



ICOM
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22nd General Assembly

9.00–11.00
Konzerthaus
Lothringerstrasse 20
1030 Vienna (Austria)

Friday 24 August 2007

**Nomination
of
ICOM Honorary Members**

During its 110th Session in Paris (France) in December 2006, the Executive Council received several nominations for Honorary Membership. The Council studied all of them and decided to submit them for the approval of the General Assembly to be held during the 21st ICOM General Conference.

Article 8 of the ICOM Statutes reads as follows (*I quote*):

1. Honorary Membership may be granted by the General Assembly, on the unanimous recommendation of the Executive Council, to a person proposed by the Chairperson of a National Committee, the Chairperson of an International Committee, or a member of the Executive Council. Any such nomination must be accompanied by documentation outlining the nature of the exceptional services for which Honorary Membership is proposed.

2. Honorary Membership will be granted for life, and such members shall not be liable for any membership subscription. The number of living honorary members at any one time shall not exceed twenty.

ICOM currently has eleven honorary members. If the General Assembly decides to follow the Executive Council's recommendation, that number will rise to fourteen. Honorary membership is the highest distinction that can be conferred within our Organisation, so we take especial care when granting it. At the December 2006 meeting of the Executive Council, Council members discussed the principle itself of honorary membership. The Council decided to introduce a nomination procedure to give members a clearer idea of the criteria and procedure for nominations of this kind. The new procedure will come into effect at the end of this Assembly. But the individuals being proposed for honorary membership today already meet the required criteria and possess the appropriate qualities for this distinction: they have worked tirelessly for the cause of museums and heritage. They are Prof. Dr. Byung Kim (Korea), Prof. Manyando Mukela (Zambia) and Prof. Dr. Vinos Sofka (Sweden).

I do not know if I will be able to sum up the entire careers and life's work of these three colleagues, who are old friends to all of us, in the short time available. I will attempt to provide a brief sketch of their careers, and hope you will forgive me if I omit any major action engaged in by one of our nominees.

Becoming an honorary member is not like winning the Nobel Prize for Museums or making it into the Museums Top Ten: of course, nominees must be outstanding professionals, but they must also be great-hearted individuals who have successfully advanced the cause of museums, sometimes to the detriment of their own careers.

Prof. Dr. Byung-mo Kim (Republic of Korea)

At the meeting of the Korean National Committee on 28 November 2006, its members unanimously decided to recognise the merits of Prof. Dr. Byung-mo Kim, who has devoted his entire career to the development of museums. He joined ICOM in 1976 after encountering the organisation in the course of his professional career. He constantly toured the provinces of Korea to convince people of the importance of preserving Korean cultural heritage, and very soon extended his work to include neighbouring countries where ICOM was not yet well-established. Prof. Dr. Byung-mo Kim was one of the prime movers behind the relaunch of ASPAC in 1982, after which new members flocked to join ICOM from all over the Asia–Pacific region. Professor Byung-mo Kim's work has had an influence as far afield as China, Mongolia and the whole of South-East Asia. He has constantly encouraged the regions to develop relationships or networks to enable them to work together to highlight their cultural links. He has also worked closely with Chinese museum professionals, going so far as to learn Chinese so as to be able to communicate more easily with his Chinese colleagues, and has been active on behalf of young museum professionals, whom he encourages to take part in ICOM's activities. In 1999, he decided to propose that Korea host the 20th General Conference in Seoul. I do not need to tell you what a success that Conference was! Since then, Professor Byung-mo Kim has become Ambassador for Cultural Cooperation for the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He was awarded this honorary title for his life's work to promote culture worldwide. The Professor was formerly President of the Korean National University of Cultural Heritage and is currently a member of the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage* and its Editorial Advisory Committee.

I therefore ask the members gathered here for the General Assembly whether they approve the nomination of our highly esteemed colleague as Honorary Member.

Professor Vinos Sofka (Sweden)

The Board of ICOMFOM unanimously supports this nomination. Vinos Sofka is one of the founding fathers of the contemporary museology. He is one of a handful of people who have succeeded in demonstrating that museology is a science and that the future of museums depends on museological research. Since 1986, he has published a prodigious volume of work. He has taught on a huge number of museology courses at universities throughout the world. He has acted as an ambassador to national governments, encouraging them to implement programmes for the protection of cultural heritage. He has constantly endeavoured to make the museum a factor for democracy and peace. Vinos Sofka is an international figure. He has been described as one of museology's saints, work-crazed and an idealist. For my part, I would say he is someone who loves museums and museum professionals and has made ICOM's cause his own. ***I therefore ask the members gathered here for the General Assembly whether they approve the nomination of our excellent colleague as Honorary Member.***

Prof. Manyando Mukela (Zambia)

When he became a member of ICOM, in 1983, Manyando Mukela was first and foremost a teacher. After studying museology at the University of Leicester (United Kingdom), he became Chairperson of the Zambian National Committee in 1983. From then on, he

espoused ICOM's cause and encouraged African museum professionals to join the Organisation. He has been a tireless traveller and ambassador for the Organisation, which he presents as a way for professionals from his country and Africa in general to become part of the worldwide network of museum professionals. He played an important part in founding SADCAMM (Southern African Development Community Association of Museums and Monuments / Association des musées et des monuments de la communauté pour le développement de l'Afrique australe), which he chaired from 1988 to 1993, and travelled his country creating museums in the most remote areas, such as the fairly unique achievement of a museum in the midst of a nomad community. Within ICOM, he has become one of the elders of the Organisation. He has helped promote interregional dialogue and was amongst the first to sketch concepts which were later to be taken up under the term of intangible heritage, of which he has become an ardent defender in Africa and beyond – for he has also taken an interest in North America and Asia.

Prof. Mukela has been responsible for raising awareness of the importance of Southern Africa's museum heritage amongst museum professionals throughout the world. *I therefore ask the members gathered here for the General Assembly whether they approve the nomination of our friend and colleague as Honorary Member.*