

## **Report of Acting President of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Historic Towns and Villages (CIVVIH) Paris, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

As you are all aware, I undertook the duties of the CIVVIH acting president when last May, our president of eight years **Dr Ray Bondin** took his duties as ambassador in the permanent delegation of Malta at **UNESCO**.

My priority has been to continue the work of our committee within the framework of friendship, understanding and scientific cooperation that we have all built together from the establishment of the committee to this day.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Our committee is widely represented by

- 83 Expert members
- 18 Associate members
- 5 Honorary members (2 new 2010 Honorary members: **Vladimir Krogus** and **Krysztof Pawlowski**)
- Since last May we have welcomed 10 new Expert members.

### **COMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS AND INFORMING**

This obligation was met in two ways:

**A. Through the completion of the Website of the Committee** [www.civvih.icomos.org](http://www.civvih.icomos.org), after numerous efforts and volunteer work by new members of ICOMOS-Hellenic; despite its eventual imperfections, I believe that this site offers fairly satisfactory information on the history and goals of our committee, its activities and programs.

Moreover, provisions have been made to present, when they so request, our members' scientific publications.

Unfortunately, we were unable to preserve our previous web site, despite the efforts deployed in cooperation with the ICOMOS SITE responsible.

**B. Through the institution and regular diffusion of the CIVVIH newsletter**, which circulates when there is informative material available, pertaining to the

committee's work. From May 2010 to this day, 13 CIVVIH electronic newsletters have already circulated <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/18>

## MEETINGS

Through the status of Acting President, I represented the Committee during the *Advisory Committee meeting* (Dublin, October 2010):

The committee realized 3 *Statutory and Business Meetings*, combined with 3 scientific open seminars that dealt with different aspects of urban conservation.

### **A. Annual Meeting and open scientific symposium of CIVVIH, 2010/04/07-10, Valletta, Malta <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/113>**

The board and the Committee held their annual meeting in Valetta and discussed about official matters and the following main topics:

- The Symposium's Paper on *The Historic City as a Reference Model for Sustainable Urban Development Policies* (position paper)
- The *Valletta Principles for the Safeguarding and Management of Historic Cities, Towns and Urban Areas*.

The open scientific symposium took place at the same time, with 43 participants and 14 lectures given on the following subject:

#### ***The historic city, a reference model for urban sustainable development policies.***

Special emphasis was given on the following issues:

- designing sustainable development policies
- the impact of human activity on our climate
- the survival of our natural ecosystems
- the durability of urban ecosystem
- coordination of actions with a long-term vision
- adoption and implementation of sustainable development

### **B. The committee realized an informative meeting on the occasion the ICOMOS Advisory Committee Meeting and Scientific Council Meeting, 2010/10/26, Dublin, Ireland. <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/105>**

### **C. Annual Meeting of Mediterranean Sub Committee CIVVIH, 2010/11/19-20, Nicosia, Cyprus**

<http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=sub/med>), <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/108>

The Sub Committee held his annual meeting and discussed about official matters and the following main topics:

- Context and new directives related to Management Plans.
- Urban Tourism as a special factor on Mediterranean Cities' Management Plans.
- Procedures for the elaboration of Management Plans.
- Sharing best practices with reference to: Cultural Heritage Management, Regeneration of Historic Centers, New Development in Historic Cores, Uses, Mobility/Circulation, Tourism in the Historical Mediterranean Cities.

Following a visit, the subcommittee elaborated a resolution adopting the following points on the historic city of Nicosia: it expressed its full support to the current efforts as well as those being made over the past 30 years for the bi-communal project on Nicosia's Unified Regulatory Plan for the integrated policy for the conservation, planning and reformation of the historic city of Nicosia. The committee has moreover realized that the entire *intra muros* city of Nicosia incorporates great potential for a viable future, in which Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots can live together and create a unified, vibrant city, protecting and promoting their common cultural heritage.

At the same time was realized the open university symposium, with 25 participants and 13 lectures given on the following subject:

#### ***“Management Plans for Mediterranean Historic Cities and Sustainability”***

Special emphasis was given on the following issues:

- the particularities in the Mediterranean historic cities
- the need to deal with problems and in priority with the degradation of the waterfront of Mediterranean historic cities
- the need to encourage the creation of management plans leading to sustainability; creative activities need support, commercial investments should be controlled, functions and uses should be guided to keep diversity and amenities should be guaranteed in order to attract and support habitants.
- the management of a historic city needs economic and public policy
- the need to promote aspects of regional design and of the landscape, as well as its special qualities

- the need for political commitment, for cooperation amongst professionals and the business community and the need for communication with and involvement of relevant stakeholders and interested parties.

#### **D. Annual Meeting of IberoAmerican Sub Committee CIVVIH and open scientific conference, 2010/11/26, Madrid, Spain**

<http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/44>, <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/78>

The Sub Committee's board held his annual meeting and discussed official matters. The participants proposed **Angela Rojas** (Cuba) as president of the Sub-Committee and **Victor Salinas** (Spain) as general secretary, and honoured **Maria Rosa Suarez Inclan Ducassi, Suzanna Sampaio and Alvaro Gomez Ferrer Bayo** with the statute of CIHIB honorary member for their contribution to the CIHIB.

Finally, thanks were addressed to the National Committee of ICOMOS Spain for its support to the work of the CIHB.

Through the strong cultural bonds it maintains with the public and academic institutions of the Ibero American region but mostly through its great expertise and struggle for defending the cultural heritage, this National Committee constitutes a steady point of reference and a guarantor of the cooperation between the CIVVIH and the Ibero American region.

At the same time took place the scientific symposium with 23 participants and 13 lectures on the subject of:

***“Recent feedback on the Protection of Historic Ibero-American Cities: diagnosis, shortcomings and best practice”***

Special emphasis was given on the following issues:

- I: Recent feedback on protecting Historic Towns and Villages: diagnosis, shortcomings and best practice.
- II: Diagnosis and challenges for the protection of historic towns and villages: new special plans for protection.
- III: The necessary co-ordination in the management of historic centres.
- IV: The subject's current standing in the discussion of urban historic landscapes and its connection with the European Landscape Convention and other relevant international norms.
- V: Presentation of practical case studies, analysis and project promotion;

During the first thematic unity were presented and discussed issues pertaining to the recent experience in the protection of Ibero-american historic cities (diagnosis, gaps and best practices) and the management plans for protection.

## OTHER PARTICIPATIONS

Numerous members of our committee participated in scientific activities pertaining to its subject-matter. We mention some indicatively, asking you to inform us relevantly, so that we can have a more complete image:

**Dr Samir Abdulac** participated in the Workshop: *'Heritage Economics and Conservation Funding'* which was held on 6 - 8 June 2010 in Damascus, Syria and in the *"Salon International du Patrimoine Culturel"* which was held from 4 to 7 November 2010 in Paris, on the subject *"Le Patrimoine de la Méditerranée"*.

**Dr Torsten Haak**, Director of Glasgow City Heritage Trust is coordinator of the forthcoming International Heritage Conference in Glasgow entitled *"Investing in the Past to Impact on the Future. Funding Heritage Projects: Global & Local"* which will be held on 18-20 November 2010.

**Prof. Olga Sevan** participated to the coordination of the International Scientific and Practical Conference *"Culture of Wood – Wood in Culture"* which held in Rostov Velikij, Yaroslavl region and chaired an open workshop entitled *'The Conservation Management of Historic Wooden Towns'*. She acts also as scientific curator for the exhibition having as subject the historical monuments from the book *"Buildings in Wood"*. The duration of the exhibition will be from February 22 to March 21, 2011.

**Prof. Danuta Kłosek-Kozłowska** organized and participated in the conference *The life quality in city centres –Conditions for residence and tourism* (Toruń World Heritage City) - Poland, 12-15 of May 2011

**Dr Joao Campos** organised the *Almeida International Seminar 2011* on Military Architecture: *The new borders of modern times and the bulwarked fortifications* (Almeida' Siege, Portugal, from 26 to 28 August 2011).

**Dr Claus-Peter Echter** during the conference of the German working group of professors and researchers "Theory of Heritage Conservation"(September 28, 2011) gave a speech on "The importance of the German publications series "Monument Topography" on an international level. He also participated in the conference "Cultural Heritage – Conservation – Transcultural" which was held on 29 September to 1 October in Heidelberg, Germany and chaired a session entitled "Cultural Heritage as transcultural sociofact".

## VALETTA PRINCIPLES

By the set date of 21/02/2011, CIVVIH had received the last observations of the International Scientific Committees and the ICOMOS National Committees; these

observations were finally incorporated in the text submitted to the Executive Committee for examination in view of its meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011, which will determine whether this final draft should go forward for adoption by the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICOMOS in November of 2011.

In accordance with the procedure for the adoption of an ICOMOS doctrinal text, the final draft has to be approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting in Dublin if it is to go forward for adoption by the next General Assembly.

The Valletta Principles was written into French and English, and its translation into Spanish is in progress.

## **INTERNATIONAL MONUMENTS AND SITES DAY ON 18 APRIL**

We have not yet developed any particular activity in this respect, as it is not easy to do so. We could however elaborate on the subject, specializing it for the CIVVIH framework. The theme for 2013 has not yet been announced.

We should however be thinking of this year's celebration, within the context of the 40-year anniversary from signing the World Heritage Convention.

## **HERITAGE ALERTS AND HERITAGE@RISK**

CIVVIH Vice-President, **Michel Bonnette**, travelled to Port-au-Prince to teach architectural and urban heritage preservation.

## **WORLD HERITAGE RELATED ACTIVITIES**

I am glad to announce that the contribution of the CIVVIH has been broadened and that already in 2010:

- 3 members of CIVVIH have undertaken a desk review mission:  
The historical City of Jeddah,  
Old City and Ramparts of Alanya with Seljuk Shipyard  
Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatia Metropolitans
- 2 members of CIVVIH have undertaken an in situ mission:  
Les villages antiques du Nord de la Syrie  
Old City and Ramparts of Alanya with Seljuk Shipyard
- And a monitoring mission was undertaken for the Bulgarian city of Nessesbar

Moreover, during 2011 we have contributed with a

- desk review mission for Russian Kremlins
- in situ mission for Russian Kremlins

Also, CIVVIH members have realized evaluations for the **World Monuments Fund (WMF)** on the following sites

- Village of Doel and surrounding polder, Belgium;
- Jacmel Historic District, Haiti;
- Historic Havelis of Bikaner, India;
- Cospicua a.k.a. Bormla, Malta;
- Saadani Abushiri Village, United Republic of Tanzania;
- Old Town of Testour, Tunisia;
- Chetwode village, United Kingdom;
- GWR Mechanics' Institution, United Kingdom;
- Limnerslease, GF Watts's House and Studio, United Kingdom;
- Charleston Historic District, United States;
- City of Cohoes, United States.
- Village of Doel and surrounding polder, Belgium and
- Avenue du Port, Brussels, Belgium,

## - **OWHC PROJECT**

The CIVVIH represents ICOMOS (**Samir Abdulac**) on the **Steering Committee of the joint project associating OWHC, UNESCO, EU and Getty Conservation Institute** called ***“Historic Cities in Development: Keys for Understanding and Acting.”***

It aims at presenting Case Studies chosen among World Heritage Cities. Within the framework of this project, CIVVIH contributes in the definition of the Scientific Orientations, the identification of political and technical decision makers, the Methodology for the presentation of the Case Studies, etc.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

with other Committees and/or affinity organizations:

CIVVIH has an on-going partnership with **ISoCaRP – the International Society of City and Regional Planners**.

## **SCIENTIFIC WORK PROGRAMME**

(Date adoption of the Scientific Work Programme: 2009/6/23 (updated during May and June of 2010, <http://civvih.icomos.org/?q=node/63>)

In the framework of the Committee’s annual meetings it was declared that indeed Humanity faces today a number of changes, concerning particularly the habitat in general, and the towns and urban areas in particular. Furthermore, it was accepted that main modifications consist in a greater awareness of intangible values, socio-economic factors, environmental factors as well as the issue of historical heritage on a territorial level and not only on an urban ensemble scale.

CIVVIH recognized and agreed that in this sense, the understanding of heritage as an essential resource and part of the urban ecosystem is fundamental. This understanding must be respected in order to ensure a harmonious development of the town and its territory.

Within the framework of reflection which is underway on an international level on the subject of urban conservation, by the organizations charged with the

conservation and enhancement of heritage, and in a period of great changes in the political (governance, decentralization), economic (globalization of markets and production modes), cultural (reinforcement of identities facing the globalization) and social field (migration towards big cities, movements of populations etc.), the Committee decided to update the approaches and considerations developed in the Washington Charter (1987) and the Nairobi Recommendation (1976). The above were based on the corpus of reference documents, so as to define the new challenges and take into consideration the significant evolutions in the definitions and the methodologies in the matter of the safeguarding and management of historical towns and urban areas. The notion of sustainable development has gained such importance that many directives on architectural planning and intervention are based on a no demolition policy and rather, on the preservation of the urban heritage limited resources.

Through this approach, our committee's scientific work has been included in the triennial Interdisciplinary ISC Scientific Theme for the 2009-011 Triennium, entitled "CHANGING WORLD, CHANGING VIEWS OF HERITAGE: the impact of global change on cultural heritage"

Today, we are called to pursue our scientific research within the framework clearly set by the Scientific Council, but also within the principal issues that we believe should preoccupy us. To this end, I am attaching the proposal to be discussed within the context of our 17<sup>th</sup> World Meeting.

## **THANKS**

In closing this concise report, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to our two vice-presidents, Nils Ahlebrg and Michel Bonnette for their suggestions on the inclusion of new members and our general secretary Michal Fierstone for her organizational support.

Special thanks are due to Alvaro Gomez Ferrer for designing the logo of our committee and to Michel Bonnette for his advice and creative observations on the creation of the CIVVIH site.

For the realization of the 13 issues of the CIVVIH Newsletter I extend my warm thanks to CIVVIH Associate member Eleni Oeconomopoulou and ICOMOS-Hellenic member Marioanna Louka for their assistance, as well as to Michel Bonnette and David Logan who were always willing to contribute with their suggestions and assist in the linguistic editing of these issues.

My warmest appreciation is due to Alvaro Gomez and especially to Elvira Petroncelli for their contribution in elaborating the Valetta Principles, to François Godran for his contribution in the linguistic editing of the text, as well as to all colleagues who have helped in the document's completion with their remarks. Thanks are addressed to Michel Bonnette for his initiative on the Position paper on Historic Cities and Sustainable Urban Development Policies

Thanks are addressed to Samir Abdulac for his cooperation and participating in representing the ICOMOS CIVVIH in the OWHC project, and for organizing, with our French friends in Paris, our meeting this upcoming December.



Finally, I would like to warmly thank all members of the CIVVIH bureau for having enriched the CIVVIH through their ideas and concerns, as well as all our active members for their interest and participation in our activities.

In closing, I am wishing for our committee to maintain its friendly and collective-colleague character, while strengthening its scientific work in the future.

Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias  
Acting President of CIVVIH