

General Conference

Message from the President

Dear Members of ICOM,

The recently concluded 21st General Conference and 22nd General Assembly held in Vienna, 19-24 August 2007, may be regarded as a considerable success in a number of areas. The Vienna ICOM General Conference was attended by 2,631 delegates, from 117 countries, several of which had never been represented before at any General Conference. One major success has been the ability of the organisation to ensure that over 50 young professionals were facilitated in attending their first International Committee meetings, adding to the 42 other ICOM bursary recipients (sponsored by The Getty Foundation; ICOM Foundation, ICOM-Austria and UNESCO Participation Programme) and ICOM's generosity extended to a further 5 who were funded from other sources. Total representation reflected more than 10% of the ICOM membership accounting for the highest level of diversity ever achieved within ICOM's events and very much served as a signal for the direction in which the organisation has decided to move.

> The General Assembly endorsed ICOM's new Strategic Plan (2008-2010), included with this issue of *ICOM News*, the format and content of the Triennial Budget, and the Resolutions, which were the subject of considerable interest, dialogue and at times passionately debated. On the following pages, you will find context for and illustrations of how these eight Universal Heritage Resolutions translate into action.

> ICOM welcomed three new Honorary Members: Prof. Dr. Byung Kim (Korea), Prof. Manyando Mukela (Zambia) and Prof. Dr. Vinos Sofka (Sweden) who were enthusiastically proclaimed to join ICOM's pantheon (page 18).

> A new Executive Council (2007-2010) was elected on 24 August 2007, including five new members, as well as a new Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. Congratulations to all. Finally, after the presentation by Gary Edson, the General Assembly also adopted by acclamation new Statutes to ensure greater efficiency of the organisation and approved the most recent version of the document.

(http://icom.museum/download/eng_aug2007/2005DIV03rev4-eng-STATUS-April07.pdf)

> During the General Conference, five very challenging and interesting keynote addresses offered differing perspectives on the state of museums and Universal Heritage. Our

International Committees provided thirty-eight sessions including joint sessions, reflecting on a wide range of perspectives through dynamic dialogue, mutual collaboration, and demonstrating the breadth and depth of the scientific commitment throughout the diverse fields of expertise within ICOM. Thirteen concurrent sessions were organised. The General Conference also afforded the welcome opportunity to congratulate our International Committees for their significant achievements over several decades: ICOMAM, which celebrated its 50th anniversary with the launch of a handsome anniversary publication; ICLM, which similarly celebrated thirty active years in ICOM with the distribution of its 2006 Proceedings; and AVICOM, with the FI@MP Award ceremony for film and video achievement, a particular highlight of the Conference and a demonstration of the creativity underpinning state-of-the-art museum work today.

> The organisation was pleased to receive representatives from our traditional partners UNESCO, ICCROM and the WFFM, while at the same time welcoming new strategic partners, such as the International Bar Association (IBA) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) who were directly involved in both Executive Council and International Committee activities.

> National Committees, Regional Alliances and Affiliated Organisations were extremely active in developing and presenting their own programmes, some of these joint efforts occurring for the first time during a General Conference. At the same time, it was a pleasure for ICOM to be the venue for the distribution of the second volume of the *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*, a major contribution from our members in ICOM-Korea. ICOM also welcomed the launch of the ICOM Wiki during the General Conference.

> In terms of ongoing programming, ICOM was proud to launch its *Red List of Peruvian Antiquities at Risk*, following the highly successful launch of the *Red List of Afghanistan Antiquities at Risk*. The Secretariat also organised a very successful "Directors Meeting of the Selected Museums on Teamwork for Integrated Emergency Management" during the General Conference which was part of a course for South



Eastern European museums (see more about MEP/TIEM on page 11). In the passing of the ICOM flag from Councillor Andreas Mailath-Pokorny of the City of Vienna to the City of Shanghai, we begin to move forward to ICOM 2010 and thank the official Chinese Delegation led by Mrs. Yang Dinghua, Vice Mayor of Shanghai Municipal Government, for her presence and commitment to encouraging and supporting the success of our next General Conference.

> ICOM would welcome your perspectives and constructive criticism on the General Conference. In order to help us to improve the organisation for 2010, as discussed in our various meetings, please do take the time to fill out the questionnaire on ICOM2007 available online at http://icom.museum/general-conference2007_fr.html or by mail, using the questionnaire in the Directory, in English (p. X), French or Spanish. We expect feedback from you by 7 February 2007, at the latest.

> On your behalf, let me thank our excellent host ICOM-Austria as well as ICOM's General Secretariat for all they have done to ensure the success of this General Conference. On behalf of the members of the Executive Council, once again, I would like to thank you all for a very intense and active General Conference and in particular for your involvement in our debates.

> Let me personally thank each and every one of you for your continued support in having re-elected me as your President for a second term. Your confidence is deeply appreciated. I do look forward to working with all of you over the next three years to fulfill ICOM's goals and aspirations.

Alissandra Cummins
President