



COLLÈGE  
DE FRANCE  
— 1530 —

Chaire de Paléanthropologie  
et préhistoire

Yves Coppens  
*Professeur*

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This letter has been written to support the project of PRC (Projet de recherche conjoint) of the French National scientific Research Center (CNRS) proposed by Dr Anne Dambricourt-Malassé for an exchange of Scientists and Students between France and India. Dr Anne Dambricourt-Malassé is working since a long time with indian colleagues in the field (Masol, in the Siwaliks of Punjab, recently) as well as in the museums or the labs and got, with this collaboration, very important results as far as the origin of Man in this part of India is concerned, for instance.

She is proposing this time the following theme of research and workshops: « Tectonics, Hominoid, Ecology from Miocene to Anthropocene ». She would like to work, in collaboration with Professor Bahadur Kotlia of Nainital, geologist and paleontologist of the Siwaliks, on the last Apes and the earliest Hominids in southern Asia (India) and Europe as well as on the concept of Anthropocene, in relation with the current climatic change and the reduction of himalayan glaciers.

I think that such a program is particularly important today in offering a geological point of view of this dryer crisis as well as important data on this eurasian tropical to temperate climate evolution and the recent latitudinal movement of the tropics again.

Dr Anne Dambricourt-Malassé is at the same time an excellent field researcher ( able to deal with Geology, Archaeology and Palaeontology) and a gifted Professor, organizing seminars on all these topics since many years at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris in collaboration with french or foreign Universities. I am confident in the success of this new PRC and very much hope, for the pedagogic and scientific interest of India as well as the one of France (the fascinating research on the Origin and Evolution of Man for instance, but also the evolution of the climate since tens of millions of years in this part of the Earth), that this project will be accepted and financially helped.

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