present web site, the S.I.E. would like to inform all visitors not only about the life and history of our Institution (board and staff members, statutes, rules, membership, etc.), its regular activities (international conferences, seminars, panels), and its publications (in particular those of the Proceedings of our scientific meetings), but also and more in general about the current situation of Iranian studies. In particular we would like to host in the page of the NEWS as many references as possible to all cultural events concerning our different scientific fields, like for instance official talks, meetings, conferences, archeological missions, exhibitions, presentations of new books, Festschriften, dissertations, but also concourses, applications for university jobs and university programs (courses, masters, Ph.Ds., etc.). This NEWS page is intended to help all people who work in this scientific field in finding and giving information; for this reason we ask all members of the S.I.E in particular, but also any other colleague working on Iranian studies and interested in this opportunity to send us proper and fitting data to be published on this page. Universities, institutions, colleagues who want to establish a mutual electronic link with and from this web site are of course heartily welcome and deeply recommended to make this connection possible.

This web site of course respects some legal regulations (being the S.I.E. a non-profit institution) and minor restrictions (with reference to *the diffusion of any private information* without authorization), and in agreement with the rules of the S.I.E. it cannot host or support neither events nor declarations strictly concerning political and party problems. Everybody will understand that these limits are based on the more general conditions on which our Societas was founded.

The web site of the S.I.E. is partly supported by the Is.I.A.O., in particular by the Emilia - Romagna Section of this Institution.

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