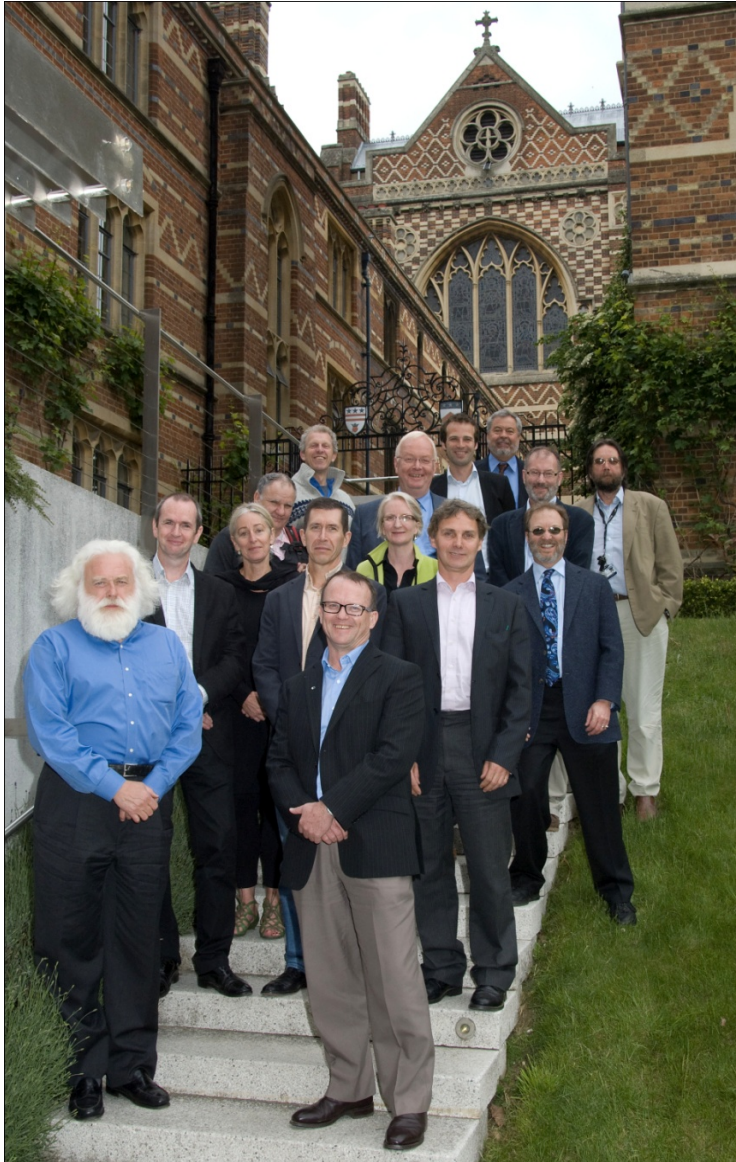


Cultural Heritage workshop, Oxford University

In May this year, ICAHM Secretary-General Ian Lilley brought a group of ICAHM members and other colleagues together at Keble College, Oxford University, to discuss capacity building in cultural heritage management. ICAHM Co-Presidents Doug Comer and Willem Willems were key participants. Other ICAHM members included Jeff Altschul, Chairman of Statistical Research Inc.; Elizabeth Bradshaw from Rio Tinto; Anita Smith, from La Trobe University and a member of Australia's then-current delegation to the World Heritage Committee; and Gerry Wait, Director of Nexus Heritage. Other colleagues from Oxford and Leiden universities, the World Bank and Rio Tinto and heritage consultants from the US, UK/Europe and Australia were also involved.

The workshop resolved to form a new body, now called the International Heritage Group (IHG). Its objective is to build resilient cultural heritage management capacity in places where such capabilities need strengthening. It will do this by providing opportunities for local professionals to determine how they want to mesh their aspirations and requirements with global perspectives on heritage advanced by the likes of UNESCO and its affiliates, major development agencies such as the World Bank and major corporations, particularly in the resource-extraction sector. IHG will work closely with ICAHM and other professional organizations around the world to link local heritage practitioners with regional and international colleagues as well as with heritage and community-relations specialists in global institutions and transnational corporations. A key element to the effort is a highly-innovative web-based platform for the heritage sector, CommonSites.net, which is co-sponsored by IHG, ICAHM, Leiden and others.

It is early days yet, but progress is good. Ian is developing a strategic plan and business plan in collaboration with legal colleagues in the non-profit cultural-heritage sector in the US. Other IHG members are working on conference sessions to attract input from colleagues around the world. IHG will be working with colleagues across the Asia-Pacific through Ian in his role as Secretary-General of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (IPPA), archaeology's peak body in that region. Initial steps were taken at a recent conference in Samoa and will result in a regional workshop in the near future. Further work will be done at IPPA's next congress in 2014. Similar moves are afoot in Africa through the Society for Africanist Archaeologists (Safa) and in the UK (IfA) through the Institute for Archaeologists and other parts of Europe through the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA).



Left to right, front to back

Stephen Lintner (World Bank), Ian Lilley (ICAHM/University of Queensland)

David Jennings (Oxford Archaeology PLC), Anita Smith (ICAHM, La Trobe University), Luke Godwin (Central Queensland Cultural Heritage Management), Scott MacEachern (Bowdoin College), Elizabeth Bradshaw (ICAHM/Rio Tinto), Rob Early (Oxford Archaeology PLC), Jeff Altschul (ICAHM/SRI Inc)

Chris Gosden (Oxford University), Willem Willems (ICAHM/Leiden University), Sjoerd van der Linde (Leiden University/CommonSites), Doug Comer (ICAHM/Cultural Site Research and Management), Gerry Wait (ICAHM/Nexus Heritage), Mark Pollard (Oxford University)

Absent: Oliver Pryce (Oxford University), Nathan Schlanger (independent scholar/ICAHM), Simon Wake (Rio Tinto)