
University of Wisconsin–Madison

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Dear Hovmarskalk Fischerström:

I am writing in regard to discussions between Kammarherre Peter Forssman and Professor Bengt Sahlberg of the European Tourism Research Institute regarding the 11th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management. The organizing committee would like to invite his Majesty King Karl XVI Gustaf to open this symposium on the morning of June 16th, 2005 at Mid Sweden University in Östersund. This request is attached to a letter of invitation from the Vice Chancellor of Mithögskolan.

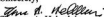
I believe that this symposium made up of scientists from all over the world would be the kind of event that his Majesty might like to support. These scientists study human dimensions of resource management. In the area of hunting they study not the moose, but the moose hunters. Human dimensions of wildlife is a growing and important area in North America. Most resource management issues are they in forestry, fisheries, tourism or wildlife ultimately involve people. Yet only recently have social scientists begun to work closely with resource managers.

One of our goals is to increase the linkages between North American scientists and Swedish scientists and Swedish resource managers. Frankly, in my opinion as a scholar who has been working in Sweden for nearly a decade, Sweden has potential in this area but has yet to develop that potential. The presence of the king would impress the North American social scientists that such research is deemed important here and help build bridges between Swedes and the international scientific community. Of course, his Majesty's participation would attract attention among the policy and scientific community in Sweden and increase the probability of their participation and contributions.

This international conference signifies also the growing prominence of Mid Sweden University and if the King were to participate in the symposium it would help bring attention to the new University.

Thank you very much for your consideration. If I can provide any additional information it is best to contact me by e-mail taheberl@wisc.edu.

Sincerely,


Thomas A. Heberlein
Professor Emeritus
Co-Chair 11th ISSRM



July 2, 2005

Bengt Sahlberg
Professor of Tourism
Mid Sweden University

Dear Bengt:

Well, the International Symposium on Society and Resource Management is behind us now, all but the bill paying and report writing. And I hope the clever among us can take advantage of the momentum developed by this meeting. I am getting compliments about the ISSRM from strangers on the streets of Stockholm. And I know it got attention at a much higher level. If anyone is unhappy they are not communicating with Peter and me.

I want to thank you for all that you did to make the meeting a success. I wish you had been in Östersund to hear the rave reviews about the Symposium especially from my North American colleagues. It was clearly through your coaching and constant pressure on the Royal Court that the His Majesty the King attended. It was our great good fortune that he was interested enough to stay for an entire day. Spending the day with him at this conference was certainly the most memorable day of my career.

As important as the King's presence was we both know that this was simply the tip of the iceberg of your efforts. In my few minutes in the opening session I thanked those who, more than 10 years ago, had the vision to lay the ground work for this meeting. And as you well know, my friend, you are in this small and select group.

It was you who first brought me to Östersund with your dream of guest professors in 1993. Then you saw the opportunity and provided the leadership to put ETOUR together. With no ETOUR there would have been no ISSRM. You have been the visionary supporter of tourism research and international linkages.

Some of us get the visible credit for the ISSRM, and of course we did much work. But without you, your vision, and behind the scenes efforts to make it happen there would have never have been a Symposium.

I thank you as a friend and as a colleague, and extend the thanks for those who should be thanking you but never saw your "invisible hand" on the ISSRM.

Sincerely,

Tom Heberlein

ISSRM 2005 Co-Chair