

## CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear ICR members and friends!

*There will always be an easy path and a right path.* J. K. Rowling

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chair of ICR Interim Board and to update you on recent changes and current projects.

It was a great pleasure to meet old and new members of ICR at the very successful ICOM Triennial conference in Milano, Italy, in July. ICR held a joint session on “Museums and Landscape Communities” with members of ICOM’s International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities (CAMOC), and spent a fascinating day with them visiting new museum developments in Bologna. We all also received a number of international papers from ICR members at our own session (25).

### *Changes to ICR Board*

The ICR Plenary meeting was held on July 6, when elections were held for the ICR Board 2016-2019. We acknowledged those members who were retiring from the Board - Dagmar Bittricher, Metka Fujs, Blanca Ramirez Gonzáles, Sue Hanna and Helmut Sydow, and we thank them again now for their years of loyal service to ICR and look forward to their continued participation in ICR's meetings and projects.

We are especially appreciative of our Norwegian colleagues, recent Chair Rune Holbeck and recent Secretary, Jean Aase, for all their hard work on behalf of ICR. They have been tireless in managing ICR's affairs, consolidating ICR's international relationships, including with ICOM Headquarters, and organising memorable ICR conferences in two hemispheres.

The Interim Board membership for 2016-2017, confirmed in September 2016, is as follows:

Irena (Slovenia), Interim Chair

Chen Jianming (China), Interim Vice-Chair

Orit (Israel), Interim Treasurer

Eddie Wei-Chun Lai (Taiwan)

Jane Legget (New Zealand)

Carrie-Lunde (Canada)

Kenji Saotome (Japan)

Eddie Wei-Chun Lai (Taiwan)

Tuulia Tuomi (Finland) - co-opted September 2016

Stephanos Keramidas (Greece) - co-opted September 2016

### *Board matters*

Following the ICR 2016 Plenary, the Board discovered that our ICR Rules (adopted in Tel Aviv 2015) and election process were not fully consistent with ICOM's Rules for National Committees. After consultation with staff at ICOM's Headquarters, we have determined that the best approach is to consider the current Board as an *Interim Board*, which allows us to proceed with our planning for 2016-2017. This means that at our 2017 Plenary, to be held in Helsinki, Hämeenlinna and Tampere, Finland in August/ September, we shall hold new elections.

In the meantime, the Interim Board will review ICR's rules and election processes and prepare new proposals for the membership's consideration at the ICR 2017 Plenary. We welcome Tuulia and Stephanos as co-opted members, following Rune and Jean's decisions to step down at short notice, and are grateful for their agreement to join us. Tuulia will be our host for the 2017

conference in Helsinki and Tampere, while Stephanos's experience in Greece will be particularly helpful for our Migration Cities and Nepali Projects.

### *ICOM Executive*

We welcome Suay Aksoy as ICOM's new President of the Executive Council and look forward to her leadership of our profession.

ICR congratulates our member Alberto Garlandini on his election as one of the two Vice-Presidents of ICOM's Executive Council and give him our best wishes for success with these new responsibilities. ICR also acknowledges past ICR Chair Goranka Horjan, whose term on the Executive Council has ended, and thank here for her support and advocacy of ICR's activities in the wider context of ICOM's work.

### *Challenging projects for the new Interim Board.*

The Interim Board is working on three projects in 2016:

- 1. Project on Regional Museums and Communities dealing with the results of earthquakes, Nepal.*

In January 2017 we are organising a workshop »Regional Museums' role in assisting to rebuild their local communities after an earthquake«. Our ICR partners in the project include: ICOM Paris helping with grant of 7000 €, supported by 3000 € from our ICR funds and 4500 € (airfares for the experts on the topic) from ICOM Nepal and the Nepal Museum Association, ICOM China, ICOM Japan and The Chinese Association of Museums in Taiwan. We also have tremendous help of the UNESCO office in Kathmandu. The aim of this project is to work out a plan for how regional museums can play an active part in rebuilding their local society after an earthquake. The final workshop goal is to produce a guideline/handbook on how to work collaboratively and how to involve different political levels in restoring local societies after an earthquake.

## *2. Migration: Cities*

ICR is one of three partners in *Migration : Cities* - How migrants and receiving populations are making new forms of urbanisms in the cities reflected in cultural, political and economic processes. This project is about exploring the roles museums can have in collecting, presenting and collaborating in these processes. CAMOC is the leading partner supported by ICR and CAM (Commonwealth Association of Museums). More information about how ICR members can contribute will be available shortly.

## *3. ICR Annual Conference 2017*

We are in the early stages of planning our 2017 annual conference to be held in Finland, where Tuulia Tuomi will be our local organiser and host. We will provide more details as the plans development, but we hope to enjoy some of the museum exhibitions to be shown as part of Finland's celebrations of 100 years of as an independent state.

So you see, the Interim Board has much to do in the next twelve months, but we are now on "the right path".

I hope to see many of you at ICR's annual conference in Finland 2017.

Irena Žmuc

Chair, ICR Interim Board