May 23, 2016

Dear Mr. Akhil Katyal:

We are delighted to invite you to attend the 49th session of the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa.  The full program will run from August 20nd to November 8th, 2016.

Thanks to a successful nomination by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi (whose officers are cc’d here), you will be attending the Residency courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State (ECA). ECA’s funding will provide on-campus housing, international travel, a $30/day per diem, health insurance, and ten days of travel in the U.S.

Since 1967, when the IWP was founded, we have hosted more than 1,400 writers from 190 countries at our Fall Residency. It is truly a one-of-a-kind experience for early- to mid-career writers; you would join an alumni roster that includes **John Banville** (Ireland, 1980), **Bei Dao** (China, 1988), **Bessie Head** (Botswana, 1977), **Etgar Keret** (Israel 2001), **Earl Lovelace** (Trinidad, 1980), **Arnost Lustig** (Czechoslovakia, 1970), **Orhan Pamuk** (Turkey, 1985), **Edwin Thumboo** (Singapore 1977, 1986), **Luisa Valenzuela** (Argentina, 1969), **Mo Yan** (China, 2004), and many, many more. For the 2016 residency, we are expecting about 35 writers from around the world to participate.  At the IWP, you will be welcome to work on writing and research projects.  There will be many optional literary activities offered here, including talks and readings; panel discussions; a university course, International Literature Today; the Iowa City Book Festival; and visits to places of local interest.

One additional invitation to note right away: you will also see a document attached, outlining the opportunity for a second, follow-on residency at Stockton University that will take place immediately after the IWP from November 8-30. Please consult the documentation and let us know if you would like to accept this follow-on residency offer by **Friday, June 3rd.**

We’ll be in touch with more details about the program soon, but if you would as a first step, please confirm your availability to participate this fall. We do so hope you’ll be able to join us.

Yours Sincerely,  
  
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Christopher Merrill  
Director – International Writing Program