

To organizers and participants

Paris, March 11, 2020,

Dear colleagues,

We have been following the development and spread of the Coronavirus outbreak closely over the last few weeks, to gauge the level of risk and uncertainty in regard to the IHP activities, and in particular the workshop scheduled from March 23rd to March 27th.

To date, the advice we have been given in regard to visitors to Paris is to continue as normal, provided that they comply with general health and safety instructions¹. As we understand it, Paris is not presently advising inhabitants on restricting their movements, has not put any parts under quarantine, or is not restricting travel in or out. However, the situation is rapidly developing, on a daily basis.

A second factor for our consideration is the number of participants who have recently decided, or are being forced (e.g. because they live in a red zone), to not attend the workshop. The last few days have seen an increasing number of people who have withdrawn.

So, in order to avoid potential problems, and to avoid a low number of participants, we have decided that the sensible step is to cancel this workshop. I am very sorry for the inconvenience this might cause, and for all the impressive work that has been done in vain. The IHP staff, who have worked hard to make this event a success, are also very sorry, and disappointed that it cannot take place.

However, this is an exceptional situation, which is likely to get very much worse in the next few weeks. The comparison with the situation of our unfortunate Italian neighbors in particular is not reassuring at all. In this context I do hope you understand our decision and that we will see you at IHP on another occasion.

With warmest regards,



¹www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2020/02/recommandations-anglais.zip