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Bonn, 01.07.2021

## 50 year jubilee of the Institute

Dear Academician, Director, Professor Nikolay Kradin,

dear friends and colleagues,

Fifty years ago, no one could have dreamed what a magnificent and highly successful path the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnology, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, would take. The political world has changed as fundamentally since 1971 as our now highly technical working world, and unimagined opportunities for research have opened up. This is truly a cause for great celebration.

Just as the city of Vladivostok has evolved from an inaccessible, heavily fortified military base to an important economic center in the booming Asia-Pacific region, the institute has taken advantage of the changing environment and become a scientific hub for joint research with colleagues in Japan, Korea, China, and Mongolia. This is impressively demonstrated by the numerous congresses and research cooperations.

I am not in a position to praise all the achievements of the Institute, but I want to emphasize the eminent role the archaeologists, anthropologists and historians play in the study of Mongolia's past. Our knowledge of ancient nomadic cultures, ancient steppe empires and ancient cities is largely based on your research. For almost 20 years the Institute has been active in Mongolia and for almost 15 years we have been in regular exchange. We meet not only in the Mongolian steppe, but also at conferences in China, the USA and Europe. I have always envied the fact that you were able to work with a whole team of experts from the Institute. From the very beginning you followed a transdisciplinary research strategy. Archaeology, history, and anthropology combined with state-of-the-art technology for remote sensing, geophysical surveys, and



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archaeobotany and archaeozoology has fundamentally changed our knowledge of nomadic life.

Whenever I met the team from the Institute, there was a friendly, open atmosphere. Young researchers also participated and got a chance to follow their own research question. I learned a lot from the always open exchange of opinions and benefited in many ways. It is a great pleasure, my colleagues, to discuss with you without agreeing on all points. But - and this is much more important - we respect each other, we know how important undisturbed communication and free access to sources is for our research. Moreover, we enjoy controversies because they are a kind of competition to find the best possible interpretation of data.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Institute is 50 years young and, like any young institution, will always set out for new shores and continue to celebrate outstanding successes. "To be successful requires two things: clear goals and a burning desire to achieve them" said Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. I know that you all carry this motto in your hearts and wish you all the very best for the future.

To friendship and good cooperation

Yours



(Prof. Dr. Jan Bemann)