



**129th Session of the Executive Council
Paris, 31 May – 1 June, 2014**

Minutes and Records of Decisions

Members attending:

Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz (Germany), President

Prof. Dr Tereza Cristina M. Scheiner (Brazil), Vice-President

Peter Keller (Austria), Treasurer

Prof. Dr Laishun An (China)

Inkyung Chang (Republic of Korea)

Dr Willem De Vos (Belgium)

Alberto Garlandini (Italy)

Goranka Horjan (Croatia)

Merete Ipsen (Denmark)

Diana Pardue (USA)

Prof. Dr Regine Schulz (Germany)

Suay Aksoy (Turkey), Chair of the Advisory Committee, *ex-officio* member of the Executive Council

Excused members:

Dr George H. Okello Abungu (Kenya)

Dr Ossama A. W. Abdel Meguid (Egypt)

Luisa de Peña Díaz (Dominican Republic)

Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine was present as Director General.

Margarida Ascenso was recording secretary for the meeting.

The session began on 31 May 2014 at 2.30 pm.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

The President welcomed members of the Executive Council and announced that Dr George H. Okello Abungu, Vice-President, Dr Ossama A.W. Abdel Meguid and Luisa de Peña Díaz would not attend this session. He also welcomed Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine and Peter Keller as new Director General and new Treasurer, respectively. He asked members of the Executive Council to attend the opening ceremony of the June meetings on Monday 2 June 2014, as there would be a short introduction of the Executive Council.

The President summarised the most recent activities and highlighted cooperation initiatives with ICOM partners, including ALECSO (The Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organisation), ICCROM (The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), the International Committee of the Blue Shield, and UNESCO. With regard to UNESCO, he announced that the former framework agreement between ICOM and UNESCO has come to an end, and that a new one is in preparation, inviting members of Council to voice any suggestions to be included in the new framework agreement to him and the Director General (deadline end of June 2014).

Lastly, the President gave an update on his participation in international events, including the General Assembly of the World Federation of Friends of Museums (WFFM) in Berlin, and an International Museum Day-themed workshop and activities in Zambia.

1/ Agenda

The agenda for this session was presented and Inkyung Chang suggested adding in other matters an item on AFRICOM.

Decision 129-01

The Executive Council approved the agenda, including an item on AFRICOM under other matters.

2/ Minutes of the 128th Session, 4 – 5 April 2014, Paris

The President informs that the Minutes of the 128th session were circulated to all members by e-mail and that comments were included in this version. The Minutes are also available in ICOM's website.

Goranka Horjan asks to amend under item 8 - *Report of the SAREC Meeting of 24 – 25 February 2014* – that SAREC decisions did not need final approval by the Executive Council. Under item 21 – *Role and Voting Rights of the Regional Alliances* – Inkyung Chang asks to amend the paragraph concerning regional alliances as follows: “Inkyung Chang suggested that ICOM may grant voting rights to regional alliances but with limited number of proxies.”

Under item 22 – *Request to Create a National Committee for ICOM Puerto Rico* – Diana Pardue asks to remove the last paragraph.

Decision 129-02

The Executive Council approved unanimously the Minutes of the 128th Session, with the above amendments.

3/ Auditor's opinion on the 2013 Financial Statements

Peter Keller presents the 2013 financial statements and informs that in the statements to be presented to the General Assembly on 4 June 2014, the figures are lower than in the last budget. In the balance sheet the Treasurer highlighted the provision for the two litigation cases. He also mentioned that the loan for the Palestro offices is going down and will continue during the next years.

Goranka Horjan enquired on the voluntary/in-kind contributions. Peter Keller answered that this line refers to the costs of the ICOM premises in UNESCO estimated to €126.000 per year which ICOM can use for free for the moment. Inkyung Chang mentioned that given the sensitive matters, she suggests that another presentation for the General Assembly could be prepared which includes:

- a) An income sheet;
- b) An explanatory note of the balance sheet.

Goranka Horjan also enquired if there are updates on the situation of International Committees that have high amounts in their bank accounts. The Treasurer indicated that there are in total €600.000 in the accounts of the International Committees and that this is a question of policy of the organisation. The Director General informed that she will engage a discussion on this matter with SAREC (Strategic Allocation Review Commission) and will prepare a report to the first meeting of the Executive Council in 2015. At the end of the discussion on the financial statements, the Director General informed that Mr Dominique Gagnard, ICOM's auditor will attend the lunch on Sunday 1 June and will sign the Auditor report on annual accounts for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2013 that will be presented during the General Assembly.

4/ Final Report from the Disaster Relief Task Force 2011-2013

The President invited France Desmarais from the Secretariat to give the report on behalf of Thomas Schuler, immediate past chair of the Disaster Relief Task Force. She began her report by detailing the main missions of the Task Force, which was created in 2005. After three mandates as first chairperson of the Task Force, Thomas Schuler stepped down and Corinne Wegener is the new chair for the period 2014-2016, composed of fifteen (15) members. From 2011 onwards, several cases of emergency and disasters were handled by the Task Force, in cooperation with the Secretariat, some of them originated by the Arab Spring. France Desmarais also mentioned that some cases were reported to the Executive Council, namely in regard to the situation in Syria, Mali and others. It is evident that there is a much greater risk for heritage in times of war. In Mali, the Secretariat and the Task Force, thanks to financial support from Washington's Smithsonian Institution, organised a training session for museum professionals of West Africa which took place in January 2014. Regarding Syria, an *Emergency Red List of Syrian Cultural Objects at Risk* was launched in New York last September and another press conference is planned for the 17 June 2014, in Berlin. ICOM also participated in two high level meetings organised by UNESCO on the situation in Syria. UNESCO and ICCROM are currently working on a Syrian observatory on illicit traffic of cultural goods thanks to funds awarded by the European Union and ICOM will try to cooperate with UNESCO in this area in order to make use of ICOM's existing International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods.

Concerning the situation in Egypt, the Secretariat will coordinate the international relief efforts in favour of the Islamic Art Museum in Cairo. To this end, France Desmarais informs members that a joint mission is planned for July, which is composed of Lisa Pilosi, chair of ICOM-CC and Corine Wegener, chair of the Disaster Relief Task Force. In June, Raphael Roig, from the Secretariat, will also have the opportunity to promote the ICOM Observatory on Illicit Traffic and collect information on the subject.

To ensure efficient cooperation and division of tasks in managing emergency situations between the Secretariat and the Task Force, Thomas Schuler organised, during the course of the 2011-2013 DRTF mandate, two training sessions for the staff in the Programmes Department in order to enable them to undertake monitoring work and edit Museums Watch Lists in the event of a crisis.

Regine Schulz said that Thomas Schuler has done a lot and ICOM has to recognise his immense work. She inquires about mission to Egypt and thinks that due to the recent elections and the situation in the country maybe this mission could be postponed to a later date. France Desmarais answered that this question has been analysed and that all elements were gathered for good and successful meetings on the ground.

Inkyung Chang congratulated France Desmarais and the Disaster Relief Task Force for the report and for the tools that were put in place to respond to cases of emergency. She encourages the Task Force to further develop these tools and to find ways of organising workshops on this theme.

The President thanked France Desmarais for addressing this report.

5/ Final Report from the Ethics Committee 2011-2013

The President welcomed Raphaël Roig, Secretary of the committee, who presents the report on behalf of the chair, Martin Schaerer. Raphael Roig informed that he has been assisting this committee since 2011 and highlights the main achievements during the past three years:

- a) The *Code of Ethics for Natural History Museums* has been achieved and approved by the Executive Council and the by General Assembly in August 2013. English and Spanish versions are available and the committee is presently working on the French version;

- b) A toolkit for basic articles on ethical issues with five sections has been developed to help the National Committees to communicate on the roles of museums and to disseminate the Code of Ethics as much as possible in their countries;
- c) The committee launched a new sub-group to work on a training programme on ethical issues and the first workshop will be held on Tuesday 3 June 2014 during the ICOM annual meetings; this workshop model may be adapted to other regions of the world;
- d) The committee is currently preparing articles on ethical issues to be published in ICOM media;
- e) The creation of a new glossary with more terms on ethics is also in progress.

Raphaël Roig added that he is representing the Ethics Committee in a working group of the European Commission. The working group is currently discussing what can be improved in the European Union on this topic. Finally he referred that the Ethics Committee has given advice in professional cases during the past years.

Inkyung Chang questioned when the toolkit on ethics was sent to National Committees, as she has not seen the information. Both Inkyung Chang and Regine Schulz suggest the tool kit to be sent once again to all ICOM National Committees, which is also available on ICOMMUNITY under <http://icomcommunity.icom.museum/en/node/5360>. Wim De Vos informs that the CIDOC committee was also collecting information on ethics issues and that the Ethics Committee is in contact with CIDOC about this matter.

Inkyung Chang added that ICOM should be more proactive in the dissemination of the code of ethics for museums as it is what defines the profession around the world. She indicated that in Korea the ICOM code of ethics is included in the law for museums. Inkyung Chang thinks that the mandate of the Ethics Committee should be clarified and more information on the achievements of the Ethics Committee should be available to ICOM's network. As an example, she questions if the Ethics Committee can intervene in mediation cases.

The President informed that the mandate and terms of reference of the Ethics Committee are always sent to members of the committee when they are appointed by the President of ICOM. At the time when Bernice Murphy chaired the committee, there were a lot of cases of mediation to deal with. For Regine Schulz, the reduction of cases of mediation addressed to the Ethics Committee can be explained by the fact that the mediation programme did not exist at that time. In her opinion, the main question is how to train people – there are very different kinds of training if one deals with issues in Japan, Haiti or in Germany for example. With the ongoing crisis the ethics issues are on the table, namely when some museums want to sell collections due to the financial crisis. While acknowledging that a lot of progress has been done, she expresses the need to invest more time in training workshops on ethics in different regions of the world.

Goranka Horjan stated that in periods of crisis there is a huge danger, since in some countries the legislation in this area does not exist or in other countries there are changes in the museum law. She thinks that the Ethics Committee could play a more important role and be mission-orientated to help governments in this issue. Alberto Garlandini supports the idea of training workshops which would improve the use of the code of ethics among ICOM members. He reported that in Italy a lot of museum directors use the code of ethics and gave the example of one court case concerning the exhibition of sensitive materials (human remains). Merete Ipsen, who represents the Executive Council in the Ethics Committee, informed that during the workshop planned for Tuesday 3 June 2014, concrete cases will be examined and different questions on ethics will be presented to the participants. She invited all members of the Executive Council to attend this workshop.

Many members agreed on the importance of organising workshops on ethics and on the need to improve the communication to the network on this theme. ICOM members should contribute with

ideas for the content of these workshops. Peter Keller questioned if the workshops should be directed to ICOM members or to mayors and politicians.

Some examples of past workshops on ethics were mentioned by Laishun An (two workshops in China), Inkyung Chang (in Japan), and by Tereza Scheiner (two workshops in Brazil). All the workshops were very successful in different countries where they took place.

The Executive Council suggested that the Ethics Committee should be more visible and improve the promotion of the code of ethics for museums worldwide.

The President thanked Raphaël Roig for this report.

6/ Final Report from the Finance and Resources Committee 2011-2013

Ole Winther, member of the Finance and Resources Committee gave a summary on the main activities carried out by this committee between 2011 and 2013. He addressed this report on behalf of the Chair of the committee, David Fleming. Ole Winther informs that he has been appointed member of the committee by ICOM President for 2014-2016. He then informed the Executive Council members that the finance committee has worked mainly on questions related to the international committee's accounts and advising on how to search for external funding for ICOM projects and for the International Committees. Other advices were given in other areas, including the ICOM annual budget, the scrutiny of operating expenses and improvements in the clarity of the presentation of financial information to ICOM's governing bodies. At the end of his presentation, Ole Winther indicated that the cooperation with the Secretariat was very good.

Following a question by Inkyung Chang on the ICOM Foundation, the Director General informed that the Foundation is increasing in terms of members and funds. She also said that a meeting with Christine Boël, President of the ICOM Foundation, is planned for this month to discuss the future cooperation between ICOM and the Foundation. Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine confirmed that in some cases applicants for membership who are not accepted by a national committee address their request to the Foundation. In her opinion, the Foundation could be further developed in order to meet the objectives of ICOM's strategic plan.

A discussion followed among some members on the need to be more specific regarding the objectives of the Foundation.

In conclusion, the Director General told members that the increase of the endowment fund is important, but ICOM has also to know how to spend that money, for example by launching new programmes for committees based on the next strategic plan.

The President thanked Ole Winther for the report on the Finance and Resources Committee.

7/ Final Report from the Working Group on the ICOM Membership Database

Nicholas Crofts presented the report, as chair of the Working Group on the ICOM Database. He was accompanied by Maija Ekosaari, member of the Working Group and Secretary of CIDOC. He began by introducing the aims of this group which was primarily to consider all the membership process in three phases:

- Analysing the actual situation, identifying and prioritising the problems;

- Proposing appropriate solutions.

The working group conducted a survey of 33 questions on the membership processing, which was submitted to all the secretaries of national and international committees. In total, 42 responses were received from the network. The working group members were also able to provide input to the survey based on their own experience.

The results of the survey revealed a complex situation and, in order to improve the membership process, the following steps need to be taken:

- Improve the efficiency and speed the membership processes, including the optimisation of the existing technical tools;
- Ensure that the network is aware and understands the process, the tools and encourage its use.

The working group also recommends the following:

- Implementing a plan, based on the available documents, for the short, medium and long term;
- Establishing a working group to study and validate the proposed changes and ensure regular reporting;
- Inform the national, international committees about the plan and encourage them to contribute to the process.

Nicholas Crofts added that the working group did not have enough time to study the feasibility of the proposed solutions.

The President thanked Nicholas Crofts and his group for this report. Given the knowledge and expertise they have acquired, he suggests that he continues until 2016 in order to study the propositions on what can be feasible, in order to make the membership processes simple and faster in the near future.

Inkyung Chang said that membership process is very important and, during the Advisory Committee meeting, an announcement can be done to encourage members to get involved in the next mandate of the working group. Diana Pardue mentioned that the national committee of ICOM-US would be interested in getting involved in this group.

Members exchanged on the possibility to centralise all the processes in Paris, including the online payment, which represents much work and is time consuming for some national committees. Nicholas Crofts indicated that the complexity also comes from the fact that there are very different working methods at the national level, even in European countries. The treasurer mentioned that if all steps are centralised in Paris, more staff is needed to administrate the database and the best way would be to open the system, so that the majority of the national committees use it.

Both Tereza Scheiner and Nicholas Crofts expressed their concern about the fact that in some cases members do not get any feedback from international committees they applied for.

In other cases, international committee chairs also have difficulties to get detailed information on the new members of their committee. Dora Eszter Peter added that the new Online Membership Directory will resolve this problem, as new members will be visible independently of the payment registration.

Dora Eszter Peter added that presently the membership department has not clear guidelines in place to be able to control the members' eligibility and that a more efficient solution should be put in place in collaboration with all the national committees.

Goranka Horjan agreed that the national committees are vital in this process and sometimes it is difficult to motivate individuals to become members of an international committee. An improvement in this area is crucial, in order to attract new members to international committees.

While thanking the President and the Executive Council for their confidence, Nicholas Crofts referred that the current working group on the database should be reformulated and invite more people to join the group. He also mentioned that in order to continue with this task, he would need a budget to interview national and international committee chairs or to talk with other organisations on their membership system.

In closing, the President and the Treasurer suggested the working group to make proposals for its mandate and to continue as a working group of the Advisory Committee. Nicholas Crofts will also provide a working plan and indicate the amount they need until 2016.

8/ Report on the Strategic Plan and Resolutions Monitoring Committee

Wim De Vos gave a report on the Strategic Plan and Resolutions Monitoring Committee, which was recently established. He started his presentation by indicating that all national committees, international committees, and ICOM bodies will be asked to give their input. Newsletters from the national and international committees are also going to be analysed by the members of the committee.

Suay Aksoy enquired whether the strategic plan and resolutions monitoring committee would talk about the past strategic plan and about its outcomes. Tereza Scheiner suggested that the committee members may check previous reports of evaluation of ICOM strategic plans. Merete Ipsen said that the committee could ask the network for input, during the separate meetings of the national and international committees.

Wim De Vos welcomes any suggestions by Executive Council members which can benefit the work of the committee and invites the members to join the first meeting to be held on Monday 2 June 2014.

The President thanked Wim De Vos for his work and for this first report.

9/ Report on the Working Group on Criteria and Acceptance Procedures for ICOM Members

Tereza Scheiner introduced this item, explaining that she did not produce a report but a document for discussion with the members of the Executive Council. She started by giving special relevance to the fact that ICOM is an international membership organisation. She also commented that membership applications are not the same in each country; delays in acceptance of applications are different from country to country; and the criteria for acceptance of members also differ, for example, if the applicant is a university professor or a consultant.

Not all committees follow the rules of membership in the same way, and presently no general policy is available for national and for international committees. It is advisable that all new members accept the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums by signing the application form, which not always occurs. A unique procedure for institutional members should also be established. Regine Schulz adds that issues of concern are different in different countries and clear standards should be adopted, bearing in mind the results expected. Maybe a general policy could be created and adapted to the reality of each country.

Inkyung Chang reminded that many national committees are headed by government officials and ICOM has to be careful when dealing with government officials.

Wim De Vos mentioned that due to the financial crisis in some countries, members can start new careers as independent conservators or museum professors in museum matters, and this should be taken into account when writing the rules. ICOM should also have in mind the evolution of the society in this area. Alberto Garlandini supports the idea of having an inclusive policy for acceptance of members and suggests that the national committees should comply with what is written in ICOM Statutes. He also favours the idea that ICOM should not accept as members professionals who work for dealers or auction houses, even though their tasks require qualification in the museum and heritage field.

Many members of the EC felt that this is a problematic issue and if ICOM opens too much its membership this could weaken the main target of the organisation; on the other hand, ICOM should have in mind the reality of today in the museum world and be as inclusive as possible.

Presently several museum exhibitions are already done by professionals of the private sector; for example, in the United States, architects are no longer considered as museum staff. In some other countries, professionals from private companies are members of the board of national committees. Some EC members share the idea that there is a big difference between being a member and being a voting member.

Tereza Scheiner and Regine Schulz propose therefore to draft a questionnaire with some criteria for acceptance of members, as well as with other questions concerning details on membership - to be sent to Chairs of national and international committees for comments. The proposed criteria could be presented in three different levels:

- a) Professionals who work in a museum or produce for a museum (e.g., external company working on a museum exhibition);
- b) Professionals who work as art dealers;
- c) People who deal with the fight against illicit traffic.

A short document shall be written by Tereza Scheiner, Regine Schulz and Laishun An, based on the items discussed by the Executive Council, to be brought to the attention of the Advisory Committee.

The President thanked Tereza Scheiner for her presentation.

10/ Request of Museums of Music and Music Theatres to become an International Committee of ICOM

Samia Slimani introduced the item, and informed that 48 museums are members of the Association of Musical Instruments and Collections (AMM&C), mainly based in Russia and in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). She informed that the Secretariat put in place an application kit for requests to create an international committee. She also mentioned that the Legal Affairs department made an analysis of this request and that musical theatre issues are not fully embraced by the existing international committees and affiliated organisation: CIMCIM (ICOM International Committee for Museums and Collections of Musical Instruments), ICLM (ICOM International Committee for Literary Museums) and SIBMAS (International Association of Libraries and Museums of Performing Arts). She therefore recommended conducting a discussion with a view to bringing together the Association of Musical Instruments and Collections with the existing committees, possibly CIMCIM, in order to explore opportunities or to consider the creation of a new affiliated organisation.

Merete Ipsen commented on the need to have a new international committee and reminds members that an international committee needs to have a minimum of 50% of ICOM members belonging to at least two different continents. Regine Schulz stated the need to have an official statement from the CIMCIM chair before making any decision. She added that more than half of the members of AMM&C come from the Russian Federation and that there could be an overlap. She also suggested that discussions should be started first between CIMCIM and AMM&C.

Peter Keller mentioned that in his opinion the area of activities is somehow confusing and that CIMCIM could undertake a study about the themes they want to focus on exactly. For example, a working group on music composers could be established within CIMCIM. Goranka Horjan expressed the need to redefine some international committees' missions in the future.

The majority of the Executive Council members suggested that in the answer to AMM&C, ICOM should propose a way to collaborate with CIMCIM. ICOM should also ask the Chair of CIMCIM to meet with the AMM&C, as this could be an excellent opportunity for CIMCIM to enlarge its scope of activities.

The Director General will follow-up on this matter and will provide an update during the next Executive Council meeting in December.

11/ Creation and Dissolution of National Committees and Affiliated Organisations: El Salvador, Kazakhstan, SADCAMM, AMOI

Dora Eszter Peter informed members of the Executive Council that in October 2013 several members decided to create a national committee in Kazakhstan, with the help of the Secretariat staff. Since then ten (10) museums and five (5) individual members applied and regularised their membership fees. The Board of this national committee is composed mainly of museum directors and ICOM Kazakhstan followed the model rules for the creation of a national committee established by ICOM. Dora Eszter Peter suggests therefore that the Executive Council approves the creation of the ICOM National Committee in Kazakhstan.

In regard to El Salvador, she informs that contacts to create a national committee were established with the Secretariat during the Rio General Conference in 2013 and presently, five (5) museum professionals became members and paid their fees for 2014. Dora Eszter Peter also confirms that this committee fulfils all the legal requirements and asks the Executive Council to approve the creation of a new national committee of ICOM in El Salvador.

ICOM had a national committee in Chad in 1985, and sporadically, due to difficulties to cover membership payments, until 2005. The request to re-establish a committee was addressed to the Secretariat last October 2013. The national committee has currently seventeen (17) regularised members, among them the Director of the National Museum of Chad and elected the new board. The national committee of Chad could therefore be re-established and approved by the Executive Council.

Dora Eszter Peter also informed members that the national committees of Benin, Indonesia and Zimbabwe have currently less than 5 (five) members so they can be considered as national committees under re-organisation. Concerning Zimbabwe, the President suggests contacting Rudo Sithole on this matter and he also adds that, following his visit to Zambia in May, he established contacts with the Director General of the National Museum in Tanzania who is already in contact with the Secretariat with a view to re-establish the national committee of ICOM in this country.

Laishun An enquired about the creation of national committees, stating the example of Taiwan, as this question may be officially raised by ICOM China. It was suggested that ICOM should refer to international practices, such as the ones used by UNESCO or the United Nations, for countries such as

Kosovo, Palestine and Taiwan. The President mentioned the case of Crimea, which is not officially recognised as being part of Russia.

In regard to SADCAMM – Southern African Development Community Association of Museums and Monuments, affiliated organisation to ICOM, since November 2013 the Secretariat tried to establish contact with its Board members; but never managed to communicate with them. According to the letter of the Secretary of ICOM Botswana, the Association collapsed due to lack of funding and stable Secretariat.

The President informs that during his stay in Zambia, he had a meeting with the representatives of SADCHA (Southern African Development Community Heritage Association), the organisation following SADCAMM, who want to have some activities in the region. For the moment, they are fixing headquarters in Gaborone (Botswana) and will start talks about the possible structure in order to create a new association. They promised to send more information to the Secretariat in September 2014. The President also indicated that he will not interfere if they want to create a new association.

Concerning AMOI, the Secretariat also tried to establish contact with its Board members with the aim to update the database information. No answer was received and it is questionable if this organisation is still in activity.

A discussion followed among some members of the Executive Council on the current number of affiliated organisations (18), that do not address their reports to ICOM, and on the need to check if 50 % of their members are ICOM members. In the future, ICOM should think about the statutes for affiliated organisation and how to work with them.

The President recommends that Dora Eszter Peter prepare a report for the December Executive Council meeting on the status of all affiliated organisations. The situation of AMOI should also be included in this report.

Decision 129-03

The Executive Council approved unanimously the re-establishment or the creation of the following national committees: Chad, El Salvador and Kazakhstan. In what concerns the affiliated organisations, the Executive Council recommends that the Secretariat clarify the actual situation of each organisation and provide a report for the next meeting in December 2014.

12/ ICOM Annual Meetings, 2-4 June 2014, Paris

Suay Aksoy and Yu Zhang presented the final programme of the three days of the ICOM Annual Meetings 2014, highlighting the participation of Shigeru Ban as Keynote speaker and of Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, in representation of Mrs Bokova. They also informed that the annual reception would take place on Tuesday 3 June at the Carnavalet Museum.

Tereza Scheiner congratulated Suay Aksoy for having changed the format of the June meetings, allowing more time for the Advisory Committee and for meetings of National and International Committees this year.

13/ Report on the 2nd Seminar of ICOM International Training Centre (ICOM-ITC), 22-29 April 2014

Laishun An and Yu Zhang gave a summary on the 2nd Seminar of the ICOM International Training Centre held in Beijing from 22 to 29 April, 2014 on the theme of the International Museum Day *Museum Collections Make Connections*. 29 participants from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America attended the seminar. For this 2nd Seminar, several improvements took place including the

participation of six museums in Beijing, which welcomed the participants in their premises and a session on “Reading artefacts” dedicated to the interpretation of artefacts in different ways. A questionnaire was filled by the participants at the end of the seminar to evaluate the quality of the training as well as their experience. The themes of the next seminars will be education (27 October-4 November 2014), exhibitions (April 2015), and management (October/November 2015). A rotation-model for the training centre will also be discussed during the Board meeting of ICOM-ITC to be held on 5 June 2014, in Paris.

The President expressed his satisfaction for the improvements of the second seminar that, in his opinion, reached the right museum professionals from developing countries, offering them the possibility to share ideas and experience with museum professionals from other countries. He also mentioned that members ask for the possibility to establish this model of training centre in other regions of the world.

Both Tereza Scheiner and Merete Ipsen suggested that the International Training Centre could organise workshops in other continents, such as Latin America or Africa, in countries where schools of museology are inexistent.

To a question by Inkyung Chang on the number of participants and the grants awarded for participation of ICOM members in the ICOM-ITC seminars, Yu Zhang informed that a call for applications was sent to all national committees and some countries sent more than two applications. She also explained that, due to a limited budget and to allow a good quality of the training, the ICOM-ITC welcomes a maximum of 35 participants, only from countries of categories 2, 3 and 4, covering full grant for 30 of them and partial grant for 5 grantees. The next call for applications will be sent in the beginning of September for the seminar scheduled for the end of October 2014.

The President thanked both Laishun An and Yu Zhang for their report.

14/ Report on the Organisation of the 24th General Conference, in 2016, Milan

Alberto Garlandini gave a summary report from April to June 2014. He said that during this period a questionnaire was sent to ICOM network to inquire about the Committees’ logistic needs for the Milan General Conference. So far, he received very positive answers from 32 national committees, 22 international committees and 3 affiliated organisations.

Recently, Alberto Garlandini had the opportunity to promote the General Conference during the 20th Forum of the Mediterranean Maritime Heritage in Croatia and was invited to present ICOM 2016 during the American Alliance of Museums annual meeting in Seattle, in April 2014. In the next months, he also plans to talk with several national committees, mainly in Europe, in order to promote the General Conference and its theme, and in October he will give a speech on behalf of ICOM President during an international meeting in Athens on “*A new policy for the integrated management of cultural and natural heritage*” organised by the Cultural Foundation of Piraeus Bank and the Greek Ministry of Culture.

A first announcement of the 2016 General Conference will be distributed during the ICOM annual meetings in English. French, Spanish and Italian versions are under preparation and will be available online soon. Alberto Garlandini will also make a presentation during the Advisory Committee meeting.

In July 2014, there will be the election for the new Chair of ICOM Italy. The three candidates for the position of Chair are very much involved in the organisation of the 2016 General Conference and Alberto Garlandini, who acts as President of the Organising committee will be permanently invited to the meetings of the Italian National Committee.

Merete Ipsen suggested that some events could be organised in each country, to promote the General Conference and to reach a wider audience. Goranka Horjan enquired if there is a limited number of national committees that can organise a meeting or an event during the General Conference, to which Alberto Garlandini answered that the conference site is very large and the earlier the organising committee receives the needs, the better he can organise everything in connection with the rooms that are available in the conference site.

The President enquired on the visits to be held during the December Executive Council meeting in Milan. Alberto Garlandini answered that the Executive Council members will have the opportunity to see the venues for the General conference, for the opening and closing ceremonies, and to meet the local organisers. Visits to some new museums will also be organised.

The President thanked Alberto Garlandini for this update on the preparations for the next 2016 ICOM General Conference.

15/ Update on ICOM offices in UNESCO-Miollis

The Director General introduces this item, by informing that she received a letter from Mr Eric Falt, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information. UNESCO reserved for ICOM eleven (11) offices in the Bonvin building/8th floor, and stated that given the importance and the close collaboration with different UNESCO sectors, it is important that the ICOM Headquarters are based in UNESCO. In regard to the ICOM Documentation Centre and archives, no decision has been taken.

While agreeing that it is not easy to run a Secretariat with two locations, the President and other members stressed the importance of keeping a good position inside UNESCO, namely in terms of image for the membership, since many members often come to UNESCO meetings and meet ICOM staff at the same time.

The Director General will organise a new meeting with Eric Falt on this matter in the next weeks and will give a new report on this matter during the Executive Council December meeting.

16/ Working Group on the 70th Anniversary of ICOM

The President opened the discussion and said that it is an excellent idea to combine the next General Conference and the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of ICOM in 2016. He also informed members that ICOM was founded on the 16 November 1946.

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the organisation, the President proposes five ideas:

- Make available on ICOMMUNITY the publication *History of ICOM (1946-1996)*, which was published 20 years ago;
- An exhibition about the history of ICOM to start in Milan and then to move to UNESCO Headquarters in Paris; François Mairesse (chair ICOFOM) is willing to work on the preparation of such exhibition;
- A publication about the history of museum ethics and what ethics means in the 21st century, by Bernice Murphy from Australia; rich of knowledge about the discussions and development in ICOM for decades, she could work as Editor-in-Chief; the President has invited her and she appreciated the appointment.

- To make 35.000 pins of the ICOM-Logo (or more), which could be distributed during the General Conference in Milan or after to every ICOM member;
- The launch of a new ICOM membership card for members.

Regine Schulz supports the idea of the publication on ethics. Since there is already a publication on the 50 years of history of ICOM, she also suggests making an update on what happened during the last 20 years.

Goranka Horjan suggested that, for the exhibition on the 70th anniversary of ICOM, ICOM ask for the collaboration of the national and International committees, about their own history. A special ICOM T-shirt could also be designed for this occasion. Wim De Vos mentioned that ICOM could also prepare an ICOM application for i-phones, which is a more common tool used by the young generations. During the International Museum Day 2016, a contest could also be proposed for young members.

Suay Aksoy commented that if the Municipality of Milan is involved in the organisation of ICOM'2016, ICOM could ask for space in empty walls for graffiti or frescoes during the conference. She will also ask the Advisory Committee to give suggestions for the celebrations in 2016.

Laishun An agreed with the ideas presented by ICOM President and suggested that ICOM could prepare and publish an online survey on what ICOM means for the museum community and on the goals of the organisation for the future.

While congratulating the President for his ideas to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the organisation, Inkyung Chang states that ICOM needs to be ambitious but realistic. ICOM also needs to have a message for the future, for example with the launch of a new membership card.

Tereza Scheiner added that ICOM should organise a special event during the 2016 General Conference for the honorary members.

In conclusion, the President informed that in 2015 and 2016 ICOM budget will include an amount for the 70th anniversary celebrations, and informs that the whole Executive Council, the Director General and the Secretariat will be involved in this project. An updated report on this topic will be given by the President during the December Executive Council meeting.

17/ Appointment of EC member to the Finance and Resources Committee

Following the appointment of Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine as ICOM Director General from 1 May 2014 and her replacement as Treasurer by Peter Keller, the Executive Council needs to recommend another member as its representative to the Finance and Resources Committee for 2014-2016. Peter Keller suggested the Executive Council appointing Suay Aksoy as their representative to this committee, given her background and her long experience on financial issues.

Decision 129-04

The Executive Council approved unanimously the appointment of Suay Aksoy as representative of the Executive Council to the Finance and Resources Committee, for the period 2014-2016, in replacement of Peter Keller.

18/ Report on the INTERCOM-FIHRM Conference and the Taipei Declaration

Suay Aksoy gave a summary about the INTERCOM-FIHRM international conference held in Taipei from 1 – 4 May, 2014, on the theme “The social impact of museums” where she was present as keynote speaker.

296 participants attended this conference. Many of them were young people not from Asia but also from other regions of the world. Suay Aksoy was much impressed by the content of this conference and by the fact that the majority of the participants were aware of the role of ICOM in the museological area.

19/ Other matters

The President informed members that the dates for the 2015 Annual Meetings will be fixed to 1-3 June, the Executive Council meeting will be held on 30-31 May 2015. (This date replaces the original date on 10-12 June for the June meetings and 8-9 June for the Council meeting).

To a question from Goranka Horjan on the possibility to organise a meeting of the Executive Council in Africa, the President answered that he offered to organise a meeting at the same time as the AFRICOM General Assembly, but given the current financial situation of AFRICOM, that will not be possible. The President informed the Council members about the problems AFRICOM is currently facing and will give a more comprehensive report about ICOM’s activities for Africa later the year, latest at the next Council meeting.

Regine Schulz made a comment regarding the absence of members of the Executive Council and on the fact that in some cases the Secretariat was not informed in advance. She understands if a member of the EC cannot come once or even twice, but if this is more often the case, then it would be unfair against the members who had voted for this person to become an EC-member. It is her perspective that Executive Council members should try to come to the meetings, and if this is not possible, they should be asked to contribute to the topics in a written way, or perhaps if possible by participating in parts of the meeting by video-conference.

Some members exchanged on the possibility of having meetings online (via Skype, for example) and on the question of finances to participate in these meetings. Several members agreed that the President should send an official letter reminding the obligations and responsibilities of the Executive Council members, particularly having in mind that some members were not present during the last meetings.

At the end of the session, the President gave an update about the litigation case with Aniza Tavares, a former employee, who claimed moral harassment and was dismissed by the previous management in 2012, and informed that ICOM reached an agreement with Ms Tavares.

The meeting was concluded at 5 pm.