

Final Communiqué

Results of the 17th ICOMOS General Assembly Paris, 28 November - 1 December 2011

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, held its 17th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Paris, at UNESCO headquarters from 28 November to 1 December 2011.

Held under the high patronage of Ms Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, and Mr Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, this event gathered **1 150 participants from 106 countries, and saw 77 ICOMOS National Committees represented**. This record attendance was noted by all, especially by Mr. Gustavo Araoz, President of ICOMOS, who made particular reference to this in his introductory remarks. This encourages us to consider that this important moment in the life of ICOMOS is also the foremost gathering of heritage professionals world-wide.

A generous grant from the Getty Foundation and the ICOMOS Victoria Falls Fund supported 63 professionals from 47 countries to attend this General Assembly.

The General Assembly adopted **two new doctrinal texts**, which complement the existing set of Charters which ICOMOS has been promoting since its first General Assembly in 1965 in order to provide guidance to authorities, institutions, experts and any interested stakeholder in their action for the conservation and enhancement of heritage sites. These newly adopted texts comprise:

- the joint ICOMOS – TICCIH Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes;
- the Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas.

It also adopted **the Paris Declaration** on « Heritage as a Driver of Development » resulting from the discussions during the Scientific Symposium, as well as **46 resolutions**, concerning organisational ICOMOS matters such as the adoption of new Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly, but particularly on newly emerging heritage issues, for example in connection with human rights and peace, and situations affecting specific monuments and sites.

The Piero Gazzola Prize was awarded to Professor Nobuo Ito for his outstanding commitment in support of cultural heritage in Japan and internationally for over sixty years, and in particular for his key role in the adoption of the Nara Document on Authenticity in 1994, building bridges between East and West in terms of conservation philosophy.

11 members were conferred Honorary Membership.

The General Assembly also elected **a new leadership**, comprising Mr Gustavo Araoz (USA) who was re-elected as President, Ms Kirsti Kovanen (Finland) elected as Secretary General, Ms Laura Robinson (South Africa) as Treasurer General; 5 Vice-Presidents and 12 members for the Executive Committee. The composition of the new international leadership team thus includes representatives from: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mauritius, Mexico, South Africa and the USA.

On the occasion of the General Assembly, ICOMOS and ICCROM signed a **partnership agreement** so as to put on record the growing number of areas in which our two organizations have been cooperating on since our creation and to formalize the framework of this longstanding cooperation.

The complete report by the Rapporteurs of the General Assembly will be available on the ICOMOS website in due course.

The central theme of the **Scientific Symposium was: "Heritage, Driver of Development"**. The discussions showed, in the words of Mr. Benjamin Mouton, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, that *"heritage must again be placed at the heart of development concerns; its ownership must be restored to the communities to whom this heritage belongs and to those who come to discover and enjoy it, by rendering it accessible in all its richness."*

Over 150 speakers came to present their papers. Of good scientific merit, these provided fuel for discussions during the various Symposium sessions, and for the first time in **workshop-debates**, held during the lunch breaks, which allowed a larger number of contributions to be heard.

The papers will soon be available in electronic format on the ICOMOS web site.

The 17th General Assembly brought another innovation with the introduction of a **Youth Forum**, the result of close cooperation with educational institutions in the field of heritage, both French and foreign. This collaboration mobilized a dozen institutions and took shape in several ways:

- Physical participation in the Youth Forum where the students could represent their schools (or universities) and their works on a stand;
- Participation in the Symposium through the appointment of Junior Rapporteurs, working in tandem with Senior Rapporteurs;
- Their involvement as moderators in the workshop-debates;
- Their involvement in guiding visits (eg. at the Cité de l'Architecture).

The prevailing idea was to promote exchanges between students and to integrate them more closely in the conduct of the General Assembly, to consider them as professional partners in their own right and associating them closely in the development of the Scientific Symposium's conclusions.

Also with the aim of promoting exchanges and better mutual understanding, a **Forum of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees** was organized during the General Assembly. The International Scientific Committees were given the opportunity to present their activities, an offer which was met with great success. Several ISCs also held their regular annual meetings during the duration of the General Assembly.

During the 17th General Assembly, the **partners** who supported its organisation were invited to participate in the sessions and the discussions of the Scientific Symposium. They were furthermore offered the opportunity to present their work in the **Exhibitors Forum** which gave rise to fruitful exchanges.

Being the first time since ICOMOS' founding that this General Assembly has taken place in the French capital, Mr. Pierre-Antoine Gatier, President of the 17th General Assembly and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, expressed particular satisfaction at the success of the 2011 Paris event.

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About ICOMOS

ICOMOS – the International Council for Monuments and Sites - is an international, non-governmental organization of professionals, dedicated to the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places and to the creation, dissemination and application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques for heritage conservation.

ICOMOS was created in 1965 in Warsaw following the adoption the year before of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, also known as the Venice Charter.

Headquartered in Paris, France, ICOMOS is the only global non-government organization of this kind. Its 10 000 members represent all disciplines of heritage conservation: architects, historians, archaeologists, construction materials conservators, art historians, lawyers, geographers, anthropologists, engineers, town planners...

The National Committees in more than 93 countries all over the world and the 28 International Scientific Committees form a unique inter-disciplinary and multi-cultural network of co-operation. Every 3 years, ICOMOS holds a General Assembly combined with a Scientific Symposium by invitation of one of its National Committees.

ICOMOS has associate relations with UNESCO and has been designated official adviser on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The newly elected Executive Committee (2011-2014)

President: Mr Gustavo Araoz (U.S.A.)

Secretary General: Ms Kirsti Kovanen (Finland)

Treasurer General: Ms Laura Robinson (South Africa)

Vice Presidents:

Ms Kristal Buckley (Australia)

Mr Alfredo Conti (Argentina)

Mr Gideon Koren (Israel)

Mr Benjamin Mouton (France)

Mr Guo Zhan (China)

Members of the Executive Committee:

Ms Sofia Avgerinou-Kolonias (Greece)

Mr Stefan Belishki (Bulgaria)

Mr Dinu Bumbaru (Canada)

Mr Francesco Caruso (Italy)

Mr Rohit Jigyasu (India)

Mr Toshiyuki Kono (Japan)

Mr Philippe la Hausse de Lalouvière (Mauritius)

Mr Wilfried Lipp (Austria)

Mr Christoph Machat (Germany)

Ms Olga Orive (Mexico)

Ms Hae-Un Rii (Korea Republic)

Mr Grellan Rourke (Ireland)

Honorary Presidents: Mr Michael Petzet (Germany); Mr Roland Silva (Sri Lanka)

President of the Advisory Committee: Mr John Hurd (United Kingdom)

Coordinator of the Scientific Council: Ms Pamela Jerome (U.S.A.)

A few words about.....

The joint ICOMOS – TICCIH Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes – the Dublin Principles

This is the first document which ICOMOS has adopted jointly with one of its partners – in this case The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH).

Around the world, there is a growing appreciation of the heritage value of buildings, sites, ensembles or landscapes which offer a testimony of the industrialisation and the modern history of applied sciences and mercantile exchange; this appreciation also extends to machinery, industrial archives, know-how or traditions associated with these immovable properties. The economy, contemporary social or environmental concerns, the continued industrial operations or their closure, all raise particular challenges for the conservation and enhancement of that heritage.

The Dublin Principles are targeted at assisting authorities, specialists, and corporations and provide them with tools to take on these challenges successfully. They provide an integrated definition of industrial heritage in its tangible and intangible dimensions, and recommendations on their documentation, protection, conservation and presentation, including at sites that are in active operation. These principles will be disseminated by ICOMOS, TICCIH and their partners to promote their use in support of the conservation of cultural heritage.

The Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas

The ICOMOS International Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH) has updated the approaches and considerations contained in the Washington Charter (1987) and the Nairobi Recommendation (1976). The Valletta Principles take into consideration the significant evolution in definitions and methodologies concerning the safeguarding and management of historic towns and urban areas.

The modifications reflect a greater awareness of the issue of historic heritage on a regional scale rather than just confined to urban areas; of intangible values such as continuity and identity; of traditional land use, the role of public space in communal interactions, and of other socioeconomic factors such as integration and environmental factors. Questions around the role of landscape as common ground, or conceptualizing the townscape, including its topography and skyline, as a whole, seem more important than before.

Another important modification, particularly in fast-growing cities, takes into account the problems of large-scale developments, which alter the traditional lot sizes that help to define historic urban morphology.

In this sense, it is fundamental to consider heritage as an essential resource, as part of the urban ecosystem. This concept must be strictly respected in order to ensure harmonious development of historic towns and their settings.

The notion of sustainable development has gained such importance that many directives on architectural planning and interventions are now based on policies designed to limit urban expansion and to preserve urban heritage.

The main objective of this document is to propose principles and strategies applicable to every intervention in historic towns and urban areas. These principles and strategies are meant to safeguard the values of historic towns and their settings, as well as their integration into the social, cultural and economic life of our times.

These interventions must ensure respect for tangible and intangible heritage values, as well as for the quality of life of inhabitants.

The Paris Declaration on heritage as a driver of development

The Paris Declaration on heritage as a driver of development presents the principles and recommendations intended to curb the negative effects of globalization on heritage and communities.

The effects of globalisation on societies are manifested in the attrition of their values, identities and cultural diversity, and of their tangible and intangible heritage, in the broadest sense.

There is a need to evaluate its effects on heritage and communities, to identify the actions needed not only to protect heritage, but also to ensure that its use, its promotion and enhancement, and its economic, social and cultural value are harnessed to the benefit of local communities and visitors and to assess the ability of heritage and its inherent values to inspire and to build tomorrow's societies.

Stating these principles and recommendations for each theme of the Symposium- regional development, the art of building, tourism and development, heritage and the economy - the Paris Declaration takes into consideration all aspects and stakeholders concerned by this issue, and recommends concrete and specific actions.

This Declaration is part of a series of initiatives and actions that have been undertaken by ICOMOS over many years in order to promote a development process that incorporates cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, as a vital aspect of sustainability, and gives a human face to development.

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.

This year the prize has been awarded to Professor Nobuo Ito: internationally recognized expert in the conservation of wooden structures; former Director General of the Japanese National Research Institute for Cultural Properties; principal organiser of the Nara Conference on Authenticity in 1994; former Vice President of ICOMOS International (1993 – 1996) and Honorary member of ICOMOS.

The Prize is a commemorative medal and diploma, 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)

On the occasion of the 17th General Assembly, 11 members were made **honorary members** of ICOMOS for their distinguished service in favour of the preservation of monuments and sites:

Mr Joan Bassegoda Nonell (Spain)
Mr Carlos Flores Marini (Mexico)
Mr Álvaro Gómez-Ferrer Bayo (Spain)
Mr Ove Hidemark (Sweden)
Mr James Kerr (Australia)
Mr Masaru Maeno (Japan)
Mr Nikolaos Moutsopoulos (Greece)
Mr Henrique Oswald de Andrade (Brazil)
Mr Paul Philippot (Belgium)
Mr Mario Federico Roggero (Italy)
Mr Gábor Winkler (Hungary).

Mr Bassegoda Nonell, Mr Flores Marini and Mr Philippot were signatories of the Venice Charter in 1964.