

**Results of the 16th ICOMOS General Assembly
Quebec, 29 September – 4 October 2008**

ICOMOS – the International Council on Monuments and Sites – held its 16th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Quebec (Canada) from 29 September to 4 October 2008 under the Distinguished Patronage of Her Excellency the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada. The theme of the Scientific Symposium was "*Finding the spirit of place*". 853 participants from over 77 countries attended the event, which is the most important and universal gathering of heritage professionals and supporters in the global conservation calendar.

The General Assembly voted to add two new charters to its doctrinal documents, which are intended to define and foster best practices in the conservation and management of heritage sites: the *ICOMOS Charter on Cultural Routes* and the *ICOMOS Charter on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Sites*. The *Gazzola Prize* was awarded to Ms Carmen Añón Feliú for her outstanding contribution to the work of our organisation, for over thirty years, in particular in favour of the cause of historic gardens and cultural landscapes.

The General Assembly also elected a new leadership, comprising Gustavo Araoz (USA), President; Bénédicte Selfslagh (Belgium), Secretary General; Jadran Antolovic (Croatia), Treasurer General; 5 Vice-Presidents and 12 at-large members for the Executive Committee. The composition of the new international leadership team has the additional representation from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mauritius, Mexico, Poland and South Africa

In Quebec, ICOMOS engaged an international cross section of young professionals by organising for the first time within the framework of its General Assembly an *International Forum of Young Researchers and Professionals in Cultural Heritage*. As proof of its institutional commitment to reach out to the young, the *Raymond Lemaire Fund for Next Generation Skills*, was unveiled and launched at this event. In total, 131 young participants from 29 countries attended lectures and workshops, and came up with proposals that were included in the *Quebec Declaration on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place*.

Commenting on the success of the event, the newly elected President, Gustavo Araoz said: "*In theme, scope and reach, this General Assembly is perhaps one of the most ambitious in our 43-year history. We have a debt of gratitude to the organizers from ICOMOS Canada for having created so many stages in which the world could explore the expanding significance of heritage in all cultural communities as we undergo the well-documented globalising trends.*"

For Michel Bonnette, President of the General Assembly and of the Organising Committee, "*from its planning stage, this event was placed under the banner of participation. We wanted it to be an opportunity for each member of ICOMOS not only to attend conferences and meetings but also, and above all, to contribute personally to the reflections and discussions. We must thank our many partners and especially the almost hundred people, volunteers for the most part, who helped to make this meeting a success, both in its content and its presentation. On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I wish to thank the governments of Canada and Quebec, the City of Quebec, the ICOMOS Executive Committee and the Board of ICOMOS Canada, for their confidence and support throughout this great adventure.*"

Full texts of all presentations will soon be available via Internet through the ICOMOS-UNESCO Documentation Centre webpage.

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 Paris, France, ICOMOS is the only global non-government organization of this kind. Its 9,500 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, ICOMOS holds a General Assembly combined with a Scientific Symposium on 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.

Newly Elected Executive Committee

President:	Gustavo Araoz (USA)
Secretary General:	Bénédicte Selfslagh (Belgium)
Treasurer General:	Jadran Antolovic (Croatia)
Vice Presidents:	Kristal Buckley (Australia)
	Guo Zhan (China)
	Francisco Lopez Morales (Mexico)
	Andrew Hall (South Africa)
	Olivier Poisson (France)
Other members :	Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias (Greece)
	Alfredo Conti (Argentina)
	Gideon Koren (Israel)
	Kirsti Kovanen (Finland)
	Philippe La Hausse de la Louvière (Mauritius)
	Wilfried Lipp (Austria)
	Christoph Machat (Germany)
	Yasuyoshi Okada (Japan)
	Hae-Un Rii (Republic of Korea)
	Angela Rojas (Cuba)
	Hristina Staneva (Bulgaria)
	Boguslaw Szmygin (Poland)
Honorary Presidents:	Michel Parent (France)
	Michael Petzet (Germany)
	Roland Silva (Sri Lanka)

Contact

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A few words about...

The ICOMOS Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites

The *ICOMOS Charter on the Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites* deals with the methods and technologies of effective, responsible public heritage communication. Indeed, the need for internationally accepted principles of interpretation and presentation is a matter of increasing urgency at a time of intensifying environmental and human threats to heritage and with the growth in many regions of elaborate heritage "theme-parks," designed primarily for income generation rather than conservation or education.

The Charter does not prescribe specific content for site presentations, nor does it impose a "uniform" pattern on how particular monuments, sites, or cultural landscapes should be explained to the public. Rather, it deals with the fundamental issues of "Access", "Information Sources," "Context and Setting", "Authenticity", "Inclusiveness", "Sustainability", and "Research, Education, and Training". It seeks to ensure that these issues are considered and incorporated into public communication with all heritage stakeholders, including tourists, local and associated communities, and local educational systems.

The new Charter represents a consensus by the ICOMOS community on the central principles of the interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage sites.

The ICOMOS Charter on Cultural Routes

The *ICOMOS Charter on Cultural Routes* proposes a definition, basic principles and a specific methodology for the identification, research and proper assessment of cultural routes. It also deals with guidelines aiming at their protection, conservation, correct use and management.

The innovation introduced by the concept of "Cultural Routes" reveals the heritage content of a specific phenomenon of human mobility and exchange that developed via communication routes that facilitated their flow and which were used or deliberately served a concrete and peculiar purpose. A Cultural Route can be a road that was expressly created to serve this purpose or a route that takes advantage either totally or partially of pre-existing roads used for different purposes. But beyond its character as a way of communication or transport, its existence and significance as a Cultural Route can only be explained by its use for such specific purpose throughout a long period of history and by having generated heritage values and cultural properties associated to it which reflect reciprocal influences between different cultural groups as a result of its own peculiar dynamics.

ICOMOS raised the need to better define this specific category of cultural heritage since 1993, on the occasion of the evaluation of the Route of Santiago as a UNESCO World Heritage site, and has been working since to clearly establishing the conceptual and operational aspects.

The Quebec Declaration on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place

The Quebec Declaration on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place deals with principles and recommendations to preserve the spirit of place, which is regarded as an innovative and efficient manner of ensuring sustainable and social development throughout the world.

Spirit of place is defined as the tangible (buildings, sites, landscapes, routes, objects) and the intangible elements (memories, narratives, written documents, rituals, festivals, traditional knowledge, values, textures, colors, odors, etc.), that is to say the physical and the spiritual elements that give meaning, value, emotion and mystery to place. Rather than separate spirit from place, the intangible from the tangible, and consider them as opposed to each other, ICOMOS has investigated the many ways in which the two interact and mutually construct one another.

The Quebec Declaration is part of a series of measures and actions undertaken by ICOMOS over the course of the past five years to safeguard and promote the spirit of places, namely their living, social and spiritual nature.

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.

This year the prize has been awarded to **Ms Carmen Añón Feliú**: Landscape architect, specialized in historic gardens, Professor of the history of gardens and restorer of historic gardens, Member of ICOMOS Spain, Honorary President of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Committee on Historic Gardens (now Cultural Landscapes), Former President of the Advisory Committee of ICOMOS (1992-1997).

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)

On the occasion of the 16th General Assembly, 10 members were made *Honorary members* of ICOMOS for their distinguished service in favour of the preservation of monuments and sites:

- Mr Juan-Benito Artigas Hernandez (Mexico)
- Mr Cyro Correa Lyra (Brazil)
- Mr Hernan Crespo Toral (Ecuador) – posthumously
- Mr Tamas Fejerdy (Hungary)
- Mr Jonas Glemza (Lithuania)
- Mr Zahi Hawass (Egypt)
- Ms Birgitta Hoberg (Sweden)
- Mr Michel Jantzen (France)
- Mr Gilles Nourissier (France) – posthumously
- Mr Kiyotari Tsuboi (Japan)

The Raymond Lemaire International Fund for next generation skills.

The new **Raymond Lemaire International Fund** has been launched at the Youth Forum in Quebec on 29 September 2008. The objective of this new ICOMOS programme is to encourage generations to develop their skills: thanks to study bursaries and cooperation arrangements with training organisations, young heritage professionals will be enabled to take part in post-graduate courses or traineeships in conservation and restoration throughout the whole world.

Professors Piero Gazzola and Raymond Lemaire, two of the founders of ICOMOS, attached the greatest importance to training young professionals and welcoming them into the ICOMOS family. With the creation of the new Fund, the names of the two founding fathers of ICOMOS are reunited by two different but complementary initiatives.