Outlook

Re: URGENT: Letter of Invitation / the Somali Ambassador to Kenya will help

From Jutta Zipfel <jutta.zipfel@senckenberg.de>
Date Thu 7/16/2026 12:50 AM
To Nicholas Gessler, Ph.D. <nick.gessler@duke.edu>
Cc MetSoc President <metsocpres@meteoritical.org>

Dear Nick,

Thank you for information and the suggestions for modifying the invitation letter.

The letter has been carefully drafted and presents all the information that we have at hand. Further, it is very simple and reflects our understanding and sight of matters as organizers and inviting party.

In order to clarify our position, the Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society is a scientific meeting with clear deadlines for any requests for sessions (January 2026) and abstract submissions (7th April to 5th May), both of which expired several months ago. It is a shame that the Somali delegation did not submit an abstract or any request for a special session, both of which would have demonstrated their scientific interest and signalised the significance for their participation, to which they now refer.

It is at the discretion of the organizers to decide whether or not to write an invitation letter to potential participants, especially from a different field of science, who do not intend to actively contribute (scientifically) to the meeting with either an oral or poster presentation and who feel it necessary to bring lawyers, reporters and diplomats with them.

After carefull consideration it was decided that an invitation letter would indeed be written for the Somali delegation, in good faith and with intentional wording that conveys the situation as it is, to the best of our knowledge. Thus, we regret, we must decline this request to edit and re-issue the invitation letter.

Yours sincerely,
Jutta zipfel