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## 1st Quarter 2004

### Greetings

At the recent Executive Committee meeting in Cairo several important matters were addressed:

Firstly, following the outdoor opening preliminary delegation to China led by the President, the membership of an expert task force was agreed upon for a subsequent independent visit which we expect to occur at the beginning of April.

Secondly, very careful consideration was given to the several bids for the Permanent Secretariat and further negotiations are in hand with the Geneva University Hospitals. Further clarification is in process.

Thirdly, the Zonal Representatives survey was reviewed. The EC wished to strengthen the Board and develop further the proposals for funding specific zonal initiatives. It is expected that Member Societies will do more to enhance the work of Zonal Representatives at their national meetings.

Fourthly, the active promotion of the World Congress in Cairo as a corporate responsibility was underlined. The Congress is a major scientific and cultural event taking place at the crossroads of the world. The programme is being carefully considered as the Scientific Committee anticipates papers reflecting both the historical perspective and new developments in the field. The energy and warmth of our Egyptian colleagues were tangible.

Fifthly, the Manual of Procedures with revised guidance for the Review Committee and for Scientific Meeting arrangements was finally agreed upon and will be available to all WPA components.

We are organizing a WPA conference on psychiatry and its contemporary context to take place in New York City from April 30 to May 2, 2004, preceding the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

The Secretariat is very busy at the moment facilitating the General Survey and, with the Education Centre in Argentina, the World Atlas and the Training Questionnaire.

Our support and offer of expertise was sent to the Iranian Psychiatric Association in a letter from the President following the devastating earthquake.

Finally, please note the World Congress deadlines and promote the meeting through your Sections and Societies.

The next edition of WPA News will focus on the work of the Sections. I look forward to meeting you in New York this May and in Florence in November, 2004.

Prof. John Cox,  
WPA Secretary General



The Great Sphinx in Giza, near Cairo, Egypt, host city for the XIII World Congress of Psychiatry in 2005.

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### **ON THE WPA VISIT TO CHINA**

A delegation consisting of the WPA President, past and future Presidents of the WPA, and the Chairperson of the WPA Review Committee met on January 10th and 11th of 2004 with the President and Vice President of Chinese Society of Psychiatry (CSP), and held an additional meeting with the Chinese Vice Minister of Health, Prof. Zhu Qingsheng.

It was emphasized to the Chinese Vice Minister of Health and the CSP during the Okasha mission that, apart from the future visit, there is a need to enhance the mental health services in China. Some of the issues faced are: there is less than one psychiatrist for every 200,000 citizens; there is need for a plan to recruit the best physicians to be trained as psychiatrists; the number of psychiatrists who have had full training is below the expected standard for good mental health services. There is a need for mental health legislation addressing these issues that is currently absent. The WPA is ready to conduct joint meetings with CSP for the enhancement of diagnosis, forensic issues, ethics, human rights of mental patients, and classification before the end of this year.

Following the successful Okasha mission to China to prepare for the WPA-CSP joint meeting, and during the EC meeting in Cairo 11-13 February 2004, the members of the delegation were selected on objective criteria of fairness, competency, and involvement with human rights issues or great experience in similar endeavors.

After much deliberation, and more than a year's delay, the door is now open for further collaboration with the CSP and the Chinese authorities to clarify the situation regarding the alleged abuse of psychiatry of Falun Gong practitioners.

The delegates who were selected and accepted to participate are:

Dr. Otto Steinfeldt Foss (Chair) (Member of the WPA RC; Norway), Dr. Marianne Kastrup (Co-Chair) (Member of the WPA RC; Zonal Representative for Northern Europe; Denmark), Dr. Federico Allodi (Secretary) (Prof of Psychiatry; Secretary of the WPA RC; Canada), Prof. John Cox (WPA Secretary General; Member of the WPA RC; UK), Prof. Julio Arboleda Florez (Prof. of Forensic Psychiatry and Law; Canada), Prof. Alan Stone (Prof. of Forensic Psychiatry and Law; USA), Prof. Driss Moussaoui (Chair of the WPA Ethics Committee; Morocco), and Prof. Eong-Seong Tan (Prof. of Forensic Psychiatry; Australia).

This delegation will be a technical, independent, unbiased taskforce, financially supported in total by WPA central funds. It's goal will be to find the appropriate answers for the alleged abuse of psychiatry on the Falun Gong practitioners.

Accomplishing this mission successfully will help to close a long-standing conflict. It will be the basis for recommendations to be presented to the general assembly during the XIII WCP in Cairo, Egypt (September 10-15, 2005).

**Prof. Ahmed Okasha**  
**WPA President**

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## **WPA EDUCATION COORDINATION CENTER**

The Education Coordination Center (ECC) has become an extraordinary tool to facilitate the communication among WPA components, based on our website (WPA Online), the WPA Electronic Bulletin and the future WPA Portal of Resources in Psychiatry and Mental Health.

WPA Components have acknowledged the impact of this tool and significantly contribute to enrich the informational and educational offer of the WPA by submitting scientific papers, educational proposals, publications, information about congresses, and so on, which they share with the rest of the components through WPA Online and the WPA E-Bulletin. This impact may be measured by the very many thank you and congratulations messages received, the requests for authorization to link our website with the websites of other institutions all over the world, as well as by the number of visitors WPA Online gets every month: there were 6,000 visits during January 2003 and about 11,000 last January.

The ECC also implements WPA educational initiatives: WPA CME credits, WPA Educational Programs, and the WPA Educational Liaisons Network.

WPA CME credits were granted for the first time in 1999, and now they are regularly granted at every WPA World Congress, WPA International Congress and WPA Regional Meeting. Also, credits are granted at other WPA Co-sponsored Conferences if organizers ask for accreditation of the meeting ( <http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/edu7.html> ).

This year credits are being granted at the "International Conference on Schizophrenia" (February - Chennai, India); "WPA Conference on Psychiatry and Its Contemporary Context" (April, New York, USA); "18th Panhellenic Congress of Psychiatry" (May - Island of Kos, Greece); WPA Regional Meeting (September, Lahore, India); WPA International Congress "Treatments in Psychiatry: An Update", (November - Florence, Italy) (<http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/meeting2004.html>)

WPA Educational Programs are widely used and appreciated by WPA Components. The ECC loads every new program or translation on WPA Online, to ensure easy and wide access to them (<http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/edu4a.html>).

WPA Scientific Sections have been invited to develop educational programs on their areas of expertise and many are working on such programs.

Also, WPA Components are asked to collaborate with the translation of existing programs into languages other than English.

The WPA Educational Liaisons Network is of invaluable help to put into practice WPA educational initiatives. It is now made up of more than 700 members from more than 100 countries, who contribute to spread the news of WPA educational activities in their own countries, to carry on special projects like the WPA WHO ATLAS on Psychiatric Training, and so on. ( <http://www.wpanet.org/sectorial/edu14.html> )

The WPA E-Bulletin monthly informs WPA Components, and other non-WPA members who have subscribed, about the latest news in WPA Online. It is sent to about 1,000 email addresses. In most cases these recipients forward it to other individuals and institutions, thus multiplying the number of people who monthly get news from the WPA.

WPA Online has been steadily growing in size due to the invaluable contributions made by WPA Components, which are greatly appreciated by other components. It is updated on demand, which results in the development of an extremely agile means of communication. The growing acceptance of this site is shown by the visitors statistics, which has sprung from 200 visits a day during January 2003 to 350 in January 2004. ( [www.wpanet.org](http://www.wpanet.org) )

The WPA Portal of Resources in Psychiatry and Mental Health is now being developed. Ideas and suggestions are welcome at the ECC, [rogermontenegro@wpanet.org](mailto:rogermontenegro@wpanet.org)



The WPA Education Coordination Center Staff: Prof Roger Montenegro, WPA Secretary for Education, Chair of the ECC and Webmaster of WPA Online (first from right); and from left to right: Gabriela Folgueiras, Victoria Zubiaurre and Jorge Kuper.

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## SECRETARIAT NEWS

### **A REMINDER ABOUT THE WPA GENERAL SURVEY**

Responses are already coming in for the WPA General Survey, distributed electronically to all WPA officers at the beginning of 2004. Has your Society, Section, or Committee done the same? If not, please set a few minutes aside to complete your survey now! The results of the Survey will influence the agenda of the WPA General Assembly in Cairo, Sept. 2005, the Triennial Action Plan for 2005-2008 and, more broadly, will affect the future of our Association. Make sure your opinion is heard! If you need to request an additional copy of the Survey, please write to [johncox@wpanet.org](mailto:johncox@wpanet.org). Thank you.



In February of this year, WPA Secretary General Prof. John Cox visited the WPA Secretariat offices located in the Metropolitan Hospital Center in New York City. Pictured are (L to R): Prof. Cox, Dr. Ekaterina Sukhanova (Chief Executive of the WPA Secretariat), Prof. Ronnie Gorman Swift (Network Chief, Behavioral Health at Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network), and WPA President-Elect Prof. Juan E. Mezzich



**President Ion Iliescu of Romania presenting the Star of Romania, Order of Commander to Prof. Eliot Sorel, who is Chair of the WPA Scientific Section on Conflict Management & Resolution.**

President Ion Iliescu of Romania decorated Eliot Sorel, M.D., D.F.A.P.A, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine and of Global Health, School of Public Health, The George Washington University, with the Star of Romania Order of Commander in a formal ceremony at the Cotroceni Presidential Palace in



*The Caribbean Psychiatric Congress held in the Dominican Republic (Nov.2003). Pictured is WPA President-Elect Prof. Juan E. Mezzich (center, fifth from left) with Haitian colleagues at the Congress, including Prof. Cesar Mella (APAL Regional Secretary) (first from left), Prof. Jean Phillippe (Director, Port-au-Prince Psychiatric Hospital) (second from left), and Prof. Raoul Bastian (President, Haitian Psychiatric Association) ((fourth from left).*

On November 26-29, 2003, a Caribbean Congress of Psychiatry took place in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. It was organized by Prof. Cesar Mella (APAL Caribbean Regional Secretary) and had as an overall theme Psychiatric Integration and Identity in a Changing World. It was attended by the WPA President-Elect, Prof. Juan E. Mezzich, as well as a sizable number of Caribbean psychiatrists, including, for the first time, the President of the Haitian

Bucharest on January 20th, 2004, in gratitude for and recognition of Prof. Sorel's distinguished merits and outstanding contributions to Romania, Romanian culture, science and medicine.

Psychiatric Association, Prof. Raoul Bastian, accompanied by a substantial representation of Haitian colleagues. The prospect of their joining the WPA family was actively discussed.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ZONAL REPRESENTATIVES



**Prof. Fuad Antun**  
WPA Middle East Zonal Representative  
(Zone 12)

Prof. Fuad Antun

Several local scientific activities have taken place in some countries within Zone 12, such as Lebanon, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. They were at the level of scientific lectures organized by drug companies or the local association.

There are two important milestones that emerged in the Middle East. The first is the start of an annual Gulf Psychiatric Conference. This is not to be limited to participants in the Gulf but extended to the rest of Zone 12, as well as participants from other WPA Zones. The first conference took place in Kuwait on Dec 8-10, 2003. It was a success with an attendance and participation of over 400 and a scientific program that covered many aspects of mental health common and relevant to the entire region. The content of the programme will be published as a special issue of the International Journal of Mental Health and Addictions.

The second development was that of the Arab Board of Psychiatry. Since its inception several years ago, it has been growing steadily in its level of competence, participants and number of accredited training centers. Every year psychiatrists from Zone 12 (as well as Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan and Libya) meet in Damascus to draft the papers for the two parts of the exam that are administered twice a year. This presents a great opportunity to meet and exchange views and ideas. Additionally, an annual meeting of the "Board's Scientific" Council brings together psychiatrists from Zone 12. The most valuable annual event is the oral exam, which in 2003 took place in Amman, Jordan. This is where examiners from all the countries mentioned above meet and evaluate future psychiatrists, the majority of whom remain in the region. The aim of the board is to reduce "brain drain", and it has served that purpose well.

The Arab Board of Psychiatry has unified post-graduate training in region and has upgraded the centers for training and service in mental health in the various countries of Zone 12. Now all the Middle Eastern countries of Zone 12 (as well as Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia and Morocco) have accredited training centers with over 80% having trainees at present. Graduates of the board have established themselves in several successful private, academic and governmental positions.

We hope additional regional conferences will take place, such as the Regional Conference in Lahore, Pakistan, in 2004. There Zone 12 psychiatrists and societies will be active participants.



**Prof. Peter Smolik**  
WPA Central Europe Zonal  
Representative (Zone 9)

To ensure that this strategy has a sound scientific basis, the EU is spending some 50 million annually from 2003 to 2008 to improve the collection of data, the exchange of information and our understanding of how EU policies affect health. Some activities of WPA components that have been done already to facilitate the process of European integration:

WPA Zone 9 involves 13 Psychiatric Associations from 11 European states. Different timetables of the affiliation to the European Union (UE) with individual "roadmaps" for each country started a unique, extremely complicated process of the EU enlargement.

EU "roadmaps" divide Central European countries into three groups. The first group consists of the candidates for 2004 entry.

The second have to wait until at least 2007. The rest (mostly the so-called Western Balkan countries) will be after that. Nevertheless all of the countries will have to face many challenges.

### **Public Health and Research**

Public health and research within the EU enlargement programs will present a challenge to mental health specialists as to how to incorporate mental health more visibly within the project of "New European Building".

Its public health strategy is to:

- improve information about health both for citizens and their governments;
- create a mechanism for responding rapidly to major health threats;
- understand better the factors which can affect health, particularly lifestyle factors, such as nutrition and physical activity, and environmental factors, such as exposure to electromagnetic fields, noise or chemical pollution.

European Zonal Representatives have started the process of cooperation of the WPA, AEP, WHO and UEMS (AEP, WPA, WHO, UEMS Task Force in European Psychiatry).

The WPA Zone 9 Representative has laid out some of the main problems facing Central European Countries and presented them to the WPA Executive Committee and the Zone 9 Member Societies via electronic Newsletter and through personal correspondence.

The WPA co-sponsored symposium in collaboration with the Bulgarian Psychiatric Association, Varna, October 9-13, 2003.

WPA Secretary for Sections Prof. George Christodoulou has put forward the "Institutional Program for Eastern Europe and the Balkans."

A World Psychiatric Association co-sponsored symposium, "Harmonizing Perspectives and Experiences in Psychiatric Training", was held during the 39th National Psychiatry Congress of Turkey, on October 15, 2003, in Antalya.

To close, I'd like to relate a question Dr. Brian Martindale (WPA Zone Representative for Western Europe) asked me at one of our last meetings: Are the WPA Zones composed well? Do they correspond to the actual cultural, social and political situations within the world in light of the gross economical and political changes related to health care, medical education, and medical research? Let us consider this question. For myself, it is a question relevant to the historical changes taking place in Europe.

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### **ERRATA**

In the previous issue of WPA News (Fourth Quarter, 2003) on page 1, Prof. Edgard Belfort Garban was mistakenly listed as the WPA Zonal Representative for Zone 5 (Southern South America). He is in fact the Zonal Representative for Zone 4 (Northern South America). Prof. Miguel Jorge is the WPA Zonal Representative for Zone 5. We regret this error.

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## **THE 18TH PANHELLENIC CONGRESS ON PSYCHIATRY**

**Kos Island, Hellas, Greece**

**"Kypriotis" Kos International Convention Center  
May 14-18, 2004**

The 18th Panhellenic Congress on Psychiatry will be held in Kos, the island of Hippocrates, the Father of Western Medicine and Ethics. The association of Kos with Hippocrates lies behind the selection of the main topic of the Congress, the History of Psychiatry. Additionally, of course, many other topics on current progress in the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders will be covered during five day Congress.

There will be provisions for oral presentations and posters in English, including simultaneous translation of the main talks.

The Congress is co-sponsored by the WPA and is organized in collaboration with the Hellenic-American Psychiatric Association, the WPA Scientific Section History of Psychiatry, and the WPA Institutional Program for Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

For more information please contact the Congress Secretariat:

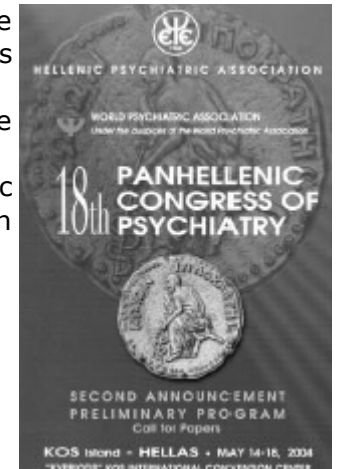
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**WPA ORGANIZES SPRING CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY**

On April 30 – May 2, 2004, just before the APA Annual Meeting, the World Psychiatric Association will hold a Conference on Psychiatry and its Contemporary Context. The program includes a WPA-Metropolitan Hospital Symposium on Comprehensive Health and Integration of Services: New York and International Perspectives, as well as a WPA-WHO Workshop Towards a Blueprint for the ICD-11 Mental Health Component. The plan also includes a set of WPA Section symposia and an International Exhibit on Art and Psychiatry. This WPA Conference will take place at Metropolitan Hospital Center, New York Medical College, Second Avenue and 97th Street in Manhattan, where the WPA Secretariat is located. For program issues contact Prof. Juan E. Mezzich at [juanmezzich@wpanet.org](mailto:juanmezzich@wpanet.org) and for general information contact the secretariat at [wpasecretariat@wpanet.org](mailto:wpasecretariat@wpanet.org).



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**UPCOMING WPA SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**



Secretary for Meetings, Professor Pedro Ruiz  
coordinates these events and welcomes initiatives for new ones.  
Fax: (1-713) 500-2727, E-mail: pedro.ruiz@uth.tmc.edu

### **MAJOR UPCOMING WPA MEETINGS**

September 17-19, 2004, WPA Regional Symposium, Lahore, Pakistan. Contact: Dr. Haroon Rashid Chaudry, Fax: (92-42) 757-2488, E-mail: pprc@wol.net.pk

November 10-13, 2004, WPA International Congress, Florence, Italy, Treatments in Psychiatry: an Update. Contact: Prof. Mario Maj, Fax: (390-81) 566-6523, E-mail: info@wpa2004florence.org, Website: www.wpa2004florence.org

March 12-15, 2005, WPA Regional Meeting, Athens, Greece, Advances in Psychiatry: State of the Art. Contact: Prof. Georgios Christodoulou, E-mail: gnchrist@compulink.gr

September 10-15, 2005, XIII World Congress of Psychiatry, Cairo, Egypt, Five Thousand Years of Science and Care. Contact: Prof. A. Okasha, Fax: (20-2) 748-1786, E-mail: aokasha@internetegypt.com, secretariat@wpa-cairo2005.com, Website: www.wpa-cairo2005.com

November 16-20, 2005, WPA Regional Meeting, Los Cabos, Mexico. Contact: Dr. Luis E. Rivero Almanzor, E-mail: aspsiqm@prodigy.net.mx

June, 2006, WPA International Congress, hosted by the Psychiatric Association of Turkey and the Turkish Neuropsychiatric Society, Istanbul, Turkey. Contact: Prof. Levent Kueyl, E-mail: kueyl@superonline.com

November, 2006, WPA Regional Meeting, hosted by the Peruvian Psychiatric Association, Lima, Peru. Contact: Dr. Elard Sanchez Tejada, E-mail: app@amauta.rcp.net.pe

### **UPCOMING WPA SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

#### **2004**

April 5-7, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored 6th Eastern Africa Psychiatric Congress, organized by the Tanzania Psychiatric Association, AICC Arusha, Tanzania, Contact: Dr. Joseph Mbatia, E-mail: jmbatia@muchs.ac.tz

April 22-25, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored XX APSA (Association of Argentinean Psychiatrists) Congress, Mar del Plata, Argentina. Contact: Dr. Graciela A. Lucatelli, E-mail: apsa@apsa.org.ar, Website: www.apsa.org.ar

May 14-19, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored 18th Panhellenic Congress of Psychiatry, Island of Kos, Greece. Contact: Prof. George N. Christodoulou, E-mail: gnchrist@compulink.gr, diastasi@diastasistravel.gr

June 10, 2004, WPA Section Meeting of the Section on Mass Media and Mental Health, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Contact: Dr. Miguel A. Materazzi, E-mail: materazzi@arnet.com.ar

June 10-13, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored National Conference of the Czech Psychiatric Society, Spindleruv Mlyn, Czech Republic. Contact: Dr.

Jiri Raboch, E-mail: raboch@beba.cesnet.cz

June 14-18, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored V International Symposium on Biological and Pharmacotherapeutic Aspects of Mental Disorders, organized by Colegio Cubano de Neuropsicofarmacologia, Havana, Cuba. Contact: Maria de Jesus Sanchez Perez, E-mail: ccupn@infomed.sld.cu, Website: cencomed.sld.cu/neuropsicofarm/index.htm, www.ciren.ws

June 25-27, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored XVIII Peruvian Psychiatric Congress and III Regional Meeting of APAL, organized by the Peruvian Psychiatric Association, Lima, Peru. Contact: Dr. Elard Sanchez Tejada, E-mail: app@amauta.rcp.net.pe

September 1-3, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored Second Latin American Neuropsychiatric Congress and VI Argentinean Neuropsychiatric Congress, organized by the Argentinean Neuropsychiatric Association, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Contact: Dr. Miguel Marquez, E-mail: info@stpweb.com.ar, Website: neuropsiquiatria.org.ar

September 20-21, 2004, WPA Section Meeting of the Section on Mass Media and Mental Health, Boston, USA. Contact: Dr. Miguel A. Materazzi, E-mail: materazzi@arnet.com.ar

September 20-23, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored XIII National Psychiatric Congress of South African Society of Psychiatrists, Drakensberg, South Africa. Contact: Dr. Ian Westmore, E-mail: westmore@shisas.com

September 22-26, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored 14th World Congress of the World Association of Dynamic Psychiatry, Cracow, Poland. Contact: Dr. Maria Ammon, E-mail: maria.ammon@dynpsych.de, wadp.congress2004@dynpsych.de

September 30-October 2, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored National Conference of the Romanian Psychiatric Association, Craiova, Romania. Contact: Dr. Tudor Udristoiu, E-mail: psy@umfcv.ro

October, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored XI Congress of the Argentinean Association of Psychiatrists (AAP), Buenos Aires, Argentina. Contact: Dr. Nestor F. Marchant, E-mail: aap@aap.org.ar, Website: www.aap.org.ar

October 6-9, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored 8th Congress of the International Association for Treatment of Sexual Offenders, Athens, Greece. Contact: Dr. Orestis Giotakos, E-mail: giotakos@tri.forthnet.gr, Website: iatsoathens.gr

October 7-10, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored Mental Health Perspectives in Public Health Conference, Yerevan, Armenia. Contact: Dr. Armen Soghoian, E-mail: majoria@arminco.com

October 24-27, 2004, WPA Co-sponsored XVIII World Congress of Social Psychiatry, Kobe, Japan, Globalization and Diversity: Challenges for Social Psychiatry. Contact: Prof. Yoshibumi Nakane, Fax: (81-95) 849-7296, E-mail: yonakane@net.nagasaki-u.ac.jp, Website: www.congre.co.jp/18wasp