

## Final Communiqué

### Outcomes of the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly New Delhi, India, 11 to 15 December 2017

ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, held its 19th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in New Delhi from 11 to 15 December 2017.

Held under the high patronage of the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Government of India, this event gathered approximately **1000 participants and guests from 113 countries, and saw 65 ICOMOS National Committees represented**. This encourages us to consider that this important moment in the life of ICOMOS is also the foremost gathering of heritage professionals world-wide.

The ICOMOS Victoria Falls Fund supported 53 professionals from 41 countries to attend this General Assembly. ICOMOS thanks the over 600 members, friends and supporters who generously donated to and relayed the **ICOMOS Crowdfunding campaign** “Help ICOMOS remain an open non-political cultural heritage forum” following the unexpected withdrawal of a grant for the General Assembly and thus allowed ICOMOS to honour the travel grants it had committed for the event.

Following the adoption of new **Statutes** in 2014, the 2017 Extraordinary General Assembly adopted a series of minor amendments to these with regards to a number of practical problems that arose in their implementation that needed to be resolved for consistency and good governance. As required by the 2014 Statutes, the Extraordinary General Assembly also adopted revised and consolidated **ICOMOS Rules of Procedure** which specify and provide the procedures for putting into effect the provisions of the Statutes and the operational procedures for all ICOMOS international statutory bodies. The General Assembly adopted **four doctrinal texts**, which complement the existing set which ICOMOS has been promoting since its first General Assembly in 1965 in order to provide guidance to authorities, institutions, experts and any interested stakeholder in their action for the conservation and enhancement of heritage sites. These newly adopted texts comprise:

- the ICOMOS-IFLA Principles concerning Rural Landscapes as Heritage;
- the ICOMOS-IFLA Document on Historic Urban Public Parks;
- the Salalah Guidelines for the Management of Public Archaeological Sites;
- the Principles for the Conservation of Wooden Built Heritage.

It also adopted **the Delhi Declaration** on “Heritage and Democracy” resulting from the discussions during the Scientific Symposium and the **“Yatra aur Tammanah Statement** - Yatra: our purposeful Journey and Tammanah: our wishful aspirations for our heritage” on learnings and commitments from the **CultureNature Journey**, as well as **35 resolutions**, concerning organisational ICOMOS matters such as the emerging professionals initiative, but particularly on topical issues, for example in connection with the impact of climate change and the conservation of indigenous cultural heritage, and situations affecting specific monuments and sites, in particular in Chile and Australia.

**The Piero Gazzola Prize** was awarded to Professor Saleh Lamei Mostafa (Egypt) for his outstanding commitment to the conservation of cultural heritage in Egypt, the Arab world and internationally, particularly as the Manager of the Centre for Conservation and Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage (CIAH) in Cairo, established in 1984. He has conducted missions for UNESCO and for ICOMOS, and served as a member of the ICOMOS International Executive Committee.

In addition, six members were conferred Honorary Membership.

The General Assembly also elected **a new leadership**, comprising Mr Toshiyuki Kono (Japan) who was elected as President, Mr Peter Phillips (Australia) elected as Secretary General, Ms Laura Robinson (South Africa) re-elected as Treasurer General; 5 Vice-Presidents and 12 members for the Board. The composition of the new international leadership team thus includes representatives from: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Mali, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United States of America and Uruguay.

The central theme of the **Scientific Symposium** was: "Heritage and Democracy". Organised in the largest democracy of the world, the central idea of this Symposium is inspired by a recent, marked shift in heritage discourse globally towards a genuine people-centric engagement. The Symposium, co-chaired by Ms Nupur Prothi Khanna (India) and Ms Sheridan Burke (Australia), explored the possibilities for cultural heritage in a world of multiple stakeholders, recognising the challenges of cultural diversity, and resulting contestations amidst local and/or global communities.

For subtheme 4 of the Symposium, the **CultureNature Journey**, ICOMOS and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), with a growing group of our members and partners, built on the success of the Nature-Culture Journey held at the IUCN World Congress in Hawai'i in September 2016. Participants addressed the interconnected character of cultural and natural heritage and produced the "**Yatra aur Tammanah Statement**", adopted by the General Assembly.

Selected from among the almost **600 abstracts received**, the speakers came to present their papers. Of good scientific merit, these provided fuel for discussions during the various Symposium sessions. The papers will be made available in electronic format on the ICOMOS website in due course.

Also with the aim of promoting exchanges and better mutual understanding, a **Forum of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committees** was organized during the General Assembly. The International Scientific Committees were given the opportunity to present their activities, an offer which was met with great success. **Over 20 ICOMOS International Scientific Committees and Working Groups** also held their annual or scientific meetings during the duration of the General Assembly.

Being the first time since ICOMOS' founding that this General Assembly has taken place in India, Mr Rohit Jigyasu, President of the 19th General Assembly and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, expressed particular satisfaction at the success of the 2017 New Delhi event.

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## About ICOMOS

ICOMOS – the International Council for Monuments and Sites – is an international, non-governmental organization of professionals, dedicated to the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places and to the creation, dissemination and application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques for heritage conservation.

ICOMOS was created in 1965 in Warsaw following the adoption the year before of the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites, also known as the Venice Charter.

Headquartered in Charenton-le-Pont, in greater Paris, France, ICOMOS is the only global non-government organization of this kind. Its over 10 000 members represent all disciplines of heritage conservation: architects, historians, archaeologists, construction materials conservators, art historians, lawyers, geographers, anthropologists, engineers, town planners...

The National Committees in more than 110 countries all over the world and the 28 International Scientific Committees form a unique inter-disciplinary and multi-cultural network of co-operation. Every 3 years, the ICOMOS General Assembly is combined with a major Scientific Symposium by invitation of one of its National Committees.

ICOMOS has associate relations with UNESCO and has been designated official adviser on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

## The newly elected ICOMOS Board (2017-2020)

**President:** Mr Toshiyuki Kono (Japan)

**Secretary General:** Mr Peter Phillips (Australia)

**Treasurer General:** Ms Laura Robinson (South Africa)

### Vice Presidents:

Mr Leonardo Castriota (Brazil)

Mr Alpha Diop (Mali)

Mr Rohit Jigyasu (India)

Mr Grellan Rourke (Ireland)

Mr Mario Santana Quintero (Canada)

### Members of the Board:

Mr Nils Ahlberg (Sweden)

Ms Riin Alatalu (Estonia)

Ms Adriana Careaga (Uruguay)

Ms Zeynep Gül Ünal (Turkey)

Ms Suk Young Han (Republic of Korea)

Ms Pamela Jerome (USA)

Mr Jiang Bo (China)

Ms Elena Korca (Greece)

Ms Teresa Patricio (Belgium)

Ms Clara Rellensmann (Germany)

Mr Jean-Christophe Simon (France)

Ms Hatthaya Siriphatthanakun (Thailand)

**President of the Advisory Committee:** Ms Sheridan Burke (Australia)

**Coordinator of the Scientific Council:** Mr James Reap (USA)

**Honorary Presidents:** Mr Gustavo Araoz (USA); Mr Michael Petzet (Germany); Mr Roland Silva (Sri Lanka)

## A few words about.....

### The Delhi Declaration on “Heritage and Democracy”

The Delhi Declaration reflects a commitment by ICOMOS to Heritage and Democracy as key ingredients in a people-based approach to sustainable development. Heritage is a fundamental right and responsibility of all. It is a starting point for a meaningful and equitable future that secures and celebrates diversity, social engagement, equality and justice for all cultures.

ICOMOS believes in the shared duty to conserve the significance of the multicultural, multidimensional heritage we have inherited and hand it down to following generations. Engaging and training new generations in the understanding and protection of the inherited values of our living and shared heritage sustains the plural legacies of the past.

The Scientific Symposium themes took into consideration different aspects of the theme “Heritage and Democracy”, such as: integrating heritage and sustainable urban development by engaging diverse communities for heritage management; the role of cultural heritage in building peace and reconciliation; and protecting and interpreting cultural heritage in the age of digital empowerment.

The Delhi Declaration is currently being translated into other languages, and these will be available on the ICOMOS website in due course.

### The Piero Gazzola Prize

The Piero Gazzola Prize was established in 1979 in memory of one of the greatest defenders of the conservation and restoration of historic monuments and sites, and a founder of ICOMOS and its first President.

The prize is awarded every three years at the General Assembly of ICOMOS to an individual or a group of people who have worked together and contributed with distinction to the aims and objectives of ICOMOS. The beneficiary must be a member of ICOMOS and is chosen by a Selection Committee.

At the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly the prize has been awarded to Professor Saleh Lamei Mostafa (Egypt): Director of the Centre for Conservation and Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage in Cairo, Egypt; Member of the Board of Trustees of the Ministry of State for Antiquities of Egypt; Member of UNESCO’s International Committee for the preservation of the cultural property in Jerusalem (1992-2000) and for Kosovo (2005); Recipient of the Aga Khan Award for Jerusalem for his involvement as a consultant on the Dar Al-Aytam Complex Documentation and Restoration project (2004) and the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for his work restoring the Great Omari Mosque in Lebanon (1989); Member of the ICOMOS International Executive Committee (1994-2002).

The Prize is a commemorative medal and diploma, and has been previously awarded to:

Mr Jean Trouvelot (1981)  
Mr Stanislas Lorentz (1984)  
Mr Masaru Sekino (1987)  
Ms Gertrude Tripp (1990)  
Sir Bernard Feilden (1993)  
Mr Ernest Allen Connally (1996)  
Mr Roland Silva (1999)  
Mr Cevat Erder (2003)  
Ms Ann Webster Smith (2005)  
Ms Carmen Añón Feliú (2008)  
Mr Nobuo Ito (2011)  
Mr Henry Cleere (2014)

On the occasion of the 19th General Assembly, 6 members were made **honorary members** of ICOMOS for their distinguished service in favour of the preservation of monuments and sites:

Mr Salvador Aceves Garcia (Mexico)

Mr Mário Mendonça de Oliveira (Brazil)

Ms Blanca Estela Niño Norton (Guatemala)

Mr Leelananda Prematilleke (Sri Lanka)

Ms Isabel Rigol Savio (Cuba)

Mr Leo van Nispen tot Sevenaer (Netherlands) (posthumously)