

Voices of Young Bursaries

From Interviews with Jehanne Fabre, Editorial Assistant, ICOM-Secretariat

I must say that this experience was huge to focus my actions in my museum. I commit myself to transmit to my colleagues and my students all the knowledge acquired in those valuable interchanges and meetings.

BA Virginia Fernanda González,
Argentina

New ideas from different parts of world are very valuable for me. The best example was a meeting in the Wien museum when I met colleagues from another country and exchanged ideas with them. The programme for the Conference was very tight, but every afternoon I was enjoyed visiting museums in Vienna and saw beautiful and rich collections.

Janko Vracar,
Curator Historian, the Museum of Republic
Srpska, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The chance to participate in a General Conference gave me the opportunity of a much greater view of the organization: The highlight of the General Conference was, without doubt – from my point of view – the meeting of the Cross Cultural Task Force group, coordinated by Amareswar Galla, in the morning of the 22nd of August. I say that because that was the space where I perceived the highest level of democracy, space where the most diverse people have spoken, from different cultural backgrounds in the world, including the participation of the young generations. The world that better describe that amazing morning is dialogue.

Bruno César Brulon Soares,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

I am at the beginning of my museum work as a curator, it is very important for me to be aware of all aspects and questions concerning museum role within society. It means a great deal to me listening to museum workers from around the world and to be acquainted with their ideas and projects. I was very impressed by presented workshops of Regional Museum of Anthropology of Yucatan. These museum workshops showed how past and present - based on similarity and analogy - can interact with each other and at the same time being great example of expressing ideas of tolerance and cultural understanding.

Lorka Loncar, Museum of Peasant Uprisings,
Museums of Hrvatsko Zagorje
Gornja Stubica, Croatia

I think the new Strategic Plan distributed at Vienna tells the best the work ICOM is doing and how it is affecting global culture and making connections beyond cultural and political boundaries. The strategic plan shows in a very concrete way the atmosphere and cross cultural structure of ICOM and shows the mutual desire to make the world a better

place. As a key moment maybe would be the opening session with the variety of speakers highlighting ICOM's plans and ICOM's role.

Jukka Savolainen,
Senior Curator, Exhibitions, Designmuseo,
Helsinki, Finland

In general terms, I thought that the Conference was very organised and nicely planned. However, I have to confess that at various occasions numerous events clashed. If the conference had lasted one week instead of five days, we would possibly all have had more chances to attend more sessions. The experience was highly constructive, since I got to meet and interact with museum professionals from all over the world.

Elena Papadaki - Art Historian
Ministry of Culture-Museum Studies, Athens, Greece

After this experience, it occurred to me that in the ICME programme that I was following, no time at all was set aside for questions. I think that more time could have been spent asking questions and encouraging dialogue amongst colleagues from different parts of the world. All in all, attending the conference was a very useful learning experience for me!

Mari S. Mathiesen
Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo, Norway

For a first timer like me, the plenary sessions were generally interesting. There's no language barrier. This multilingual conference was overwhelming in terms of the number of participants as well as the diverse topics discussed in the plenary sessions and the committee sessions. Vienna as venue is truly enchanting with its museums and other important sites. For me, the conference was indeed a great success. The closing session where resolutions were presented and approved was an eye opener. It's good to experience that part where we have to raise our concern pro or against the resolutions.

Raymundo A.V. Palad,
GSIS Museum, Philippines

I enjoyed splitting my time between two committees I belong to. The musical instrument collections I visited at the Kunsthistorisches Museum were world-class and stimulating for my own specialist interests. The papers engaged and challenged my thinking, and the times between sessions I made important connections to international colleagues that have had positive repercussions past the initial conference.

Emily Peppers,
Cultural Collections Audit Officer,
University of Edinburgh Museums, Scotland

The CAMOC conference has shown the importance of openness of the city museum as we live in a networked world where cultural diversity is celebrated as this in turn creates dialogues amongst the different community. City museums could help in fostering a sense of community and promotes greater dialogue amongst its citizens.

Silvia CHAN,
Executive (Art Collection), Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

Besides the CECA meeting, my personal view is that "Museum Expert Fair" was the highlight of the General Conference. As a Young Museum Professional I had great opportunity to gather knowledge of how to develop relationships between the public & the museum.

Sanjeevani Widiyaratne
Educational Promoting Officer
Colombo National Museum, Sri Lanka