

# ICOMOS INTERNATIONAL WOOD COMMITTEE

November 17, 2016

## Report on ICOMOS AGM Istanbul

Ian McGillivray the IWC Interim President, Mary Glendinning and Mikel Landa attended the ICOMOS AGM in Istanbul, October 17 to October 21, 2016. The following is Ian's report on items that may be of interest to the IWC:

1. **IWC WOOD PRINCIPLES:** As reported earlier the Principles were published as part of the proceedings and presented to the ADCOM Scientific Committee and to ADCOM. Mikel Landa, as Co-Chair for the Principles revision, did a great job and did not have to answer many questions. One person was concerned that there was no French translation but we were able to advise that a French translation was obtained by Gaia from French volunteers, sent out by email in the Conference documents and provided on the USB key.



The next steps from "Procedure for the adoption of ICOMOS Doctrinal Texts" 2011 are:

- Further comments may be received and reviewed.
- If possible, a draft in Spanish would be helpful. We should also review the French translation if we are able to.
- The revised draft must have received the approval of the Executive Committee at least 6 months prior to the General Assembly. (May 2017)
- The draft new doctrinal text shall be redistributed in its final revised form to all the National and International Committees and the ICOMOS membership, at least 4 months before the General Assembly, with a view to its adoption via a resolution. (July 2017)

For further editing and revisions, we can follow the same procedures that we followed in revising the Principles.

The Procedure also includes the statement "Where appropriate, ICOMOS doctrinal texts shall contain a mechanism to observe, monitor and evaluate the text over time." In the short term, the Principles committee will make any revisions up until the Principles are formally adopted by ICOMOS. After that the IWC should set up a sub-committee for that purpose. Perhaps that committee should be in the IWC Statutes.

From various sources, some issues that came up at the conference that may affect the Principles were:

- The effect of climate change on wooden materials such as environmental stress on timber resources, invasive species and insects.
- Reconstruction. This was a leading topic at the conference. For example, reconstruction after a disaster and reconstruction of lost heritage.
- A "rights based approach" to conservation which includes sustainability and human rights.
- The relationship between nature and culture.

Amur Ciftci, Associate Professor at Yildiz Technical University, Architecture and Historic Preservation, Turkey, also provided the following two comments on the Principles:

***Recording and documentation:***

- *For the transfer of knowledge and intangible cultural heritage to create a data base on carpenters' interviews and to document their traditional tools; to register qualified carpenters with the title 'living human treasures' of UNESCO.*
- *Selection and conservation of remaining timber structure elements before removing ruins, especially after fires; visible storage of authentic elements in a restored building.*

***Education and Training:***

- *To organize educational programs, seminars, workshops not only for professionals but also for local people, NGOs, children (under a national educational program) etc. as to create an awareness on wooden built heritage.*

2. **International Scientific Committees:** I'm pleased to note that the IWC is considered one of the more active ISCs. ICOMOS has been having difficulty in contacting some of the other committees and in obtaining reports of their activities and may have to delist them. There is similar difficulty with National Committees and the possibility of having to declare some National Committees as no longer active. Consideration is being given to amalgamating inactive committees with active committees.

ICOMOS is introducing a much more detailed short annual report questionnaire for in-between years and a longer form for the Triennial Congress. This will require more information gathering and keeping a record of our activities. To assist, a "Toolkit" is supposed to be provided.

ICOMOS recognizes Scientific Committees as being the essential basis of ICOMOS and the reason many members are involved. More participation by the Scientific Committees is important with less emphasis on administration. However, many countries with small National Committees have insufficient members for a

variety of scientific committees. This is the case with Costa Rica and other small countries. Some small National Committees might work together with other National Committees.

3. **Young Professionals:** ICOMOS considers engaging and mentoring Young Professionals a big priority as they will be the future of ICOMOS. The questionnaires, mentioned above, include questions on Young Professionals, where they work, areas of expertise, and so on. There is no formal definition of "young professional". It seems there is some flexibility permitted to provide memberships to young professionals.
4. **Upcoming events:** I think it is important that we have representation at the following events:
  - a. **CIPA**, August 28<sup>th</sup> to Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, Ottawa, Canada. "**Digital Workflows for Heritage Conservation**". The Organizer is Dr. Mario Santana Quintero at Carleton University. We need a volunteer to provide a paper. [www.cipaottawa.org](http://www.cipaottawa.org). Note that one of the resolutions put forward and accepted at the AGM by Dr. Quintero was to adopt the Seville International Principles of Virtual Archaeology.
  - b. **SHATIS'17, Structural Health Assessment of Timber Structures**, 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017, Istanbul, Turkey . <http://shatis17.org> . Yildiz Technical University. Submission of Abstracts due December 9, 2016. ISCARSAH and the IWC are listed as Institutional Supporters.
  - c. ICOMOS **Triennial Assembly**, Delhi, India. 19 to 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. The organizer is Dr. Rohit Jigyasu. The theme is **Heritage and Democracy**. There may be a possibility of a joint tour with ISCARSAH before the Conference. It is very important that many members of the IWC attend in 2017 as we will be having elections and revising by-laws.
  - d. In-Souk Cho, Korea, invites members of the Wood Committee to the next **ISCARSAH** meeting in Seoul, June 6-9 2017.

Please let me know if you can provide a paper or know someone who can and/or if you think you might be able to represent IWC at these events.

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IWC Interim President