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Australia's bid to host the 2020 ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly

Sydney may soon play host to heritage experts from all around the world, as the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in Australia bids to host the 2020 ICOMOS Triennial General Assembly with the full support of the Australian and New South Wales Governments and the City of Sydney.

Australia ICOMOS welcomes this strong government backing, which includes \$2.6 million in financial and in-kind support from the Federal and State Governments.

Announcing Australia's bid to host the ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Sydney in October 2020, Australia ICOMOS President Ian Travers highlighted that this prestigious event would provide an opportunity to showcase the outstanding management of Australia's World Heritage properties and enhance our cultural heritage reputation in the Asia-Pacific region:

"The proposed General Assembly theme: 'Shared Cultures – Shared Heritage – Shared Responsibility' reflects both the global context of heritage as part of cultural identity at a time of rapid population shift and conflict, but also the important idea of shared stewardship, which is highly relevant to Traditional Owners of heritage places" he said.

ICOMOS is a global organisation of cultural heritage practitioners with over 10,000 members – architects, historians, planners, archaeologists and others – which provides expert advice to the World Heritage Committee and to national governments around the world.

The General Assembly is expected to attract more than 1,200 of the world's best heritage experts, who would visit iconic heritage properties including The Sydney Opera House, Hyde Park Barracks and the Blue Mountains. Public lectures, an exhibition at Darling Harbour and a three-day symposium would all contribute to sharing of stories and techniques for conserving important cultural sites.

"The Australian Government is working hard to improve conservation and access to places recognised for their heritage significance to Australia and the world," said the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Federal Minister for the Environment and Energy. "Hosting the General Assembly aligns with the Australian Government's commitment to World Heritage and national leadership under the Australian Heritage Strategy".

NSW Heritage Minister Gabrielle Upton said the 2020 ICOMOS General Assembly would highlight NSW's significant heritage conservation work, if the bid were successful. "I want our state's extraordinary heritage to get the focus it deserves. Protecting and preserving our heritage gives people the opportunity to enjoy and value our history," Ms Upton said.

ICOMOS has never held a General Assembly in the Asia-Pacific Region, so the Australian bid responds to enthusiastic worldwide interest. The decision on the host country for 2020 will be announced at the forthcoming ICOMOS General Assembly in New Delhi in December.

The bid has been prepared with assistance from Business Events Sydney.

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