



Shanghai, China, 12 November 2010

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Hans-Martin Hinz is elected President of the International Council of Museums**

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**Hans-Martin Hinz** was elected President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) on 12 November 2010 in Shanghai, China, during the organisation's triennial General Conference. Germany-based Hinz succeeds Alissandra Cummins, the first female President of ICOM, who served from 2004 to 2010.

A Doctor of Natural Sciences, Hans-Martin Hinz began his career as Advisor for the establishment of new museums for the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in West Berlin, Germany. Since 1991, he has been a member of the management team at the German Historical Museum in Berlin where he was curator for 10 years. From 2000 to 2001, he was Deputy Minister of Culture for Berlin.

During his career, he also occupied several positions in national and international museum institutions, including his membership of the German Arts Council, his positions of Deputy Chair of the International Association of History Museums, Chair of the Advisory Council of Berlin's City Museum, Board member of the Curt Engelhorn Foundation in Mannheim and Chair of the Association of German Historical Research Institutions in Munich. Since 2010, he has been a member of the Advisory Board of the *Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg* (House of History of Baden-Württemberg) in Stuttgart.

Hinz became a member of the ICOM Executive Council after assuming several positions within the organisation, including Chair of ICOM Europe and Chair of ICOM Germany, as well as his involvement in the Ethics Committee, ICMAH (ICOM International Committee for Museums and Collections of Archaeology and History) and the Working Group on cultural tourism.

The newly elected President will head an organisation that boasts a network of 30,000 museums and museum professionals spread over five continents. Hinz believes that in the next few years ICOM should strengthen its role as a service agent for its members in order to promote international and intercultural exchange and cooperation.

In the next three years, Hinz will chair an Executive Council made up of 16 members, also elected during ICOM's 22<sup>nd</sup> General Conference in Shanghai.

**Vice Presidents:** Georges Okello Abungu (Kenya) and Teresa C. Moletta Scheiner (Brazil)

**Treasurer:** Dominique Ferriot (France)

**Members :** Carlos Roberto Ferreira Brandão (Brasil), Luisa de Peña Díaz (Dominican Republic), Goranka Horjan (Croatia), Laishun An (China), Regine Schulz (USA) ; Claude Faubert (Canada) ; Ossama Abdel Meguid (Egypt) ; Daniele Lupo Jallà (Italy) ; Hanna Pennock (The Netherlands) ; Marie-Françoise Delval (France) ; Merete Ipsen (Denmark).

**Ex-officio :** Knut Wik (Norway), Chairperson of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee, which is composed of the Chairpersons of the National Committees, International Committees and Affiliated Organisations, elected Knut Wik (Norway) as Chairperson for the second time and Kwame Sarpong (Ghana) as Vice-Chairperson for the period 2010 - 2013.

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## **ICOM in short**

Created in 1946, ICOM (International Council of Museums) is an international non-governmental organisation maintaining formal relations with UNESCO. Within the United Nations, ICOM has a consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. ICOM is the only international organisation representing museums and museum professionals on a global level.

ICOM is:

- A diplomatic forum made up of representatives from 137 countries and territories
- Standards of excellence for museums including ethics (*ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums*)
- A unique international network of more than 30,000 museum professionals around the world
- A think-tank composed by 31 International Committees which represent museums' specialties
- Missions of international public service notably in the fight against illicit traffic of cultural property and emergency programmes in case of natural disasters or armed conflicts.

**For all questions concerning the world museum community and for interview requests with ICOM's Director General, please contact the press office:**

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