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## Opening Remarks by the Secretary General

It is a great pleasure to welcome all the delegates and other participants to the Seventeenth Conference of the European Association of South Asian Archaeologists. It is your presence here and your papers that make this Association what it is: a place for South Asian Archaeologists, Art Historians and others to let each other know about their recent work, for discussion and for opportunities to meet colleagues from Europe, South Asia, America and other parts of the world.

All of us owe a great debt of thanks to Dr. Ute Franke-Vogt, Dr. Burkhard Vogt and Dr. Hans-Joachim Weisshaar for all the work they have done, and particularly to Dr. Burkhard Vogt, who is not primarily a scholar of the Indian world, but of Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology. It is most generous of him to give so much time to our Conference. We are also greatly indebted to their small group of helpers Gisela Klier, Stefan Stelljes and Hans Wittersheim for all the work that they have done in helping to organise these Conferences and making all the arrangements for accommodation for so many

of us. Those of us who have hosted this Conference ourselves will know what all this means. It is a major work. However, members of the Association go on volunteering to host it, which I think shows it is worthwhile, and indeed it is very rewarding in many ways. We should also thank the staff of the Wissenschaftszentrum Bonn-Bad Godesberg who have been kind enough to allow us to use these splendid conference facilities.

What is more, this Conference gives us the opportunity to see the beautiful city of Bonn, and also to see some of its many museums and art galleries while we are here, and I hope we shall all be able to take advantage of this.

We have a very full and interesting programme for today and subsequent days of the Conference, therefore I won't delay any further, but simply ask you to express your thanks to the organisers for all the work they have done and to everyone here in Bonn who has contributed to the Conference, so that we can go forward with the programme.

Bridget Allchin