

Historic Meeting of ICOM Former Presidents and Honorary Members

For the first time at a General Conference of ICOM, in Vienna, Austria on 23 August 2007, former Presidents and Honorary Members met with the President, Alissandra Cummins, to informally discuss matters of capital importance to the Organisation.

> Sid Ahmed Baghli (former Chairperson of ICOM-Algeria and presently Cultural Advisor to the UNESCO's permanent delegation), Patrick Boylan (former Executive Council member, Chairperson of ICTOP and presently Chairperson, Legal Affairs Committee), Geoffrey Lewis (former President of ICOM and Chairperson of the Ethics Committee), and Jacques Perot (former President of ICOM) were joined by Gary Edson (Executive Council) Manus Brinkman (Former Secretary General of ICOM), Jack Lohman (Chairperson, ICOM-UK), Robert Spickler (Chair, Finance Committee), Piet J. Pouw (Interim Secretary General) and Observers from the Secretariat (Carla Bonomi and Lysa Hochroth, Communications/Publications) for the auspicious occasion.

> Sid Ahmed Baghli welcomed the opportunity to ensure the continuity of institutional memory and contribute the vital experience and perspectives of the Honorary Members to help address the issues facing ICOM today. Some former Presidents and Honorary Members have remained more active than others, but most recognize the potential of their contributions.

> The plans to revamp the UNESCO-ICOM Museum Information Centre and also develop new publications based on ICOM's history were discussed in terms of the need to coordinate the retrieval of valuable archives. Geoffrey Lewis described his own experience of having accumulated many archives and documents of pertinent value to the Organisation as former Chairperson of the ICOM Ethics Committee during the revision of the *ICOM Code of Ethics*. Patrick Boylan echoed the desire to find a way to return archives to ICOM and guarantee their safekeeping through the Centre. Jacques Perot evoked his activities as part of various Archival Research projects in France and offered support.

> The need for leadership and re-organisation at the Secretariat were discussed. Former President Jacques Perot and former Secretary General Manus Brinkman engaged with Robert Spickler on the ongoing issues of the strengths and weaknesses, role and purpose of the ICOM Secretariat.

> Patrick Boylan suggested the possible role former Presidents and Honorary Members might have within ICOM with regard to new initiatives such



as the Mediation Programme. He mentioned the list of ICOM Mediators being established in order to refer museums and individuals engaged in disputes over cultural heritage property to knowledgeable intermediaries. He suggested further that this group evolve into a "Council of Sages" to discuss more formally particular issues, perhaps in coordination with ICOM's Executive Council Standing Committees (Ethics, Legal Affairs and Finances) and that it function as a liaison to universities, for example.

> Alissandra Cummins thanked all the participants and expressed her wish that this "Council of Sages" meet and be consulted on a regular basis. The idea of continuing this new tradition was unanimously approved.

Honorary Members

The following new Honorary Members were confirmed by the General Assembly in Vienna:

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

> Member of ICOM since 1976, Dr. Byung-mo Kim was one of the prime movers to preserve heritage in the Korean provinces and relaunch ASPAC in 1982, encouraging ICOM membership from China, Mongolia and throughout Southeast Asia. In 1999, he proposed Korea to host the 20th General Conference in Seoul, which became a reality in 2004. He is former President of the Korean National University of Cultural Heritage and was named Ambassador for Cultural Cooperation for the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Currently, he is a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee of the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*.

Prof. Manyando Mukela (Zambia)

> Member of ICOM since 1983, Manyando Mukela was first and foremost a teacher who then studied museology at the University of Leicester (United Kingdom), becoming Chairperson of the Zambian National Committee and encouraging African museum professionals to join ICOM. Chairperson and founding member of SADCAMM (Southern African Development Community Association of Museums and Monuments / Association des

ICOM's Honorary Members

Ms. Irina Antonova
Mr. Sid Ahmed Baghli
Prof. Patrick J. Boylan
Dr. Ekpo O. Eyo
Dr. Byung-mo Kim
Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré

Mr. Geoffrey D. Lewis
Ms. Marthe de Moltke
Mr. Manyando Mukela
Dr. Sayed Naqvi
Dr. Vinos Sofka
Mrs. Ayala Zacks-Abramov

musées et des monuments de la communauté pour le développement de l'Africa australe), from 1988 to 1993, he has created museums in the most remote areas, promoted interregional dialogue in Southern Africa and is a staunch defender of intangible heritage in Africa and beyond – for he has also taken an interest in North America and Asia.

Prof. Dr. Vinos Sofka (Sweden)

> The Board of ICOFOM unanimously supported the nomination of Vinos Sofka as one of the founding fathers of contemporary museology. Professor, author of a prodigious body of work, ambassador to national governments and promoter of the protection of cultural heritage, he has constantly endeavoured to show how museums contribute to transitioning to democracy and peace. Dr. Sofka was instrumental in founding the first UNESCO Chair of Museology at the University of Brno (Czechoslovakia) in 1994 and championing university and museum partnerships. He is presently Director of the International Transition Project in Taby, Sweden.