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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **22<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) from 7 to 12 November 2010 in Shanghai, China**

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The 22<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of the International Council of Museums will be held in a few days at the World Expo Centre in Shanghai, China.

More than 3,600 museum professionals from all corners of the world, representing 122 countries, regions and international organisations, are expected to attend this major event for the world museum community. The six-day conference will provide museum professionals with a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and reflect on this year's theme, *Museums for social harmony*.

The ICOM General Conference will welcome former president of France Jacques Chirac as well as six eminent transdisciplinary scholars: Lourdes Arizpe, Xiejun Chen, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Okwui Enwezor, Jinshi Fan and former president of Mali Alpha Oumar Konaré.

Two Open Forums will be held on museum-related topics ranging from economic issues to the role of volunteers in museums, while the Museum Trade Fair will display the latest trends in the industry. The organisation's International Committees will hold meetings on several scientific and academic topics related to museum professions and specific museum fields.

ICOM's annual meetings will also be held during the General Conference, chief amongst which will be the General Assembly on 12 November 2010, during which the new President and Executive Council of ICOM will be elected.

The General Conference programme is available on the ICOM Shanghai 2010 website:  
<http://www.icom2010.org.cn/icomwbs/webpages/en/>

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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.

### **The ICOM General Conference**

Held every three years, the General Conference brings together the international museum community on a theme chosen by museum professionals. Over 3,600 museum experts and museum professionals gather for a week to discuss, exchange ideas and reflect on museum-related questions. The General Conference revolves around: scientific and academic symposiums, organised by the many International Committees; administrative sessions, including the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee meeting which define the organisation's policies; and forums on topics related to the issues facing museums worldwide today. This year, the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICOM General Conference will be held in Shanghai, China from 7 to 12 November 2010.

### **Speakers at the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Conference of ICOM**

#### **Lourdes Arizpe**

Professor of Anthropology, *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*, and former Assistant Director General for Culture, UNESCO

#### **Jacques Chirac**

Former president of France

#### **Xiejun Chen**

Director of the Shanghai Museum

#### **Okwui Enwezor**

Nigerian-born American educator, poet, writer, art critic and curator specialising in art history

#### **Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni**

Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport and Coordinator for Intercultural Dialogue, Council of Europe

#### **Jinshi Fan**

Vice-Chairperson of ICOMOS China, Professor of Archaeology at Lanzhou University, and former Director of the Dunhuang Academy of China

#### **Alpha Oumar Konaré**

Former President of Mali, former President of the African Union and former President of ICOM