

Final Communiqué: Outcomes of the 21st General Assembly of ICOMOS Sydney, 31 August-9 September 2023

Press release – 5 October 2023

Australia ICOMOS has left a lasting impression through its hosting of the 21st ICOMOS General Assembly, held in Sydney from 31 August to 9 September 2023. Following the cancellation of the event scheduled for 2020, our Australian colleagues delivered an exceptional and finely tuned event following an almost 7-year marathon of preparations.

With the theme "Heritage Changes", the 21st General Assembly was a resounding success, **bringing together 1,300 participants from around the world** to celebrate Australia's – and the world's – cultural heritage and promote responsible conservation. The diversity of participants (members, delegates, guests, exhibitors, partners and patrons) reflects the global reach of ICOMOS and its commitment to international collaboration: **representatives of more than a hundred National Committees and 31 International Scientific Committees** were present.

The **Scientific Symposium** brought together hundreds of speakers in 89 sessions on the sub-themes of "resilience, responsibility, rights and relationships", with programs covering Indigenous heritage, the culture-nature journey, heritage and climate change, heritage as sustainability and digital heritage, creating a platform for collaboration and the sharing of ideas between heritage researchers and professionals.

This broad participation was facilitated by support from the Australian and New South Wales Governments, the collaboration of numerous strategic partners, including the City of Sydney, the Getty Foundation and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, and the generosity of corporate patrons, particularly Art of Multimedia, EarthCheck, Extent Heritage, GML Heritage and Lovell Chen.

The 21st General Assembly adopted **21 resolutions**, including seven on statutory matters, three on organizational issues and four on other heritage-related issues. The list of resolutions adopted is available [here](#).

The General Assembly approved the proposed general programme and budgetary guidelines for 2024-2026. Among the resolutions on statutory matters, the General Assembly approved the proposed amendments to the **ICOMOS Rules of Procedure** following review by the Board and consultation with ICOMOS members. The updated version of this document is available [here](#).

The General Assembly also overwhelmingly approved resolutions addressing **climate change, the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and gender diversity throughout ICOMOS**, signaling a strong commitment to these crucial global issues.

The Piero Gazzola Prize was awarded to Dr. Tamas Fejérdy for his outstanding contribution in the fields of architecture, cultural heritage protection and international development cooperation. In particular, he contributed to the drafting of the Washington Charter in 1987, was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture in 1994, and served as Chairman of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee (2002-2003). Member of ICOMOS since 1983, Dr Tamas Fejérdy received the award in recognition of his influence and lasting impact on the protection of monuments.

Eleven ICOMOS members were also appointed **honorary members** in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

ICOMOS expresses its sincere gratitude to the organizing National Committee, **Australia ICOMOS**, for its outstanding work and commitment which contributed to the success of this General Assembly.

ICOMOS is actively engaged in global reflections to develop strategies on how heritage places can respond to global challenges and to raise awareness among various stakeholders of the positive role heritage plays towards ensuring a more resilient and sustainable human development.

The newly elected ICOMOS Board (2023-2026)

President: Teresa Patricio (Belgium)

Secretary General: Jurn Buisman (Netherlands)

Treasurer: Cyrill Von Planta (Austria)

Vice Presidents: Riin Alatalu (Estonia), Leonardo Castriota (Brazil), Chilangwa Chaiwa (Zambia), HRH Dana Firas (Jordan), Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Australia)

Members of the Board: Olufemi Adetunji (Nigeria), Adriana Careaga (Uruguay), Doo-Won Cho (Republic of Korea), Andreas Georgopoulos (Greece), Zeynep Gül Ünal (Türkiye), Marianne Knutsen (Norway), Celia Martínez Yáñez (Spain), Takeyuki Okubo (Japan), Mariana Pereira (Portugal), Nupur Prothi (India), Monica Rhodes (United States), Gráinne Shaffrey (Ireland)

A few words about...

The Piero Gazzola Prize

The Piero Gazzola Prize was established in 1979 in memory of one of the greatest defenders of the conservation and restoration of historic monuments and sites, and a founder of ICOMOS and its first President.

The prize is awarded every three years at the General Assembly of ICOMOS to an individual or a group of people who have worked together and contributed with distinction to the aims and objectives of ICOMOS. The beneficiary must be a member of ICOMOS and is chosen by a Selection Committee.

In 2023, as in years past, the Jury found its work challenging due to the exceptional quality and merit of those proposed. We are pleased to announce that after careful evaluation, the 2023 Gazzola Laureate selected by the Jury is Dr Tamas Fejérdy of Hungary.



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Dr Tamás Fejérdy has a specialist educational background in architecture and monument protection and a truly international practice. Throughout his service at ICOMOS since 1983, Dr Fejérdy has contributed with distinction to the aims and objectives of ICOMOS particularly as President of the International Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH), Honorary President of ICOMOS Hungary. Dr Fejérdy was appointed ICOMOS Honorary member in 2008.

He has played a decisive role in countless local, national, regional, international and global monument protection and heritage management projects, notably in Hungary.

The jury was impressed by the extensive impact Tamas's work has had over time, both nationally and internationally, on behalf of ICOMOS and at the service of heritage.

The Prize is a commemorative medal, and has been previously awarded to:

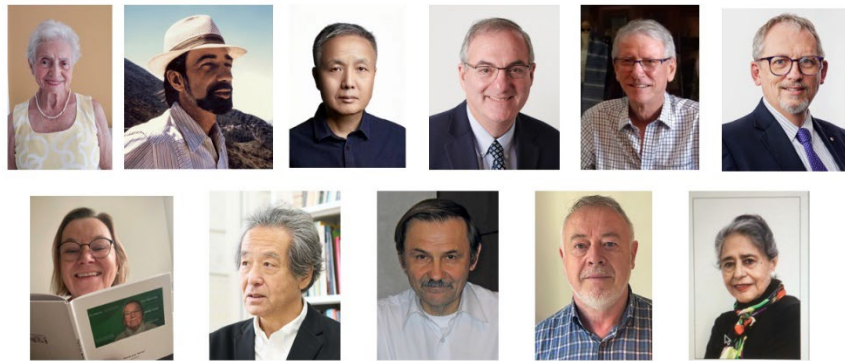
Mr Jean Trouvelot (1981)
Mr Stanislas Lorentz (1984)
Mr Masaru Sekino (1987)
Ms Gertrude Tripp (1990)
Sir Bernard Feilden (1993)
Mr Ernest Allen Connally (1996)
Mr Roland Silva (1999)
Mr Cevat Erder (2003)
Ms Ann Webster Smith (2005)
Ms Carmen Añón Feliú (2008)
Mr Nobuo Ito (2011)
Mr Henry Cleere (2014)
Mr Saleh Lamei Mostafa (2017)
Mr Amund Sinding-Larsen (2020)

... Honorary members

On the occasion of the 21st General Assembly, eleven members were made honorary members of ICOMOS for their distinguished service in favor of the preservation of monuments and sites:

Dora Monteiro e Silva de Alcântara (Brazil)
Salvador Diaz Berrio posthumously (Mexico)
Zhang Jie (China)
Gideon Koren (Israel)
William Logan (Australia)
Richard Mackay (Australia)
Bente Mathisen (Norway)
Yukio Nishimura (Japan)
Leonid Prybeha (Ukraine)
Grellan Rourke (Ireland)
Yolanda Santaella Lopez (Mexico)

Honorary Membership of ICOMOS is conferred by the General Assembly, at the proposal of a National Committee, upon individuals who have rendered distinguished service in the fields of conservation, restoration and presentation/interpretation of cultural heritage. Often these proposals are accompanied by further letters of support from ICOMOS members, Scientific Committees or other National Committees in regions where members have made significant contributions.



The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is a non-governmental, not for profit international organisation, committed to furthering the conservation, protection, use and enhancement of the world's cultural heritage. With over 11,000 members, 100+ National Committees, 30 International Scientific Committees and several Working Groups, ICOMOS has built a solid philosophical, doctrinal and managerial framework for the sustainable conservation of heritage around the world. As an official Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee for the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS evaluates nominations and advises on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.
www.icomos.org

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