
 **EDITORIAL**

Dear colleagues:

On this occasion I would like to share with you all, the great experience I have had at the Wuxi Forum on Vernacular Architecture recently celebrated in China. The interchange of different knowledge between the participants and the importance that The Chinese Central Government through the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China is giving to vernacular built heritage, made this forum of remarkable importance. I should mention also the relevant role of ICOMOS China in the organization and development of the whole aspects of the Forum.

There is a short report of the forum and the final proposal adopted by the participants in the following pages of this Newsletter. I hope you will find interesting the information on the vernacular heritage aspects.

Best greetings to all of you,

Valeria Prieto
April 2007

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1. CIAV annual report 2006

Dear Friends of CIAV:

Now that the dust of the closing fireworks has gently settled over Patzcuaro, it is time to reflect on last year's achievements and to look to 2007 in order to flag future activities for the committee. But, before providing a synthesis of the scientific conference, let me report on a few administrative issues. The first item of news is that a new vice-president was elected during the 2006 annual meeting. The executive committee is pleased to welcome Ms. Lena Palmqvist, from Sweden, as vice-president. The committee has also revised its by-laws in order to make them conform to the Eger-Xi'an principles. These revised by-laws, which were approved by a postal vote, will facilitate participation in the committee and should increase its membership. Two awards were given during the conference, one to the community of San Antonio for its remarkable work in maintaining a traditional Purhépecha village as a living community. The second award, proposed by our colleague Dimitros Psaros, from Greece, was given posthumously to the late Rashel Anguelova, from Bulgaria, for her role in founding CIAV. Finally, the first issues of our electronic newsletter were released, thanks to the outstanding work of the secretary general, Valeria Prieto.

The 2006 International Scientific Conference in Patzcuaro was a remarkable success thanks to the wonderful hospitality of our Mexican hosts, to the interesting presentations made by more than twenty speakers from ten different countries and, especially, to the gigantic efforts undertaken by our colleagues Gisela Medina Chavez and Valeria Prieto. We will never forget the ancient game played by two teams with a ball of fire in front of pyramids, the excursion to San Antonio, where we visited traditional houses and shared a traditional meal with the entire population of the village, the dinner at the ancient convent of Tzintzuntzan, the opening cocktail at the museum of Patzcuaro and the closing banquet in the same town which was followed by dancing in the streets and fireworks in a park.

Effectively managed by their respective chairs, the sessions of the scientific conference, which had for theme "Pride of Place", dealt with different issues of vernacular architecture from various approaches, human, materialist, scientific or technical. The keynote address delivered by Felipe Leal showed us how to see the essentials of architecture. We discovered that, from the Arctic Circle to the Equator, and this includes Japan, traditional architecture is threatened by modern development. Yet, studies presented during this conference have demonstrated that vernacular buildings respond adequately to climatic conditions. We also learned that vernacular studies are very popular in academic circles, as history classes conduct inventories of traditional buildings and as architectural classes teach how to construct in adobe. We rejoiced in the fact that the future of vernacular architecture can be ensured by conducting summer camps where children can learn how to record a traditional building and that many of these children decide later on to become architects. We heard with delight that the average age of construction workers in adobe has diminished from 54 to 28. There is hope for the future of vernacular architecture as more and more persons across the world are following in the footsteps of the 19th-century Swedish master builder, August Holmbergs, and are documenting traditional buildings to ensure cultural diversity in architecture with the same care and love.

What's in store for 2007? Plenty, I would say. We have received an invitation from our colleague Augusto Villabon to hold the next annual in the Philippines. The proposed theme for this conference is "Vernacular Landscape in Danger", and we will have an opportunity to discuss it with members from another International Scientific Committee, Cultural Tourism, as Augusto intends to invite its members to join our meeting in the Rice Terraces, a World Heritage Site. In this way and by other means, we will continue to establish strategic alliances with other groups interested in vernacular architecture. We will hold a membership drive, targeting young experts of vernacular architecture in order to rejuvenate our membership. We will maintain the periodical electronic news bulletin and continue the awards program by obtaining nominations from members. We will also work towards publishing an illustrated version of the Vernacular Charter as well as a History of Traditional Building Construction. We will also make progress on our resolution on the safeguard of vernacular traditions in disaster areas, as this issue will be on the agenda of our 2007 meeting. We will pursue our resolution to stop the construction of a road bridge that would destroy the historic character of the town of Tomo-no-Ura in Japan. The committee will

also continue to contribute to the efforts of ICOMOS Michoacan in helping the indigenous community of San Antonio in obtaining decent standards of living. We will promote the use of natural materials as a means for energy savings in response to global climatic changes. We will lobby to have UNESCO budgets for World Heritage Designations changed to include the work undertaken for desk reviews. Finally, vice-president Professor Masaru Maeno, from Japan, has kindly offered to assist the town of Patzcuaro in maintaining its historic character.

Looking forward to seeing you in the Philippines in the fall of 2007.

Marc de Caraffe
President CIAV





2. Wuxi Forum on the conservation of Chinese vernacular architecture report.

Wuxi proposal on vernacular built heritage conservation of China

CIAV has received an invitation to participate in this forum, and I was the CIAV representative according to the wishes of our President Marc de Caraffe.

This is a short report of the most important discussions and of our participation in the forum.

The meeting was sponsored by The State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China, hosted by the People's Municipal Government of Wuxi City, Jiangsu province and organized by China ICOMOS, the Cultural Heritage Administration of Jiangsu Province and by the Cultural Heritage Administration of Zhejiang Province.

Another member of CIAV, Donatius Kamamba, from Tanzania, was also present at this forum.

For my point of view, the importance of the Forum was the main theme itself, as all those important cultural agencies and specially ICOMOS China dedicated this forum to discuss and to make a profound analysis of vernacular architecture.

The keynote speakers were the Director General of the China Administration of Cultural Heritage; the Government official of Wuxi City; the representative of the Ministry of Construction of China and the representative of CIAV ICOMOS (myself).

To facilitate interpretation I read in English but I had sent several days before my paper to be translated in Chinese, so everybody had his paper in his language and besides my personal Chinese interpreter was saying which part of the paper I was reading.

Everything is very formal in Chinese official areas, so I began my speech by addressing the main officials who were presiding the Forum and then I said a few words of greetings in Chinese, which was very welcomed by the audience. The first part of my paper was a reference to the main concepts which are explained in the Vernacular Charter, then I explained the purposes and particular objectives of CIAV; I also mentioned the CIAV annual action plan and main activities; and as an example of practice in rural areas of vernacular architecture I talked about the San Antonio Project that, as you know, has been the most recent Mexican practical work in trying to rescue some examples of traditional architecture in a small indigenous community.

I also took with me the special poster of CIAV, which explains, with pictures and illustrations, the objectives and work of CIAV, and I also presented ten more posters of vernacular Mexican architecture with translation printed in Chinese. All this information was most welcomed by the Chinese cultural community and by the ICOMOS China members who were present at the Forum. The diffusion of the Forum in China was very wide with a lot of press coverage. All our presentation was of very much interest to Chinese colleagues, and I think that we have made an important contribution to the knowledge and on the importance of preserving vernacular Chinese architecture, which, as everywhere, is the most fragile cultural heritage.

In the afternoon there were several others presentations, and our colleague Mr. Kamamba presented a paper about the vernacular architecture in Tanzania and the difficulties that it is facing now, mainly by lack of financial resources. Also we attended Mr. Guozhan's presentation as Vice President of ICOMOS China, which was very interesting. I consider that the presentation made by our colleague Guo Zhan was very important; following you will find some of his remarks:

"The higher the value is, the more attention we should pay to the cultural heritage's authenticity, the stricter we shall define, recognize and implement the intervention, measures to be taken, and the less we shall use them.

Both protection and development should be people-oriented. We shall not only serve contemporary people and local needs, but take those of later generation and mankind as a whole into consideration.

Cultural heritage is nonrenewable. Once destroyed, genuine historical relics cannot be regenerated. To some extent, the historical structure and traditional atmosphere of the setting can be resumed. This is

also one of our expectations to guide conservation of traditional villages and towns in the process of applying for world heritage status.”

All the participants also had the opportunity to visit all parts of Wuxi City to see some vernacular architecture examples, but the most important visit was to Shuge Changle Village and Zhijan Village in the Zhijan Province. I will be glad to present some pictures of this very old and remarkable intact village in our next conference in the Philippines at the end of this year.

There was also a Farwell banquet with delicious Chinese delicacies, and the Forum ended in Hangzhou with his beautiful lake and landscape very well preserved.

April 13, 2007
Valeria Prieto

WUXI Proposal on vernacular built heritage conservation of China

1. In some places vernacular architecture has already been destroyed along with cultural landscapes. We should make more efforts to put an end to this situation.
2. We should also protect the immaterial heritage.
3. A national catalog of Chinese vernacular architecture must be completed.
4. Additional public funds for the protection of the vernacular heritage should be allocated.
5. More governmental agencies should be involved in the rescue of vernacular heritage.
6. To publicize the importance of vernacular architecture.
7. To give more training directed at the formation of the persons in charge of this area.
8. To protect the vernacular architecture for the benefit of future generations who may learn to appreciate this heritage.
9. To make more projects like we have seen here in this forum.

This proposal was adopted at the Forum

April 13 2007





3. HUL initiative. A call to participate. Scientific Council

Dear all,

Our efforts to initiate a global discussion on HULs, Historic Urban Landscapes, are well under way. ICOMOS-US has just launched a discussion group on HULs, ICOMOS-Spain.

Has took it upon itself to organize a Spanish discussion group in the Ibero-American region and CIVVIH will be meeting in Helsinki to discuss the issue in less than two weeks. In addition, the 3rd Asia-Pacific Regional meeting (May 30-June 1, 2007) will be dedicated to a related theme, that of "Heritage and Metropolis in Asia and the Pacific".

I would like to once again invite you and the members of your ISCs to join our inter-ISC discussion group. The outcome of the first discussion within this group helped to identify key issues and to found the basis for the current global discussion. I am sure that this group will be pivotal in any future discourse. Enclosed please find the first part of a text which Gustavo prepared for the ICOMOS-US discussion which outlines both the background and the goals of the initiative.

Please let me know if you wish to join the group and please forward this appeal to the members of your respective Committees.

With thanks,

Michal Firestone michalfirestone@YAHOO.COM

See following document:

**2007 US/ICOMOS
Discussion Group on
Historic Urban Landscapes (HULs)**

This is an important discussion that could re-direct the way we conceive of and preserve historic cities worldwide. The ICOMOS Venice, Washington and Vernacular Architecture Charters recognize the dynamic nature of living cities and accept the need for historic cities to manage their ongoing historic evolution by absorbing new forms and functions that will keep them viable without eroding their cultural significance. The current discussion focuses on the identification of the limits of such changes.

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVE

The origins of this discussion lie in a request from the World Heritage Committee to more clearly define the limits of acceptable growth in towns and historic urban districts inscribed in the World Heritage List. To respond to that challenge, UNESCO's World Heritage Centre convened a meeting in Vienna in 2003 whose conclusion were summarized in the Vienna Memorandum. The Vienna meeting was unusual in that it assembled not only those who advocate urban conservation, but also those that are deemed by this group to be part of the problem: developers, municipal authorities and big-name architects.

As a result of the challenges identified in the Vienna Memorandum, the World Heritage Centre felt it worthwhile to continue this discussion through a series of meetings that began with an academic workshop in Jerusalem, continued with a meeting in Saint Petersburg, and is to be followed by a meeting next September in Olinda, Brazil. Another meeting is being planned in Asia. In addition, the UNESCO Chair on the Built Heritage in the University of Montreal convened a round table in March 2006 that produced important contribution to the discussion. The full proceedings of that meeting may be found in: http://www.patrimoinebati.umontreal.ca/site_anglais/index_en.htm Of particular interest is the paper by Julian Smith.

Given the heterogeneous composition of the forum established by the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS proposed that a parallel forum focused more exclusively on conservation concerns and composed exclusively of our members be convened as to inform the larger discussion. This idea was well received by the World Heritage Centre, and this US/ICOMOS forum is a component of an overall ICOMOS effort that is being spearheaded within the ICOMOS Scientific Council by the International Committees on Historic

Towns (CIVVIH) and Cultural Landscapes (ICOMOS-IFLA), where an initial and more limited discussion group was held. The proposal to expand the discussion from the Scientific Council to all the world regions also sprang from this first forum. The global coordinator for the global initiative is Michal Firestone of ICOMOS Israel and CIVVIH, and one of the three Scientific Council Coordinators.

The outcome of all discussions will help ICOMOS of the conservation community in the World Heritage Centre's forum by formulating a solid professional position on the HUL concept that will be based more the global consensus of ICOMOS members. This in turn could influence any future revisions to the World Heritage Operational Guidelines.

The next letter is from two days ago:

Dear all,

I am happy to inform you that the HUL discussion group in the Ibero-American region is planning to begin its discussions at the end of this month. An invitation to join the group was extended to Spanish and Portuguese speakers through CIVVIH's sub-committee in the region and the respective NCs. The discussion was structured along the lines that Gustavo proposed to the US discussion group and will be moderated by D. Pedro de Manuel González. ICOMOS-Spain will provide translation and organizational services.

Enclosed please find the introductory document.

Michal(See attached file: 001. FORO DE DEBATE CH-PHU EN EL AMBITO IBEROAMERICANO.doc)

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Interesados dirigirse a:

Moderador del Foro D. Pedro de Manuel González, Vicepresidente de ICOMOS España

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4. Trienal Action Plan Sent by Dinu Bumbaru (ICOMOS Secretary General)

Next Conferences and Meetings

**4.1. International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP). Symposium in Delhi, India, on
20 – 22 May 2007**

Dear colleagues,

In 1997, the Executive Committee of ICOMOS authorised the creation of an international committee dedicated to the improvement of the state of security of heritage structures, sites and areas, focusing on risk prevention and preparedness. In 10 years, the **International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP)** held regular meetings in conjunction with ICOMOS General Assemblies, and stimulated and contributed to the organisation of various scientific meetings, the most recent of which happening in Leipzig (Germany) in October 2006 with ICOMOS Germany.

On 20-22 May 2007. ICORP will hold an international symposium in Delhi (India) to assess the current needs of cultural heritage and its institutional and professional guardians in relation to risks of natural or human origins (from fires to tsunamis, from looting to violence against heritage). Heritage is faced with these risks and too often for lack of preparedness or preventive measures, falls victim to them. The ICORP meeting is being hosted in Delhi's historical Red Fort in cooperation with ICOMOS India and partner organisations. Its main scientific programme will be on 20-21 May and address the following subjects:

1. Identification and documentation of risks for heritage
2. Preparedness and preventive measures, techniques and methods
3. Emergency and post-disaster situations management
4. Traditional knowledge and modern obligations

On 22 May, the whole day will be dedicated to a special workshop on the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage. This will be the first such ICOMOS activities on this pressing subject. It will be an opportunity to contribute to the reflection engaged by our Scientific Council which will lead, among other elements of a long-term work plan, to a one-day symposium organised by the Council next October on the occasion of the meeting of the Advisory Committee in South Africa.

Beside these scientific activities, the Delhi meeting will be also the opportunity to review the current organisation of ICORP, elect its officers and start the work to give ICOMOS a set of guidelines on the theme of security and risk preparedness or reduction. This is certainly a missing tool in our set of doctrinal texts and one whose production will need the contribution of all committees and members.

We are very proud and happy to hold this activity in India. The immense and diverse cultural heritage of that country faces many security challenges and risks of different natures. Its vast network of experimented institutions and professionals will be a great asset to this meeting, a first in the ICOMOS system. I take this opportunity to insist with you that your committee and colleagues accept this invitation and take part in the Delhi meeting of ICORP.

Please confirm to the International Secretariat (secretariat@icomos.org) as soon as possible, preferably before 15 March, the participation of your committee and the name(s) and e-mail(s) of colleague(s) who plan to attend the Delhi meetings with the professional interest to contribute to either of the meeting's four subjects. This will help with the logistical aspects and the programme's organisation. Also, we would really appreciate if you could identify among your committee members, a contact person for issues related to security and risk preparedness or reduction.

Many thanks for your attention and see you soon.
Dinu Bumbaru

Secretary General and Interim V-Chair, ICORP
dbumbaru@sympatico.ca

4.2. ICOMOS Advisory Committee, Scientific Council, and Executive Committee meetings

**University of Pretoria, Pretoria, Gauteng Province, South Africa
6-12 October 2007**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the President of ICOMOS South Africa, Mr Ntsizi November, and his Committee members; the President of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee, Mr John Hurd; the Scientific Council coordinators, and the President of ICOMOS, I have the pleasure of forwarding you in the attached document the definite dates of the 2007 meeting of the ICOMOS Advisory Committee and Scientific Council, which will take place in Pretoria, South Africa, as well as some preliminary practical information concerning flights, accommodation etc. provided to us by our South African colleagues.

Please also note that immediately before these meetings in Pretoria, the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Shared Built Heritage will be organizing a conference in Cape Town (South Africa) from 3 - 5 October 2007. All ICOMOS members travelling to South Africa on the occasion of the Advisory and Scientific Council meetings are of course also warmly invited to attend this event.

Please see attached document. Information will also soon be posted on the ICOMOS web site.

With best regards

Gaia Jungeblodt

Director, Paris, le 8 mars 2007

4.3. ICOMOS International Wood Committee

Dear Colleagues

We are happy to inform you that our Committee planned the next Symposium on the theme "From Material to Structure", which will focus on the structural failures of the timber structures; it will take place in Florence, Venice and Vicenza from 11th to 16th November 2007.

We think that the participation of qualified members of other related groups is essential. We therefore invite you to designate one or more delegates to our event.

To keep low the participation fees of the members we can not offer hospitality.

Looking forward to meeting you in Florence,

Best regards,

Gennaro Tampone

ICOMOS International Wood Committee Secretariat
c/o Collegio degli Ingegneri della Toscana
via della Scala 93,
50123, FIRENZE

E-mail icomos.wood.committee@gmail.com

Web www.icomos.org/iwcc

Fax 0039 055 219187

Tel. 0039 055 282362

4.4. Conference in Transylvania. September 23 to 25

Dear all,

History, Heritage & Regeneration. September 23-25 2007, Sibiu - Transylvania, Romania

This is a major conference organized by INTBAU on heritage and traditional architecture in the former communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The event will take place in the Romanian medieval city of Sibiu, the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2007 www.sibiu2007.ro <http://www.sibiu2007.ro/> .

The conference aims to examine heritage, preservation of traditional places & the future of traditional architecture within the emerging economies of the "Eastern bloc".

We are now launching the Call for Papers and invite academics and practitioners to submit papers on any of the following topics:

- Heritage & urban planning behind the "Iron Curtain"
- The impact of globalize interventions on traditional environments
- Protected areas & Pattern Books
- Traditional architecture & urbanism in academic education
 - Regeneration of traditional places

We will also be hosting a session on EU-funded programs for heritage which will aim to provide information and guidance for programs designed by the EU in order to protect the heritage. In some cases such

Programs require partners from different countries and we hope that the conference will also serve as a good networking opportunity for the participants.

With kind regards,

Aura Neag

Communications Director, INTBAU

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www.intbau.org <<http://www.intbau.org/>>

INTBAU UK is a registered Charity No. 1103068

Further details at <http://www.intbau.org/SibiuConferenceEN.htm>

4.5. Cátedra UNESCO Turismo Cultural. Untref/Aamba

SEMINARIO INTERNACIONAL:

"Patrimonio precolombino y culturas andinas: un itinerario de turismo cultural"

Del 19 de marzo al 2 de julio de 2007

Auditorio de la Asociación Amigos del Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes

Av. Pte. Figueroa Alcorta 2280, Buenos Aires

"Patrimonio precolombino y culturas andinas: un itinerario de turismo cultural" es el tema de un seminario internacional organizado por la Cátedra UNESCO de Turismo Cultural, iniciativa conjunta de la Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero y la Asociación Amigos del Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes y que es la primera en su tipo de América latina.

A lo largo de 56 horas cátedra, los lunes, de 17.30 a 20.30, del 19 de marzo al 2 de julio, renombrados especialistas de España, Francia, Perú y la Argentina desarrollarán un programa excepcional, con la dirección académica del Dr. José Antonio Pérez Gollán, director del Museo Histórico Nacional.

Nuria Sáenz, Elías Mujica Barreda, Luis Guillermo Lumbreras, Enrique Urbano, Thérèse Bouysse-Cassagne, Gilles Rivière, entre otros importantes profesores invitados, abordarán distintas cuestiones relacionadas con las posibilidades de un desarrollo turístico regional a partir del reconocimiento de la riqueza cultural y medioambiental que representa el mundo andino. En efecto, existen novedosas perspectivas de que las comunidades locales asociadas a este itinerario sean protagonistas y beneficiarias de la actividad turística a lo largo de los Andes, y de poder configurar esta ruta de un modo más ecológico, humano y equitativo, en el marco de objetivos más generales como la protección de la identidad, el legado cultural y la memoria colectiva.

El seminario internacional "Patrimonio precolombino y culturas andinas: un itinerario de turismo cultural" cuenta con el apoyo del CCEBA-Centro Cultural de España en Buenos Aires / AECEI, de la Embajada del Perú en la Argentina y del Centro Franco-Argentino de Altos Estudios (UBA).

Para informes e inscripciones:

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4.6. International Conference on the study and Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage in collaboration with Africa 2009

The Getty Conservation Institute and the Mali Ministry of Culture are pleased to announce that they are organizing Terra 2008: Tenth International Conference on the Study and Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage in collaboration with Africa 2009, CRATERRE-ENSAG, ICOMOS South Africa, ICCROM, and the World Heritage Centre, under the aegis of ICOMOS and its International Scientific Committee for Earthen Architectural Heritage. The conference will take place in Bamako, Mali, February 15, 2008. This is the tenth international meeting organized by the earthen community and the first to be held in Africa.

The 4½ day conference will provide a unique opportunity to discuss and observe firsthand issues of conservation, management and sustainable development both from an international perspective and particular to sub-Saharan Africa, a region rich in earthen architecture. During this conference, specialists will present papers and posters that reflect the latest research and practices in the study and conservation of earthen architecture worldwide.

Conference themes include:

1. Earthen architecture in Mali
2. Conservation and management of archaeological sites
3. Conservation of living sites (cities, settlements, cultural landscapes)
4. Challenges and opportunities of conservation and development
5. Local knowledge systems and intangible aspects of earthen architecture
6. Standards and guidelines for new and existing structures
7. Seismic and other natural forces
8. Advances in research

We invite abstracts in French and English for 20-minute presentations and posters that relate to the 8 themes listed above. Each theme is intended to encompass a range of papers reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the field. We therefore encourage papers on recent research and innovative practice in training, documentation, laboratory and field testing, and implementation, as well as issues of socio-cultural and economic dynamics of conservation, impact of tourism and development on heritage sites. Abstracts for papers and posters are being accepted until April 15, 2007.

In addition, postconference tours to Tombouctou, Djenné, Mopti, and the Dogon Country will be available to a limited number of participants on a first come first serve basis. Organized by a local tour agency in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and local Cultural Missions, the tours will highlight outstanding examples of the rich and diverse earthen architectural traditions of Mali. Experienced staff and guides of the Cultural Missions will present all sites to the groups.

Conference registration forms and additional information, including details on conference costs, post conference tours, and travel to Mali, are available for downloading on the Getty Web site at: www.getty.edu/conservation/field_projects/earthen/earthen_2008_conf.html
Financial assistance will be available to a limited number of participants from developing countries. Registration forms and requests for funding assistance should be directed to: Kathleen Louw, Senior Project Coordinator at the GCI: klouw@getty.edu. Questions regarding conference content should be directed to: Leslie Rainer, Senior Project Specialist at the GCI: lrainer@getty.edu. For further information within Africa please contact KlessiguÃ© Sanogo, Department of National Cultural Patrimony, Mali: sanogoklessique@yahoo.fr.

4.7. 13th International Conference on Virtual Systems and Multimedia

It will be held in **Brisbane, Australia from 23 – 26 September**. To submit a paper, go to <http://australia.vsmm.org> Long Papers are due – April 30, Short Papers– May 30 and Posters – July 30. Long Papers will be published by Springer in their LCNS. Others will be published locally. This will be the first time VSMM has been held in Australia. It will be hosted by the Australasian CRC for Interaction Design (ACID). <http://www.interactiondesign.com.au/>

The theme for VSMM2007 : Exchange and Experience in Space and Place

Multimedia and virtual environment technologies and their applications provide a new medium for the advancement of human expression, interpretation and preservation of the human spirit and essence of humanity. For over 12 years, the VSMM Society through its annual conferences has fostered the integration of the human, technological and strategic aspects of digital technologies under the umbrella of international exchange, cooperation and development. As the first major international conference to focus on the application of 3D digital technologies for the protection and valorization of cultural heritage, VSMM pioneered the field of Virtual Heritage over a decade ago.

Bridging Space and Place through digital exchange and experience, VSMM07 is rooted in Australia's rich indigenous cultural appreciation of place, and its thriving digital games, design, production, and new media industries.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Space & Place: Virtual Heritage and Virtual Cultures

Space & Place: Virtual Environments and Virtual Experiences

Space & Place: Applied technologies and systems

VSMM07 SYDNEY WORKSHOP 21ST SEPTEMBER 2007 In addition to the conference, VSMM invites all participants to attend a one day seminar on the 21st September 2007 in Sydney that focuses attention on new virtual heritage and electronic art research applied to the Advanced Visualisation Interactive Environment (AVIE), at the iCinema Centre for Interactive Cinema Research, University of New South Wales.

Internationally acclaimed theorists and practitioners will demonstrate the unprecedented advances in immersive and narrative exchange between human & place, human & machine agent and, human & human that such a virtual platform-its operating infrastructure and software-allows for. The concentration of experience brought together in this symposium will allow robust theoretical and technical proficiencies in applied virtual heritage and media art to emerge.

<http://australia.vsmm.org/sydworkshop/seminar.pdf>

Five student bursaries of USD\$250 each will be offered. To be considered you must be a full-time postgraduate student and have a letter endorsing your full-time enrolment status from your supervisor and which also states that you do not hold an academic staff position. You cannot hold any academic position. Academic staff are not eligible for consideration even if they are completing a postgraduate qualification. This confirmatory letter needs to be sent to the Conference Convenor with your paper and an email requesting your wish to be considered for one of these bursaries. If you have already submitted your abstract and would like to be considered for the bursary, you need to send the above letter with a note to the conference convenor. Full details will be published on the web site.

VSMM2007 Conference Secretariat

email: australia@vsmm.org



5. Other News

5.1. Heritage at Risk report 2006/2007

Heritage at Risk report 2006/2007

Dear Colleagues,

The Heritage at Risk report series has become a permanent activity of ICOMOS. Since the 4th ICOMOS World Report on Monuments and Sites in Danger (Heritage at Risk 2004/2005) was published in 2005, ICOMOS has produced a special edition on Underwater Cultural Heritage at Risk and will soon be completing a further one on Russian avant-garde architecture at risk. We are also planning a possible special edition on climate change.

At the same time, through the ICOMOS News 2/2006 which reached you and all your members in January 2007, we have invited all ICOMOS Committees to prepare their reports, which can comprise the following elements, for the next "general" edition, i.e. Heritage at Risk 2006/2007 and to forward these to the International Secretariat **if possible by 31 March 2007**:

A short report with threats to heritage in your country or special area(s) of concern;

Case studies focusing on special problems (possibly also with references to recent successful developments);

Photographs to illustrate the dangers and problems described in your report, preferably tif or jpg files with at least 300 dpi (slides or paper prints are also possible).

No special theme has been identified for the Heritage at Risk 2006/2007 report; however, should Committees wish to identify a particular issue or type of heritage particularly at threat, this is welcomed.

See under www.international.icomos.org/risk/2001/guidelines.htm for publication guidelines (approved in Dubrovnik, October 2001). The International Secretariat Director, Gaia Jungeblodt (gaia.jungeblodt@icomos.org) or John Ziesemer (john.ziesemer@icomos.bayern.de) at ICOMOS Germany can answer any questions you may have with regards to your Committee's contributions.

All previous Heritage at Risk reports are available in full on the ICOMOS web site at <http://www.international.icomos.org/risk/index.html>

I urge you to please try to meet the 31 March 2007 deadline, so that we can publish as many reports as possible. Should your Committee, for whatever reason, not be able to complete its report by this deadline, please contact Ms Jungeblodt or Mr Ziesemer anyway to inform us whether your Committee plans to contribute and to possibly arrange for an extended deadline.

We thank you for your continuing contribution to this important ICOMOS project and look forward to receiving your Committees report.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely

Michael Petzet
President of ICOMOS

5.2 Agreement between ICOMOS and UIA

On 21 March 2007, in Paris, Gaetan Siew, President of the International Union Architects (UIA) and Michael Petzet, President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), signed an agreement of cooperation between the two organisations.

UIA and ICOMOS hope to reinforce their collaboration by appointing representatives to the diverse events each organises on a regular basis (congresses and assemblies), and mutually naming experts to participate in scientific working structures.

ICOMOS will be associated with the development and enrichment of the UIA website dedicated to 20th century architectural heritage, and will invite a UIA representative to participate in its International Scientific Committee on 20th century architectural heritage.

The UIA will invite ICOMOS to appoint representatives to participate in the Architectural Education Commission's thematic group on teaching preservation techniques for architectural heritage and in the UIA's work regarding architectural competitions.

The UIA will support ICOMOS and contribute to its Heritage at Risk actions.

The UIA and ICOMOS will also develop collaboration with other organisations linked to architectural heritage on issues of common interest, for example on contemporary architecture in heritage settings and on the identification and management of sites in the context of the World Heritage Convention.

April 5th 2007

ICOMOS - International Council of Monuments and Sites

www.icomos.org

UIA - International Union Architects

www.uia-architectes.org

5.3 International day on monuments and sites 2007. Cultural landscapes and monuments of nature

Dear Colleagues,

Allow me to send you as a reminder the **CALL for celebration of the INTERNATIONAL DAY ON MONUMENTS AND SITES 2007** published in the ICOMOS Newsletter 2/2006 – which you and your members will have received by now and which was mentioned by the ICOMOS Secretary General in his note to you beginning of January 2007. Below, you will find information about this year's theme and from 13th February our website www.international.icomos.org will include a special detailed documentation about the theme, ideas for celebration, the history of this day, etc.; which I'm sure will help you with the organization of activities to mark this occasion.

We are open for suggestions to improve the special web pages for the 18 April 2007 and their content, as well as to disseminate information on the initiatives your committee will be taking, just let us know about your plans by sending an email to Ms Vivian Ramirez at the ICOMOS International Secretariat – Vivian.ramirez@icomos.org.

With best regards

Gaia Jungeblodt

Director ICOMOS International Secretariat

