

ICOMOS Advisory Committee
Bergen, Norway, 4-10 September, 2004
Report to Australia ICOMOS

Dear Members and Friends,

We have recently returned home from a full and busy week in Norway which included a 2-day meeting of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee, a 2-day 'retreat' concerning the structure and activities of the International Scientific Committees (ISCs), a 1-day conference (*World Heritage: Intentions-In Action-Its Future*), a session to discuss the forthcoming *Heritage@Risk* publication, and plenty of opportunities for enjoyable discussions with colleagues from many parts of the world. Sheri also managed to fit in a 2-day meeting of the ICOMOS Executive Committee during the very full program.

For members that are not very familiar with the structure of ICOMOS at the international level, the *Advisory Committee* comprises the Presidents of each of the 100+ national committees and the Chairs of each of the 20+ International Scientific Committees. It advises the *Executive Committee* (the 18 member elected managing body of ICOMOS) on program priorities and directions. The Advisory Committee is therefore an important way for the organisation to benefit from the diversity of experiences and perspectives of ICOMOS members across the world, and across the breadth of our specialist disciplines.

The 2004 Advisory Committee meeting was an important step toward the planning for the **16th ICOMOS General Assembly to be held in Xi'an China, 17-21 October, 2005**. There was a presentation from ICOMOS China regarding the progress for the General Assembly which is certain to be an important and successful event for ICOMOS in our region. The theme of the General Assembly is *Monuments and Sites in their Setting: conserving cultural heritage in changing landscapes and townscapes*. We enthusiastically encourage everyone to attend the General Assembly – we are certain that there will be a strong engagement by Australian practitioners in the program. More information about the program – including the call for papers – will be available soon.

The Advisory Committee program was an ambitious one and included presentation and discussion of reports on the activities of ICOMOS from the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary-General, Treasurer-General and the Director of the ICOMOS Secretariat. There were important discussions about the possible revisions to the ICOMOS Statutes, World Heritage processes, and the draft ICOMOS Charter on Heritage Interpretation ('ICOMOS Ename Charter'), as well as a regional discussion session.

An important component of the program at Bergen was the 'retreat' for representatives of International Scientific Committees (ISCs), facilitated by Vice-President Gustavo Araoz. A large number of important issues were discussed in detail at the 'retreat'. To assist with moving these matters forward, three task groups were established:

- Capacity Building, Training and Membership
- Internal Governance
- Relationships between ISCs and the International Executive Committee and National Committees – including World Heritage matters

The meetings in Bergen were held in the Bryggen Museum, within the World Heritage Area on Bergen's waterfront. Bryggen was the local headquarters for the Hanseatic League during the 14th-17th centuries, established to exploit the international stockfish trade. Today it is a building complex of merchant premises and warehouses re-built following devastating fires in 1702. Other fires in the 1950s, demolition of buildings at the end of the 19th century, and an explosion in 1944 have diminished the extent of Bryggen, and created many conservation challenges.

Bryggen was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979. We had the opportunity to experience the charm of Bryggen, and to speak with those involved in its conservation, including Dr Siri Myrvol (also the Vice-President of ICOMOS Norway) who presented an interesting paper on the management of Bryggen and provided specialist tours of Bergen for Advisory Committee delegates. Management issues include traffic, the impacts of tourism (which in Norway is highly seasonal), choosing appropriate commercial activities, authenticity in the treatment of fabric, etc – problems so familiar to all of us.

On our final day in Bergen, we travelled through the fjords to Tyssedal, to visit a large hydro-electric power station which has been included on Norway's tentative list for inscription in the World Heritage List.

The meetings and site visits were hosted by ICOMOS Norway in partnership with the City of Bergen and the Organisation of World Heritage Cities. Due to travel difficulties, the President of the Advisory Committee, Dosso Sindou (Cote d'Ivoire) was unable to be in Bergen for the Advisory Committee meetings, and the President of ICOMOS Norway, Amund Sinding-Larsen did an excellent job of stepping temporarily into the role.

We are grateful for the support from the Australia ICOMOS Executive Committee which enabled us to attend the meetings in Bergen. As always, Australia was well represented at the meeting – we were joined in Bergen by Robyn Riddett (representing ICORP, the ISC for Risk Preparedness), Brian Egloff and Marilyn Truscott (representing ICAHM, the ISC for Archaeological Heritage Management) and Cliff Ogleby (representing CIPA-Heritage Documentation). Thanks to everyone for their constructive participation in the Bergen program.

In the case of several items, there will further work by Australia ICOMOS over the coming months. We will be separately seeking the involvement of everyone via the email news, including:

- development of a formal response to the proposals for the *revision of the ICOMOS Statutes*
- further input to the draft *ICOMOS Charter on Heritage Interpretation* ('*ICOMOS Ename Charter*')
- further input into the review of the *ICOMOS World Heritage Representivity Report*
- collaborative development with ICOMOS China of a *declaration on 'settings'* for the General Assembly

We are very happy to provide additional information on any of the items presented in the report – please contact us via the Secretariat (austicomos@deakin.edu.au).

Best regards,

Kristal Buckley, President – Australia ICOMOS
Sheridan Burke, International Vice-President

Highlights from Bergen

1. 2005 General Assembly News

The dates for the General Assembly have now been confirmed. The General Assembly will take place 17-21 October, 2005, in Xi'an, China. The Advisory Committee will meet on the 15th and 16th of October, and the Executive Committee will meet on the 14th of October. The theme of the General Assembly is *Monuments and Sites in their Setting: conserving cultural heritage in changing landscapes and townscapes*. It is expected that the structure for the scientific program together with an initial call for papers will be circulated before the end of the year.

2. Revision of the ICOMOS Statutes

Members will recall that potential revisions to the ICOMOS Statutes have been under consideration since the 2002 General Assembly in Madrid, and that there was discussion of some issues at the 2003 General Assembly in Victoria Falls, without resolution. During this year, the President asked Professor Werner von Trutzschler to review all the discussions and submissions. As a result, a paper was produced for the ICOMOS Advisory Committee by a small group recruited by Professor von Trutzschler.

The issues raised in the paper are extensive, and include:

- Postal voting for elections
- Regional Representation on the Executive Committee
- Funding Support for participation in the General Assembly
- Simplified/Revised Membership Categories
- Advisory Committee representation on the Executive Committee
- Reporting relationships between the Executive Committee and the Secretariat
- Recognition of National Committees
- Rules for calling of meetings, including quorum provisions
- Recognition of the Eger Principles.
- Status of the ISCs

Some of these issues were discussed at Victoria Falls – others are newly raised by Professor von Trutzschler's consultative group. There were a number of views expressed during the Advisory Committee meeting about the matters raised in the paper, and the resolution of the Advisory Committee emphasises the need for all national committees and ISCs to provide their comments and further proposals before any decisions could be entertained.

All national committees and International Scientific Committees now have an opportunity to provide written comment before the end of the year. Australia ICOMOS members wishing to contribute to this important submission are very welcome to do so – please contact the Secretariat (austicomos@deakin.edu.au).

3. ICOMOS Charter on Heritage Interpretation

During this year, ICOMOS has been developing a new charter on heritage interpretation, in conjunction with the Ename Centre for Archaeology in Belgium. This work has been led by Vice-Presidents Sheridan Burke and Gustavo Araoz, along with a small editorial group from Ename.

Unlike most ICOMOS charters which are developed by individual ISCs, a process of involving a wide cross-section of ICOMOS members was established, and three drafts have been circulated. All ISCs were involved in the drafting process, as was a reference group of international interpretation specialists. The last circulation – to National Committees – was unfortunately delayed and it was evident that more time would be needed to finalise the document before its submission to the Xi'an General Assembly next year.

There was a lively discussion of the 3rd draft of the Charter by the Advisory Committee. It is clear that this is an area of conservation practice which is perceived very differently throughout the world and between generations – and that there are many interpretations of what 'interpretation' means, and how it occurs. President Petzet led the debate, noting his perspectives and particular view that 'presentation' is a more appropriate term than 'interpretation'.

The Advisory Committee resolved that more consultation and input from national committees and International Scientific Committees is required.

A number of Australia ICOMOS members have contributed constructively to the drafts of this charter already – with our thanks. The 'Bergen draft' is being revised, and when it is available we will circulate it to all members through our email news service. We enthusiastically encourage and welcome everyone's views. Our submission will be required by mid-December – so watch the Australia ICOMOS email news for further information.

4. World Heritage

Both Michael Petzet and Giora Solar reported verbally on the year's activities in relation to World Heritage. These included evaluation of cultural nominations prior to the World Heritage Committee meeting in Suzhou, China; various monitoring missions; and the submission of the ICOMOS report on the Representivity of the World Heritage List.

There was considerable interest from the Advisory Committee in these reports, with the following issues discussed:

- The need for further input to the Representivity report to ensure that it is regionally robust.
- The need to write guidelines which document the way in which ICOMOS conducts its processes in relation to World Heritage.
- The desirability of ICOMOS running training sessions for evaluators.
- Potential changes to the breadth of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel each year.
- Importance of national committee involvement in the World Heritage periodic reporting process.

Also, in relation to World Heritage matters, ICOMOS Norway held a 1-day conference in Bergen during our stay. It examined a number of aspects of World Heritage. The papers were:

- Key Note Addresses from Michael Petzet (President, ICOMOS), Joseph King (World Heritage Coordinator, ICCROM)
- Jukka Jokhileto (World Heritage Adviser to ICOMOS) on 'Authenticity and Function'
- Siri Myrvoll: Bryggen World Heritage Site, Bergen.
- Wilfried Lipp: Vienna – conservation and development.
- Anna Nurmi-Nielsen: Rauma Historic Town, Finland.
- Nils Marstein: Buffer Zone Issues
- Tamas Fejerdy: Periodic Reporting.
- Christopher Pound: Management Plans

5. Planning Retreat: International Scientific Committees (ISCs)

The 2-day ISC 'retreat' held in Bergen was organised and facilitated by Vice-President Gustavo Araoz, and followed the discussions held at Victoria Falls last year. The workshop resulted in the identification and discussion of a large number of issues concerning the operation and activity of the ISCs.

Although the ISCs currently vary in their size, regional representation and levels of activity, there are commonly shared desires for the ISCs to be more effectively integrated into the decision making structures of ICOMOS, and to play a stronger and better coordinated role in determining the work programs and priorities of ICOMOS.

Some of the issues arising from the wide-ranging discussions at the 'retreat' were:

- setting professional standards and dissemination of best practice within and beyond ICOMOS
- establishing a clear research focus each year within the ICOMOS triennial work program
- involving the ISCs in ICOMOS missions – including selection of participants for World Heritage evaluations
- developing regionally specific programs, including the regional guidelines for ICOMOS charters
- creating new opportunities for younger professionals to be involved in ISCs – through mentoring and changes to membership arrangements
- improving structural and communication arrangements between ISCs, between ISCs and National Committees, and between ISCs and the International Executive Committee
- resourcing for ISC programs and activities
- establishing an effective role for the ISCs in planning the scientific programs for General Assemblies (including the desirability of encouraging all ISCs to formally meet at each GA)
- resolving various recurring questions relating to ISC membership rules, statutes, etc – do we want more uniformity in these?

This is only a short summary of a much larger number of issues and questions discussed at the 'retreat', and of the solutions that started to emerge. There will be a report on the outcomes of the workshop prepared by Gustavo Araoz, including identification of the issues that require active consideration over the next year. To assist with moving these issues forward, three task groups were established:

- Capacity Building, Training and Membership Issues
- Internal Governance Issues
- Relations between ISCs and the Executive Committee, National Committees (etc) – including World Heritage matters

Ultimately, it is anticipated that there will be a process to consider needed changes to the *Eger Principles* arising from the work of these task groups.

Also: There are a number of proposals for new ISCs which are at different stages of development – they include: Doctrine, 20th century heritage, Fortifications, Intangible Heritage, Restoration of Art and Pacific Islands Heritage.

6. International Committee for the Pacific Islands

Australia ICOMOS has supported the formation of this committee in order to enable participation in ICOMOS by our colleagues living and working in the Pacific Islands. At Bergen, the ICOMOS Executive Committee endorsed the establishment of the Committee. The interim coordinator for the Committee is Dr Christophe Sand (Noumea, New Caledonia), and there is a growing list of heritage practitioners in the Pacific Islands who have expressed an interest in the Committee.

ICOMOS also received a communiqué recently prepared by a group of Pacific heritage practitioners meeting at Niue as part of the UNESCO Pacific Heritage Managers Training Program (run by the

Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific, and supported by Australia ICOMOS). This is a clearly expressed statement of heritage management challenges in the Pacific. The statement is available from the Australia ICOMOS website – look under ‘News’ – www.icomos.org/australia.

7. *Intangible Heritage*

Following the General Assembly at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe last year (and the pre-meeting at Kimberley, South Africa), there has been some interest in establishing a work program for ICOMOS in relation to the Intangible Heritage Convention – including the possibility of an ISC for Intangible Heritage. Several African committees have expressed a willingness to lead these initiatives.

While these discussions are continuing, and there are a number of expressions of interest still being followed up, it seems likely that Cameroon will take a lead role in examining the possibilities for establishing an ISC; and South Africa will take the lead in considering the further development the Kimberley Declaration and relevant resolutions from Victoria Falls into doctrinal text for ICOMOS. Australia ICOMOS is supportive of these initiatives and has indicated an interest in contributing to these important new areas of work.

8. *Asia-Pacific Region meeting*

While in Bergen, we spent an afternoon in regional discussions – this is always a very interesting and worthwhile element to the Advisory Committee program. The session was chaired by our regional Vice-Presidents Yukio Nishimura and Sheridan Burke. This time we had representatives from Australia, China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Israel (yes, its part of Asia for the purposes of these groupings). We were also joined by the South Africans, which made for an excellent and diverse discussion group. As well as sharing information about the activities of national committees, we enjoyed a good discussion with our Chinese colleagues about the planning for the General Assembly, and offered strong regional support for the planning of the scientific program.

9. *Heritage@Risk*

The next Heritage@Risk report is currently being compiled. Marilyn Truscott (Australia) and John Ziesemer (Germany) are collecting and editing the contributions, and facilitated a session during the Advisory Committee meeting to share some of the issues arising from the current crop of articles and to encourage additional contributions. It is expected that the new edition will be available early next year.

10. *ICOMOS France Membership Database*

Gilles Nourissier demonstrated the on-line membership directory that is currently being developed by ICOMOS France. The database contains information on the areas of expertise of the members, and it is intended that it will operate as an on-line directory. There was discussion about the applicability of the database internationally.

11. *Reports from the ICOMOS Bureau*

A written report was presented to the Advisory Committee from the President (Michael Petzet), and verbal reports were provided by the Secretary-General (Dinu Bumbaru), Treasurer-General (Giora Solar), Vice-President responsible for ISCs (Gustavo Araoz) and the Director of the International Secretariat (Gaia Jungeblodt). While each of the regional Vice-Presidents was also asked for a report, the only written report presented was from Asia-Pacific, prepared by Sheridan Burke.

Generally, the lack of formal reporting was a source of disappointment for many of the Advisory Committee delegates. This point was made strongly on behalf of the Advisory Committee by the Chair, Amund Sinding-Larsen.

Each of these reports raised many issues and discussion from the floor – here is a quick summary....

- Communication – the newsletter has been re-designed and printed in Malta (by Ray Bondin, the Newsletter Editor); there may be an email newsletter soon; would like more contributions to the newsletter; PR/media are areas for improvement.
- Website – ongoing improvements; the Documentation Centre has recently included a set of documents relating to the Venice Charter on the website.
- Finance – it has been a difficult year for finances due to changing currency exchange rates and delays in various payments/income (etc). This has constrained action in some areas of the work program, and is a matter of ongoing concern. A fund raising/financial strategy group has been established and received a report from Sheridan Burke.
- National Committees – there are some new national committees in Central Asia; the Executive has undertaken actions to revive 'sleeping' committees in several regions.
- ISCs – there are several areas where new ISCs may be formed: doctrine, art restoration, intangible heritage, Pacific Islands heritage, inventories, 20th century heritage, and fortifications. Several regional representatives will be invited to be active in the initial explorations of these potential committees.
- Membership – encouragement to grow the membership everywhere, including new ways to encourage younger professionals to join; membership database needs to be expanded to include info on people's expertise.
- Events over the past year – many!
- World Heritage – involvement in the World Heritage Committee meeting in Suzhou; the World Heritage Representivity Report and its acceptance as a 'work in progress'.
- Conservation Action – in Iraq, Bam (Iran) and (Bamiyan) Afghanistan. Generally however, projects have had to be limited due to financial constraints.
- Blue Shield – involvement by G.Jungeblodt and D.Bumbaru; circulation of the Torino Declaration. ICOMOS is promoting the 2nd Protocol of the Hague Convention.
- Publications – congratulations to the Polar ISC for the completion of their publication in the 'Monuments & Sites' series – and encouragement to other committees to prepare similar publications. The papers from Zimbabwe are being collected by the Secretariat and will go on the web.
- It was announced that Roland Silva has been awarded the prestigious Fukuoka Prize for Culture for 2004.

12. Some Interesting Documents ...

- Torino Declaration, July 2004. Resolutions of the first Blue Shield International Meeting, Torino, Italy.
- Belgrade Declaration, May 2004. Drafted by participants in the Regional Conference on Preventive Activities in Preservation of Cultural Heritage of the Areas Affected by Ethnic Tensions and Armed Conflicts.
- Bam Declaration & Recommendations, April 2004. From the International Workshop on the Recovery of Bam's Cultural Heritage.
- Hoi An Declaration on Conservation of Historic Districts of Asia, September 2003.
- Nizhny Tagil Charter for the Industrial Heritage, July 2003. Charter of the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH). Available on the web from www.mnactec.com/ticcih/charter.htm.