



Press release

Rio de Janeiro, 17 August, 2013

A new Executive Council elected at the 23rd ICOM General Conference

The 23rd General Conference of the International Council of Museums came to a close today, following the 28th General Assembly during which the elected President and Executive Council were announced.

The conference took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 10 to 17 August, on the theme *Museums (Memory + Creativity) = Social Change*, and was attended by 1,894 participants from 103 countries, including, for the first time, non-members of ICOM.

Prof. Dr Hans-Martin Hinz was elected to represent the International Council of Museums for a second term. A Doctor of Natural Sciences, Dr Hinz began his career as Advisor for the establishment of new museums for the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in West Berlin, Germany. From 1991, he was a member of the management team at the German Historical Museum in Berlin, and from 2000 to 2001 he held the position of Deputy Minister of Culture for Berlin. More recently, he was also named Honorary Professor by Bayreuth University, Germany.

Dr Hinz became a member of the ICOM Executive Council, and subsequently ICOM President 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.

During his acceptance speech, he said: "In presenting ourselves to the wider public we must continue to increase the awareness of [museum-related] issues and highlight the significance of museums as sites of social encounter."

In the next three years, he will chair an Executive Council made up of 14 other members, also elected during ICOM's 23rd General Conference in Rio, as follows:

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

Treasurer: Anne-Catherine Hauglustaine-Robert (France)

Ordinary Members: Ossama A. W. Abdel Meguid (Egypt), Laishun An (China), In-kyung Chang (Republic of Korea), Luisa de Peña Díaz (Dominican Republic), Willem De Vos (Belgium), Alberto Garlandini (Italy), Goranka Horjan (Croatia), Peter Keller (Austria), Diana Pardue (US) Regine Schulz (Germany), Merete Ipsen (Denmark).
Ex-officio: Suay Aksoy (Turkey), Chair of the Advisory Committee.

The next ICOM General Conference will take place in 2016 in Milan, Italy.

ABOUT ICOM

The International Council of Museums (ICOM), founded in 1946, is a worldwide organisation of museums and museum professionals committed to promoting and protecting the present and future, tangible and intangible natural and cultural heritage. With more than 30 thousand members in 137 countries, ICOM is a unique network of professionals working in a wide range of museums and disciplines related to the preservation of our heritage. ICOM has formal relations with UNESCO and holds a consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council. The organisation also partners with entities such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, in order to carry out its international missions of public services, including the fight against trafficking of cultural assets and the promotion of emergency preparedness and response in the wake of natural and man-made disasters. ICOM's commitment to raising awareness of cultural heritage is reinforced by its 31 International Committees who encompass a great variety of museum fields. These committees carry out research in their respective areas for the benefit of the museum community. ICOM mobilises cultural heritage specialists all over the world to meet the challenges faced by museums worldwide.

PRESS CONTACTS

ICOM GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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ABOUT ICOM BRAZIL

The Brazilian Committee of ICOM (ICOM Brazil) was founded on 9 January, 1948 at the *Museu Nacional de Belas Artes* of Rio de Janeiro, and since then has been working actively and influentially in the Brazilian and

international museum community. The important role played by the organization in the past few decades was acknowledged in 2008 by former Brazilian president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who granted the Cultural Order of Brazil to ICOM Brazil. The committee participates in the main national and international museum events, having positioned itself as an important driver in the National Museums Policy and its international ramifications.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

23rd General Conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM)

10 – 17 August, 2013, from 9:00 to 17:30

Cidade das Artes (Trevo das Palmeiras, Barra da Tijuca)

Registration at www.icomrio2013.org.br.

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