



# WORLD FEDERATION FOR CULTURE COLLECTIONS (WFCC)

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## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) TO ORGANISE THE ICC16

### Letter to Open the Call

Dear WFCC Members,

I hope this message finds you well.

The International Conference on Culture Collections (ICCC) is a leading global forum dedicated to advancing the management and sustainable use of culture collections, including microorganisms, cell lines, and other biological resources. It brings together scientists, collection managers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to exchange knowledge, foster collaboration, and address emerging challenges in the field.

Given the scale, reputation, and scientific importance of ICC16, its organisation requires a structured and transparent selection process led by the WFCC Executive Board. For this reason, clear guidelines for submitting an Expression of Interest (EoI) are essential.

The attached EoI guidelines serve several key purposes:

First, they ensure transparency and fairness in the selection process. By defining clear criteria and expectations, all applicants are evaluated on an equal basis, reducing ambiguity and bias. Notwithstanding this, the regional geographic rotation remains a criterion for the final decision.

Second, they help maintain the scientific quality and integrity of the conference. Prospective organisers must demonstrate their ability to meet ICC16 standards, including alignment with WFCC policies, international best practices in culture collection management, biosafety and biosecurity, and data stewardship.

Third, they support the assessment of organisational capacity and infrastructure. Hosting ICC16 involves complex logistics, such as venue suitability, accessibility, technical facilities, and the ability to accommodate an international and diverse audience.

In addition, the guidelines promote alignment with WFCC strategic priorities. Applicants are encouraged to outline how their scientific programme proposal will contribute to key themes such as quality management, digitalisation of collections, big data, global collaboration, and compliance with access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

They also address financial and operational sustainability. Clear requirements for budgeting, sponsorship, and resource planning help ensure that the conference is viable and professionally managed.

Finally, the guidelines ensure consistency and continuity across ICCC editions, preserving the conference's high standards, long-term impact, and the visibility of the WFCC.

In summary, these guidelines are not merely procedural; they are fundamental to ensuring that ICCC is hosted by institutions capable of delivering a high-quality, impactful, and globally inclusive event.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I encourage all WFCC Members to submit their Expression of Interest to host **ICCC16** in 2027 by **23 June 2026**. Applications must use the EoI guidelines attached and must be sent to the WFCC Secretary, Prof. Hiroko Kawasaki ([kawasaki.hiroko@shizuoka.ac.jp](mailto:kawasaki.hiroko@shizuoka.ac.jp)). The feasibility evaluation will be done and communicated in early July 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Nelson Lima  
WFCC President