



## A Written Report on Attending ICOM-ICR 2023 Tainan Annual Conference.

By

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Upon discovering the theme of the ICR Annual Conference 2023, which was centered around “Regional Museums and Regional Revitalization”, I was immediately filled with excitement and inspiration. The theme had a special significance for me, as it directly aligned with the nature of work I had been engaged in at the Lahore Museum in Pakistan. Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the museum staff, curators, and specialists to help preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan. My efforts have

been focused on various aspects, including the conservation and restoration of ancient artifacts, the development of educational programs for students and visitors, and the creation of interactive exhibits that showcase the diversity and richness of the country's history and culture. This is why the conference agenda presented a unique opportunity for me to share my years of experience working on various projects at the Lahore Museum, which showed me firsthand the enormous potential of museums to foster community engagement and drive community-led initiatives.

I feel honored and am grateful to have been selected to receive the ICR grant which allowed me to attend this conference and present my paper in person. The paper I presented at the ICOM-ICR-International Committee for Regional Museums annual conference in Tainan was focused on highlighting the importance of community-led initiatives in museums in Pakistan. Its title, "The Role of Community-Driven Projects for Museums in Pakistan," encapsulated the essence of the benefits of community engagement. Through my presentation, I attempted to highlight how such projects can not only elevate and enhance the overall museum experience but also help create a stronger and more connected community. As a result, by sharing my experiences, and engaging in discussions with other professionals, I was able to establish myself as an authority in my field and gained more visibility for my further research. Participating in the



ICR Annual Conference in Taiwan not only provided me with the chance to present my paper but was also beneficial to engage me with museum professionals hailing from various parts of the world. Professionals from countries including Pakistan, Nepal, India, Croatia, Slovakia, Japan, USA, Taiwan, Israel, New Zealand participated in this conference and 53 papers were delivered including



keynote presentations. The atmosphere was lively and collaborative, with a sense of mutual respect and admiration for each other's work. Through the analysis of actual scenarios and experiences shared by other participants of the conference, I was able to broaden my comprehension and gain valuable insights that allowed me to develop innovative and creative approaches for my research on the future of Museums. As I listened to the case studies presented by other participants, I was able to gain valuable insight into various strategies used to tackle complex challenges. Their case studies offered a unique perspective and allowed me to analyze and compare different solutions that were implemented to achieve successful outcomes for our regional museums.



The speakers were all experts in their respective fields, and their presentations were engaging, informative, and thought-provoking. What I appreciated most about the event was how practical and actionable the tips and advice were. As the tea break commenced, I had the opportunity to introduce myself to new people, share ideas, and insights, and receive some valuable feedback. I eagerly engaged in conversations with fellow museum professionals to exchange thoughts and perspectives on diverse museum projects. It was an incredibly rewarding experience, as I was able to connect with like-minded individuals from a variety of backgrounds, and we had some truly inspiring

conversations about our shared passions and goals. Overall It was an enriching experience that also helped me to learn various approaches and techniques that professionals use to tackle while researching and presenting.

Overall, this experience was incredibly rewarding and left me feeling inspired and motivated to continue growing both personally and professionally. I am impressed by the planning and execution of this conference, and I congratulate all those involved for their hard work and dedication, especially the entire team of

臺南市美術館 Tainan Art Museum which has been incredibly supportive in managing the



conference and being a part of the excursion trips. Another unforgettable experience that we undertook was an excursion trips which presented an incredible opportunity to explore new places and museums while simultaneously facilitating a deeper level of connection with other museum professionals. We had the opportunity to visit several remarkable museums in Taiwan, including *Tainan Art Museum*, *Kaohsiung Municipal Museum of History*, *Tainan Wuyuan*, *National Museum of Taiwan Literature*, *Tainan Art Museum*, *National Museum of Taiwan History* *National Palace Museum South Branch* as well as *Chiayi Butaizhou South Saltworks*.

All gatherings were filled with laughter, joy, and unforgettable memories. It was quite an accomplishment to tour all these prominent cultural institutions in just two days. For this, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Eddie Lai for his timely arrangements and for being an excellent host. We couldn't have asked for a better way to spend our time. The overall experience turned out to be extremely valuable and I am also deeply indebted to to the Chair and esteemed board members of the ICR-International Committee for Regional Museums for inviting me to participate in their fascinating agenda.



Following the exciting excursion trip, I decided to spend the next two days in Keelung, followed by the last two days in the bustling city of Taipei. During my time in the capital city, I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. and Mrs. Professor Lee, as well as Mr. Lin, who proved to be exceptional hosts. Their warm and gracious hospitality not only made my stay in Taipei more comfortable but also added to my overall experience some wonderful memories i.e. exploring most of the temples as well as the National Palace Museum and Lins Garden in Taipei, which were truly remarkable. I am grateful for their kindness and generosity, which undoubtedly enhanced my time in Taiwan. Looking back, I can say with confidence that this trip was an enlightening experience to represent my Country as well as to learn the history and culture of Taiwan. Such learned experiences will undoubtedly serve me well in my future endeavors for which I am also grateful to our national committee, ICOM-PAKISTAN for their unwavering support and throughout encouragement.