

Resolution No. 5: Disaster and Emergency Planning

ICOM-SEE, Regional Groups and MEP/TIEM

Mila Popovic-Zivancevic, *Chairperson, ICOM-SEE, Working Group of ICOM-Europe for South East Europe, Conservator Councillor, Head of "Diana" Department for Preventive Conservation, National Museum in Belgrade*

In analyzing the activities of ICOM-SEE within the General Conference in Vienna, we see how the main theme Museums and Universal Heritage, takes on particular value with specific programmes reflecting a broader integration of heritage protection on a regional scale, specifically in post-conflict areas.

> Vienna gave ICOM-SEE a chance to make direct contacts and exchange experiences with the representatives of other Regional Organisations (now, Regional Alliances), as well as meet with National Committees and members of ICOM-Europe. We presented the concrete results of professional cooperation within SEE as well as learned new ways for our professionals to gather and self-organise.

> Moreover, it evidenced the desire of gathering in regional groups emerging from professionals from different areas. In the case of the Balkans, the argument for regional alliance is that our countries share similar languages, and a common political, social, and historical heritage.

> The ICOM position favouring Regional Alliances of ICOM National Committees translates open mindedness towards professionals' aspiration and dynamism. It is obvious that through powerful Regional Alliances, professionals can on their own try to find qualitative individual ways and solutions relying on ICOM's strategic objectives rather than on political situation and social environment. ICOM-SEE thinks that continuing to develop "Rules for the Regional Alliances of ICOM National Committees" is urgent in order to promote the interests of ICOM on a global scale.

> A perfect illustration is the Regional Risk Management Planning Workshop organised with South Eastern European countries through the Museums Emergency Programme's Teamwork for Integrated Emergency Management. At the General Conference, the course was presented in the framework of the seminar "Teamwork for Integrated Emergency Management for South East Europe".

> TIEM is a joint project of ICOM, the Getty Conservation Institute and ICCROM. Organised within the framework of the Museums Emergency Programme (MEP), the multi-faceted programme launched by ICOM in 2002 is a response to the needs expressed by museum professionals all over the world to develop expertise in the areas of risk management.

> After a successful regional TIEM project in Asia in 2005-2006, the target region for TIEM 2007-2008 is South Eastern Europe, including: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldavia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia. UNESCO's Section of Museums and Cultural Objects, the Division of Intangible Heritage and the UNESCO Regional Office in Venice are supporting the initiative in this region. By the end of the project participants will be able to: 1) understand, assess, and manage risk to cultural property, specifically as it relates to the participants' institution and region; 2) develop and implement emergency plans and strategies for before, during, and after an emergency; 3) create professional and technical alliances with local/national/regional emergency preparedness and response providers and 4) create public awareness and social, political, and economic support.

> ICOM-SEE welcomes the opportunity to benefit from MEP/TIEM and contribute to action on Resolutions and implementing the Strategic Plan.

For further details on MEP & the International Committee of the Blue Shield,
Contact: Cristina Menegazzi, Programme Specialist
Email:menegazzi.icom@unesco.org - : <http://icom.museum/mep.html>

ICOM notes with deep concern that

1. the number of cases have increased, in which cultural goods are stolen as the result of armed robbery, in the presence of visitors and staff; and
2. disasters have occurred, which include the damage to and loss of objects of collections, as a result of research or exhibition outside of the country of origin (which can also be damaging to both the tangible and intangible heritage); and
3. that global environmental changes have increased the frequency of natural disasters affecting museums and universal heritage (e.g. the recent earthquake in Pisco-Paracas in Peru, or Hurricane Dean in the Caribbean and Central America).

ICOM considers that in the context of the on-going challenges of universal heritage protection before, during, and after natural and manmade disasters, including unlawful acts, armed conflict, and rapid over-development, ICOM must consolidate its efforts at raising awareness about risk management and mitigating the consequences of disasters.

5.1 The ICOM General Assembly

- resolves to consolidate its resources and expertise to develop an integrated emergency approach for:
 - advocacy with governments, intergovernmental organisations, and non-governmental organisations for cooperation and coordination;
 - project development targeting specific needs such as preventive measures for cultural heritage organisations or reconstruction efforts; and
 - capacity building based on practical skills and competencies.
- resolves to support new developments and activities of Blue Shield.

5.2 The ICOM General Assembly recognizes the need

- to utilise the ICOM museums network to encourage governments to tighten the norms and legal provisions for the protection of Universal Heritage.
- to ensure the implementation of paragraphs 1.5, 1.6, and 1.7 of the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums* in order to define minimum standards of security and safety, and to enhance awareness of museum staff for the protection of universal heritage; and
- to formulate an international memorandum on the implementation of the *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*, First Protocol (The Hague, 1954) and Second Protocol (The Hague, 1999).

5.3 The ICOM General Assembly encourages its National Committees

- to advocate with their governments the establishment and implementation of national programmes for the protection of cultural goods; and
- to advise strongly their governments to adopt and apply heritage property protection laws in accordance with international instruments and standards; and
- to support the museum community in its willingness to counter the present threats to museum visitors, staff, and collections.

5.4 The General Assembly appeals to all ICOM's members and partners

- to remain conscious of the worsening destructive situation in Iraq, as well as countries in similar situations, and to support actively the protection of its cultural heritage, the reconstruction of its museums and sites, as well as the repatriation (with interim transfer to a place of safety outside the country) of its looted, stolen, and illegally exported objects.