



Paris, 15 October, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

Launch of International Museum Day 2014

Museum collections make connections

For the 36th year running, the worldwide community of museums will celebrate International Museum Day around 18 May, 2014. Special events and activities will be organised in thousands of museums across the world to mark this festive day for the museum community.

This year, the theme of the International Museum Day will be **Museum collections make connections**. This theme is a reminder that museums are living institutions that help create bonds between visitors, generations and cultures around the world.

Emphasising the significance of International Museum Day, ICOM President, Prof. Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz said *“Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples”*.

The **International Council of Museums (ICOM)** established International Museum Day in 1977 to increase public awareness of the role of museums in the development of society. Momentum has been rising unabated ever since and in 2013, International Museum Day garnered record-breaking participation with almost 35,000 museums hosting events in more than 143 countries.

Created in 1946, ICOM (International Council of Museums) is an international non-governmental organization 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 organization representing museums and museum professionals on a global level.

Visit the International Museum Day official website

<http://imd.icom.museum>

Press Contact – Matthew GUICHARD – 33 1 47 34 81 58 – imd@icom.museum

Maison de l'UNESCO. 1, rue Miollis. 75732 Paris Cedex 15. France Tél. +33 1 47 34 05 00. Fax : +33 1 43 06 78 62

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.