



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
3 June 2015, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
30th ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ICOM

Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz, President of ICOM, opened the 30th Session of the ICOM Ordinary General Assembly and welcomed the participants.

Item 1: Approval of the Agenda

The President reminded the participants of the items of the Agenda, which were all approved as presented.

Item 2: Minutes of the 29th Ordinary General Assembly, 4 June 2014

The President invited participants to approve the minutes of the 29th Ordinary General Assembly of 4 June, 2014, held in Paris, France, or to raise their comments or suggestions to amend the text of the minutes.

The Minutes were approved as presented.

Item 3: President's Report

The President presented his annual report and invited members to raise questions or comments at the end of his presentation.

The President's report was approved by consensus. The complete version of the President's report is available in Appendix 1.

Item 4.1: Financial Statements 2014

The Treasurer of ICOM, Peter Keller, presented the Financial Statements for 2014, which were part of the working documents made available to the members of the General Assembly. He thanked Mrs. Isabelle Demangeot, Head of Finance and Human Resources, and Mr. Florian Courty, Management Accountant at the ICOM General Secretariat, as well as the Statutory Auditor, Mr. Dominique Gagnard, and the Finance and Resources Committee.

The Treasurer began with the key figures of the Financial Statement, stating that the 2014 income amounted to €3.94m; $\frac{3}{4}$ of which from membership fees. Operating Expenses amounted to €1.86m, staff costs representing 45%. The final result for 2014 is €306,989. So, the yearly balance is positive, whereas it was negative the year before – mainly because of the provision. Finally, the Treasurer noted that the overall ICOM income amounted to €4,045m when the financial result of joint operations is also taken into account.

Bearing in mind that CIMAM is still included therein, the scope of activities comprises the ICOM General Secretariat and all 31 International Committees (henceforward "ICs"), which since 2013 have been aggregated in the description. In the analysis of the income, the Treasurer detailed that 75% of it comes from membership dues, 11.5% from subsidies allocated by different institutions such as the

European Union, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the US State Department. Furthermore, the Treasurer explained that the expression “other income” essentially designates sums perceived from publications sales and reversal of provisions. “Joint operations” designates the revenue resulting from the sales of the journal *Museum International*, which represent 1,5%.

The Treasurer observed that membership continues to grow and that membership income has increased by 4.9%, for an overall sum of more than €3m. He added that compared to Europe, membership rise was higher in smaller countries, such as Georgia, or in Latin America, e.g. Chile. Nevertheless, countries such as the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands denote an increase of more than 10%.

Concerning the subsidies, the Treasurer pointed out that in 2014 the sum was inferior to 2013 because for the General Conference in Rio, ICOM received additional income in the form of travel grants from the Getty Foundation. He then presented the sources and sums of subventions: the French Ministry of Culture and Communication awarded €55,000 the Getty Foundation awarded €127,000 to CIDOC, CIMAM and ICOM-CC. A small amount from a 2012 workshops also remains.

In terms of expenses, the Treasurer noted that the largest portion of expenses was dedicated to salaries, social charges and taxes, adding up to at 44%. Overhead costs represented 9.2%. Thus, in sum, overall running costs for Central Administration represent 54% of yearly expenses. He added that an additional expenditure should be taken into account from July 2015 onwards for the rent of new premises in the UNESCO building. They shall represent an additional annual €100,000. For 2015, the rent will amount to €55,000.

Expenses for annual meetings, programmes, and communication represent about 20%; accounting, legal service and consultant fees represent 6%. The Treasurer observed that the grant for the endowment fund was quite high, and explained that earlier in the year €280,000 had already been transferred and that the Endowment Fund would support projects such as the Tanzania training workshop.

In terms of funding, the Treasurer observed that all in all, almost €447,000 were allocated as support to the network, and that the greatest amount was given to the ICs, €150,000, Special Project funds had increased from €48,000 to €68,000. He specified that bursaries amounted to €82,000, less than 2013 because of the General Conference. €128,000 had been received from the Getty Foundation and were transferred to the ICs, and ICOM allocated €5,000 to the *Best in Heritage* project. For the Red Lists for Africa and Syria and the reediting of other Red Lists, funds granted and used in 2014 amounted to €45,940. As concerns Regional Alliances, he mentioned that the sum allocated for 2014 amounted to €12,000, and that in 2016 the SAREC will deal with the RAs’ subventions as it deals with the subventions for the ICs. Coming to the analysis of the support to the network, he noted that before the aggregation, 1/3 of the subventions went to the ICs. After the aggregation, because of the nullification of the internal flows, the bursaries represented 57 % of the support.

The Treasurer concluded the Financial Report, pointing out that the balance Sheet and Income Statement could be found in the Working Papers.

In response to the Financial Report, a number of questions and comments were raised.

The Chair of ICMS, Willem Hekman, requested clarifications be made on several points. Firstly, he enquired why the “Expenses” category had been divided into two subcategories, “General Expenses”, which used over €1m, and “Other Expenses”, which used €0.6m (Financial Statement Chart, p. 21). Secondly, referring to the table on page 37, he pointed out that the income and expenses of the International Committees are much higher than the table suggested because of the fees and costs of the conferences, and that these monetary flows should be more transparent. Finally, he suggested that the President of ICOM be remunerated in the future, a condition that would ensure fairness in terms of eligibility for presidency, regardless of their current professional status and affiliation.

In response to the first point concerning figures, the Treasurer pointed out that it was merely a question of representation. In response to the second point concerning the breakdown of IC incomes, the Treasurer pointed out that, as former Chair of an IC, he is well aware that flows are not represented in the chart mentioned because they do not pass the HSBC account but the accounts of the local organisers, He suggested that the ICs would clarify these flows in their annual reports in the future. In response to the final point concerning remuneration, the Treasurer observed that the question was more general and far-reaching because not only the President but also the members of the Executive Council, the Technical Committees or Board members of International Committees could be worthy of a financial support. Where do you draw the line, he asked. He concluded that the income should be diversified as the increase of membership will not go on endlessly. The purpose of the endowment fund, as such resides precisely in searching for new sources of income, even if the income generated is, to date, still low.

The Chair of ICOM-UK, Carol Scott, required that the term “social expenses” be defined and also enquired whether a PowerPoint document could be made available for the breakdown; to which the Treasurer replied that a PowerPoint document would be made available, and that the term “social expenses” designates expenses for health insurance and social charges of the staff.

The Chair of CIDOC, Nicholas Crofts, asked why “Provisions for Contingency” and “Charges” are in the same table (Section 2.5, p. 30). The Treasurer answered that this is just a question of representation, as well.

The President of ICOM-Korea, Ki-dong Bae, enquired whether the ICOM General Secretariat had any intention to develop plans to increase financial support for Regional Alliances. The President of ICOM replied that although regional alliances are expected to stimulate the work of national committees at an international level, to date they have received little, if any, support. The President added that a pilot project was implemented in 2014 and that decisions would be made upon the General Secretariat’s reception of the Regional Alliances’ report in early 2015. He added that the report is to confer more transparency, allowing for a permanent allowance for Regional Alliances to be created. In order to attain such an objective, the General Secretariat and SAREC will work on the project.

The Chair of CIPEG, Gabriele Pieke, pointed out that money had been debited from the CIPEG HSBC bank account without the ICs treasurers’ knowing; to which the Treasurer answered that this was a serious issue indeed, and that further investigation was required before any decision was made.

Item 4.2 Management Report on Financial Statements 2014 and Discharge

The Treasurer then presented the Auditor Report on Annual Accounts for 2014. The accounts were closed on 31 December, 2014, and were approved by the Executive Council on 30 May, 2015. The statutory auditor signed his report on 31 May, 2015. The Treasurer thanked Mr. Dominique Gagnard for his contribution and his presence, and noted that Auditor Report is available in the working documents. He read aloud the paragraph of the report in French in which it is stated that the accounts were certified with no reserves, and asked the General Assembly to approve the report. The Financial Statements 2014 were approved by consensus. The President closed the discussion.

Item 5 Announcement of the Host City of the 2019 ICOM General Conference

The President formally congratulated the delegates of ICOM Japan and the representatives of the city of Kyoto on their hosting the next General Conference. He also thanked both candidates, Kyoto and Cincinnati, for their unwavering commitment. The President reiterated his encouragement and support to the ICOM-US delegates, stating that it was vital that ICOM return to North America in the future – after so long an absence. ICOM-US should therefore not be discouraged and consider renewing their application for the 2022 General Conference.

Item 6 Date and Venue of the 31st Ordinary General Assembly

The President announced that the next General Assembly would be held at the closing of the General Conference in Milan on July 9, 2016.

The General Assembly was closed at 1pm.



Dr Hans-Martin Hinz, ICOM President

President's Report on Activities 2014

ICOM General Assembly

ICOM Annual Meetings

Paris, France, 3 June, 2015

Dear members of ICOM,

In keeping with the French law of 1901 on Registered Associations and the Statutes that govern ICOM, as President of ICOM, it is my duty and privilege to present the 2014 President's Report to this General Assembly, detailing the principal activities of our organisation for the year that ended on 31 December, 2014. We are now nearly halfway through 2015, and so, I am also pleased to be able to present some of this year's achievements and objectives to date.

I would like to open by congratulating ICOM's National and International Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations for their impressive accomplishments this year. The wealth of conferences, workshops, museum prizes and other projects, events and initiatives undertaken by the members of the ICOM network are detailed in the 2014 Annual Report distributed to you here this week. Yet again, remarkable dynamism has been displayed and substantial efforts for inclusion from all corners of the world have been undertaken.

Before going any further, as we all know, the past year has been fraught with tragic events both human-made and natural, devastating populations and cultural property in a number of areas around the globe. The terrible earthquake that struck Nepal in late April is only among the most recent of these catastrophes. I would like to recognise the joint efforts of the ICOM Disaster Relief Task Force, ICCROM, ICOMOS, the Smithsonian Institute and the UNESCO Office in Nepal, in putting up the Kathmandu Cultural Emergency Crowdmap, which gathers reports from cultural heritage professionals working in Nepal in order to provide a continual overview of the situation on the ground. The importance of quick response and collaborative initiatives in the face of such large-scale emergencies cannot be overstated, and very unfortunately, in this respect, our work is ongoing. I applaud our colleagues for their quick and resourceful solution for documenting the situation in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Over the course of the year 2014, ICOM's membership continued to rise, reaching a high of 34,864 members, for growth of 5.7% compared to the previous year, with presence in 136 countries and 118

national committees (four of which were created in 2014). International Committee membership rose by 9.9%, and 226 new institutional members around the world joined our ranks last year.

International Museum Day was once again a resounding success in 2014, with more than 35,000 museums in over 100 countries on all continents celebrating this landmark annual event, a highlight on the global cultural agenda. Conferences, free guided tours, nocturnal museum activities, concerts, performances, educational workshops, games and more were organised for visitors of all ages, inspired by the theme *Museum collections make connections*.

With regard to financial matters, the 2014 budget amounted to slightly more than €3.9 million. In terms of subsidies, the search continued for funding to support the implementation of ICOM programmes and those of its network, with a level of external monetary resources amounting to €463,006. In 2014, ICOM membership dues increased by 4.9%, compared to 2013, coming to a total of just over €3 million. This was largely driven by the aforementioned rise in membership from 2013 to 2014.

In terms of funding strategy, ICOM consolidated existing partnerships (with the Getty Foundation, the US Department of State, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the Federal Office for Culture of the Swiss Federation); and secured continued European Union participation, notably in the framework of the triennial EU support programme for ICOM's International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods.

New strategic partnerships have been established. A memorandum of understanding was signed between ICOM and ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation), facilitated by ICOM Arab. This established a cooperation framework between 22 countries to fight the illicit traffic of cultural goods, disseminate documentation standards and encourage diversity and intercultural dialogue in the Arab world. In 2014, ICOM also renewed its partnership with EMF (the European Museum Forum), which every year rewards the most innovative museums within the Council of Europe member countries. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two organisers for 2015.

Directly concerning the ICOM General Secretariat, an agreement has been reached with UNESCO concerning the ICOM premises here at UNESCO House, in the Miollis building, and the move to new offices is now imminent. This will provide the ICOM Secretariat staff with more space and markedly improved working conditions from those currently provided in the NGO facilities, I am happy to say.

ICOM's vital role in leading collaborative action and encouraging a joint response to counter threats to cultural heritage is leveraged through strategic partnerships with expert organisations, including UNESCO, Blue Shield and INTERPOL. Through proactive measures and using all resources at its disposal, ICOM affirms its leadership in this regard. 2014 was sadly marked by a high number of emergency situations calling for strong responses, many of which were the consequence of armed conflict. ICOM thus renewed its commitment to initiatives for the protection of museums and cultural heritage, implementing mechanisms for emergency preparedness and response. This took the form of active monitoring of emergency situations and evaluation missions in impacted areas of the world. In Egypt, in the aftermath of the January 2014 car bomb attack on the Museum of Islamic

Art in Cairo, a joint ICOM/UNESCO/Blue Shield emergency mission was carried out in the first month of the year. In August, ICOM carried out a mission in cooperation with conservation experts from the Smithsonian Institute and the Metropolitan Museum of Art to evaluate the conservation needs of the museum in the wake of this attack; while in September, a mission involving ICOM, UNESCO, ICCROM and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage was led to offer training support to the Grand Egyptian Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation in Cairo.

In the face of an increase in emergency situations, ICOM has to be ever more responsive to threats to art and archaeological objects in sensitive geographical areas. Our commitment to fighting illicit traffic in cultural goods continued in 2014 with the publication of the German version of the *Emergency Red List of Syrian Cultural Objects at Risk*. 2014 also marked the second operating year of ICOM's International Observatory on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Goods, started in December 2012, and intended to serve as a permanent international cooperative network involving international organisations, law enforcement agencies, research institutions and other stakeholders. July 2014 saw the launch of the Observatory's website, gathering resources and reference documents on fighting illicit trafficking in art and archaeological objects.

With its commitment to ensuring the safeguarding of world heritage, ICOM's advocacy for museums takes multiple forms, faced with the aforementioned crisis situations but also in general, as part of its efforts to make museum voices resonate on the global landscape. 2014 notably saw the joint drafting by ICOM and UNESCO of a *Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums, their Diversity and their Role in Society*, intended to fill a normative gap as regards this topic. This text reaffirms the leading role of museums as actors in global development and cultural diversity, and will be reviewed during the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference in November of this year.

ICOM sought to continue to enhance expertise and knowledge in the museum sector, developing research programmes and publications throughout the year, notably via the *Support to the Network Programme*, which provides financial help for a number of projects within the network. In 2014, SAREC, the Strategic Allocation Review Commission, allocated funding to international committees (not including Special Projects funding) amounting to 150,337 EUR, or 4% more than in 2013. These funds allowed international committees to expand the scope of their research work, release publications and set up major events gathering international museum professionals from their respective fields of expertise. Travel grants reserved for young ICOM members allocated by SAREC allowed 26 beneficiaries from 20 countries to take part in the meetings of 13 international committees in 2014.

The training activities at the heart of ICOM's missions vigorously continued last year. In January 2014, ICOM, the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. and the National Museum of Mali organised a symposium in Mali, with the support of UNESCO and in cooperation with the Malian Ministry of Culture and the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. Aimed to prepare West African museum professionals for emergency situations, the symposium gathered 30 professionals from countries in the region for discussions on efforts to undertake in times of political conflict and the development of crisis management.

Following its 2013 launch, the ICOM International Training Centre for Museum Studies, located at the Palace Museum in Beijing, China, held two new training workshops that proved a resounding success, in April and November 2014. Over 50 museum professionals participated in all, benefiting from lectures and hands-on activities over the course of the two nine-day sessions, respectively devoted to collections management and museum education. This cooperative effort between ICOM, the Palace Museum and ICOM China aims to foster research and exchange among professionals on an international level and develop museum expertise among professionals.

2014 saw ICOM continue to pursue another one of its core missions, the definition and promotion of ethical standards in the museum field. The *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums* was notably translated into Farsi, bringing the total number of languages in which this key text is available to 37. The *ICOM Code of Ethics for Natural History Museums*, adopted during the 2013 General Conference, was published by NATHIST in Spanish in 2014, the first of many translations to come. And 5 new translations of the booklet *Key Concepts of Museology* were published in 2014, bringing the total number of language versions to 14.

An important document in laying the framework for ICOM's 24th General Conference in Milan in 2016, the Siena Charter was drafted on the occasion of the July 2014 international conference in the Tuscan city. Devoted to the General Conference theme, *Museums and cultural landscapes*, the charter examines differences in the perception of landscapes and the evolving roles of museums with regards to their surrounding communities and environments, and is being used to spark a series of discussions among national committees leading up to Milan 2016.

ICOM's publishing activity witnessed further dynamism in 2014, in the wake of the 2013 takeover of publishing rights of the journal *Museum International* from UNESCO. Hand in hand with English co-publisher Wiley-Blackwell, the first double issue of the journal published under ICOM came out in autumn 2014, devoted to *Achievements and Challenges in the Brazilian Museum Landscape*. Meanwhile, thanks to a partnership with the National Library of France, all French issues of ICOM News published between 1948 and 2010 have been digitised and can be openly consulted on the Gallica digital library.

Moving ahead, since the beginning of 2015, a number of projects have come to fruition for ICOM. The second ICOM-led issue of *Museum International*, devoted to the theme of International Museum Day 2014, *Museum collections make connections*, has just been published under the editorial supervision of COMCOL, the International Committee for Collecting. An updated version of the 2003 *Emergency Red List of Iraqi Antiquities at Risk* was launched not two days ago in Arabic, English and French, and will be made available in German and Turkish in the coming months; and two other Red Lists, concerning Libya and West Africa (including an emergency section devoted to Mali), are set for release before the end of the year 2015. As part of the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural goods, in the month of February, ICOM participated in the Annual Meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group on Stolen Cultural Property in Lyon, in attendance alongside its institutional partners: UNESCO, UNIDROIT (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law), WCO (World Customs Organization) and UNODC (United National Office on Drugs and Crime).

ICOM's impressive community of experts grows stronger by the year, and continued to achieve a great deal in 2014. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to all chairpersons and board members of the various committees, and notably, those who have completed their term. I would also like to thank the members of the technical committees, and the Executive Council for their vital participation over the course of the past year. And finally, I wish to extend a special thank you to both the former Acting Director General, Hanna Pennock, and to the new Director General, Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine, now one year into her duties, alongside all of our colleagues at the Secretariat General for the tremendous work that they carried out in 2014.

I am very much looking forward to continuing to work together to enhance and promote ICOM's presence around the globe. As the voice of museums and museum professionals worldwide, we are now seeking to move ahead into the future with the help of our substantial and ever-growing expertise, multiplying our accomplishments in the months and years to come.