

Dr. Huiming Bao
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INVITATION TO PLANETARY GEOLOGY FIELD EXPEDITION IN SRI LANKA

Dear Dr. Bao:

As the international coordinator of the *Field Expedition and Workshop to Establish a Flagship Space and Planetary Geoscience Research Program in Sri Lanka*, I invite you to join us as a key expert. We will specifically target the Lanka Serpentinite Bodies (LSB)-Mars context. While our work will span from 1 June until 31 July, your presence, along with that of students and postdoctoral scholars (especially Dr. Gongjian Ouyang) of your International Center for Isotope Effects Research, is critical during the primary research phase from 20 June to 10 July. I am coordinating the Sri Lanka business (research) visa approval for you and your mentees and covering the cost of visa processing.

The attached proposal document that we are submitting to Sri Lankan government agencies describes our project in detail and summarizes the key roles of you and your center. The project is led by scientists from three research-intensive Sri Lankan Universities – Geology, University of Peradeniya; Ecosphere Resilience Research Centre, University of Sri Jayewardenepura; and Computer Science and Engineering, University of Moratuwa – jointly with space and planetary geoscience colleagues across several countries. The institutions of all colleagues in this international effort are at the science vanguard, equivalent to USA Research 1 (only 146 of the more than 3500 US universities meet this threshold of very high research activity, typically requiring over 20 PhD programs and at least US\$ 5 million in research expenses) as classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and American Council on Education ([ACE](#)).

I will gladly respond to any clarifying questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Suniti Karunatilake (legal: Suniti Kumara Karunatilake Walimuni Devage), coordinator on behalf of the LSB-Mars program's international team

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***LSU is the flagship land, sea, and space grant public Research 1 university of Louisiana, USA.**

CARBON COPIED (CCd):

Dr. Rohana Chandrajith, principal investigator of the LSB-Mars program

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***University of Peradeniya has the only research-intensive geology department in Sri Lanka.**