



Beijing, 17 and 18 September 2007

The General Assembly of the ICHS, chaired by Professor José Luis Peset, was held at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing on 17 and 18 September 2007.

Present:

* **Members of the Bureau** : José Luis Peset, President; Koichi Kabayama, Vice-President; Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General; Pierre Ducrey, Treasurer; Marjatta Hietala, Hilda Sabato, Michael Bibikov, Michael Heyd, Assessor Members.

* **Representatives of the following National Committees, Affiliated International Organizations, and Internal Commissions:**

Observer

Kazakhstan	Mambet Koigeldiyev	Nabizhan Mukametkhanuly
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National Committees

No.	Country	Delegate	Deputy Delegate
1	<i>Albania</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
2	Germany	Axel Schildt	Peter Funke
3	<i>Argentina</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
4	<i>Australia</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
5	<i>Austria</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
6	<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
7	<i>Belarus</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
8	<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
9	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
10	Canada	Beverly Lemire	Beverly Lemire
11	China	Zhang, Haipeng	Wang, Jianlang
12	<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
13	Korea (Seoul)	Cha, Ha Soon	Lim, Jie-Hyun
14	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
15	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
16	Spain	José Luis Peset	
17	United States	Arnita Jones	Eric Van Young
18	Finland	Marjatta Hietala	
19	France	Jean-François Sirinelli	Pascal Cauchy
20	Georgia	Erekle Astakhishvili	Roin Metreveli



21	Great Britain	Martin Daunton	
22	Greece	Vassiliki Papoulia	Alkmini Zafraka
23	<i>Guinea</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
24	Hungary	Attila Pok	
25	<i>India</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
26	Ireland	Eunan O'Halpin	
27	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
28	Israel	Michael Heyd	
29	Italy	Brunello Vigezzi	Andrea Giardina
30	Japan	Yoichi Kibata	Nobuihiro Shiba
31	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
32	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
33	Luxembourg	Paul Dostert	
34	<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
35	<i>Mexico</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
36	<i>Norway</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
37	Netherlands	Geessien N. van der Plaats	A. Heerma van Voss
38	<i>Peru</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
39	Poland	Janusz Zarnowski	
40	Portugal	Manuela Mendonça	Fernanda Nunes dos Reis
41	Romania	Ioan-Aurel Pop	
42	Russia	Sergey Tikhvinskiy	Il'Yagu Urilov
43	Slovakia (Rep. of)	Edita Ivanickova	
44	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
45	<i>South Africa (Rep. of)</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
46	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
47	Switzerland	Regina Wecker	Sacha Zala
48	Czech Republic	Jaroslav Panek	Petr Vorel
49	<i>Tunisia</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
50	Turkey	Mehmet Öz	Mehmet B. Yediyildiz
51	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
52	Vatican / Holy See	Cosimo Semeraro	Emilia Hrabovec
54	<i>Viêt-Nam</i>	<i>Absent</i>	

Affiliated International Organisations

No.	Name	Delegate	Deputy Delegate
1	<i>Int'l Ass. for the Study of</i>	<i>Absent</i>	



	<i>Southeast Europe</i>		
2	Int'l Ass. of Contemporary History of Europe	Robert Frank	Jean-François Sirinelli
3	<i>Int'l Ass. of History of Law and Institution</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
4	Int'l Ass. of Economic History	Li, Bozhong	B. Lemire
5	Int'l Ass. for Byzantine Studies	M. Bibikov	
6	<i>Int'l Committee for the History of the Second World War</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
7	Int'l Commission of Social History	A. Heerma van Voss	
8	<i>Int'l Commission on Comparative Ecclesiastic History</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
9	<i>Int'l Commission on Maritime History</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
10	<i>Int'l Comm. on Comparative Military History</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
11	Int'l Comm. on the History of International Relations	Alfredo Canavero	Laura Brazzo
12	<i>Int'l Comm. on the History of the French Revolution</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
13	Int'l Comm. of Historical Demography	Robert McCaa	
14	<i>International Commission of Slavic Studies</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
15	<i>Int'l Comm. on the History of State Assemblies</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
16	<i>Int'l Comm. on the History of Universities</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
17	Int'l Comm. on the History of Cities	V. Papoulia	
18	Int'l Comm. for the History of Travel and Tourism	Claudio Visentin	Bertram Gordon
19	Int'l Comm. for the History & Theory of Historiography	Masayuki Sato	
20	<i>Int'l Fed. of Societies and Institutes for Renaissance Studies</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
21	Int'l Fed. for Research on the History of Women	Krassimira Daskalova	Avital Bloch
22	<i>Instituto Panamericano de Geografía y Historia</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
23	<i>The Int. Ass. of Historical Societies for the Study of Jewish History</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
24	Int. Standing Conference for the History of Education	Eckhart Fuchs	



25	Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East	Michel Balard	
26	Int'l Society for the Didactics of History	Masayuki Sato	
27	Int. Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport	Thierry Terret	Gigliola Gori
28	<i>Union of Arab Historians</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
29	<i>Unione Int. degli Istituti di Archeologia, Storia e Storia dell'Arte in Roma</i>	<i>Absent</i>	

Internal Commissions

No.	Name	Delegate	Deputy Delegate
1	<i>Association against the Manipulation of History (MURS)</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
2	<i>African Historians Association</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
3	<i>Int'l Committee on Latin Paleography (CIPL)</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
4	<i>Int'l Committee for Historical Metrology (CIMH)</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
5	<i>Int'l Commission on Diplomacy</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
6	<i>Int'l Comm. on the History of Cold War</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
7	<i>Int'l Comm. for the History of the Baltic Sea</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
8	<i>Int'l Comm. on the History of the Russian Revolution</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
9	<i>International Association for Media and History (LAMHIST)</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
10	<i>International Commission for Historical Journals</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
11	<i>Majestas (Study of Sovereignty)</i>	<i>Absent</i>	
12	<i>Peace History Society</i>	<i>Absent</i>	

Agenda

Monday, 17 September 2007
Morning

1. Opening — President's remarks



2. Secretary General's activity report on the activities of the ICHS in 2005-2007
3. Treasurer's financial report and appointment of two auditors
4. Presentation by Professor Hans Blom on the preparations for the Amsterdam Congress

Afternoon

5. Admission of new members to the ICHS
6. Law and freedom of research
7. Approval of accounts and vote on the Treasurer's report
8. Reports of the two sub-committees (Sydney General Assembly)
9. Nominating Committee proposals

Tuesday, 18 September 2007

Morning

10. Appointments to the Nominating Committee
11. Structure of the Amsterdam Congress and discussion of proposed themes
12. Miscellaneous
13. Closing of the General Assembly

1. Opening Statements

President José Luis Peset opened the session by welcoming the members and thanking the Association of Chinese Historians and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences for their hospitality. He reminded the Assembly of the core mission of the ICHS, which is to bring together historians from all over the world.

The President then gave the floor to the Secretary General, who did a roll call and explained the voting rules: only one vote for each of the National Committees and Affiliated International Organizations, and no voting rights for the Internal Commissions. With 27 National Committees and 14 Affiliated International Organizations in attendance, the quorum was superseded and the meeting was deemed to be valid. The Secretary General moved to amend one item on the agenda, i.e. to replace "Relations with UNESCO", which is discussed in the Secretary General's report, by "Law and freedom of research". The General Assembly approved the agenda as amended.

2. Secretary General's report on the activities of the ICHS in 2005-2007

The General Assembly is an appropriate time to review the operations of the ICHS since the most recent Congress. And as this year's meeting marks the ICHS's 80th anniversary (1926-2006), it is also a good opportunity to take stock of the past to see how far the Committee has come. The core purpose of the General Assembly is to advance the development of history by fostering cooperation among historians around the world, primarily by holding a history congress every five years. In the 80 years since the Committee was established, the conditions for building international cooperation have changed dramatically, with the result that the ICHS is now only one of many entities to fulfill this function. Over the last 40 years, universities and research institutes have significantly grown and developed, leading to a surge in bilateral and multilateral cooperative agreements and specialized international conferences. Yet the ICHS has been



able to carve its own niche by focusing on the following three objectives: 1) to remain a generalist association composed of groups of historians united by nationality or specialization; 2) to adopt and advocate a comparative approach; and 3) to maintain its independence by ensuring that the Committee continues to be led by historians. By and large, the ICHS can boast of a positive track record, as evidenced by an uninterrupted string of quinquennial congresses since 1950 addressing all periods and specializations in the field of history. Of course, despite its best efforts, the Committee continues to grapple with obstacles such as low representation from some of the world's major regions, which is why it must continue to examine its structure and practices on an ongoing basis.

Overview of ICHS activities

First and foremost, the Bureau's consistent and efficient work should be underscored. Under the presidency of José Luis Peset, the Bureau has held two plenary meetings, one in Santiago de Compostela on 6 and 7 October 2006, and the other in Beijing, on 15 September 2007. The *Bureau restreint* has held two meetings, the first in Madrid on 24 February 2006, and the second in Paris on 3 March 2007.

In addition, the Bureau has had to replace two members. After Professor Sorin Antohi resigned in October 2006, the Bureau appointed Roger Chartier of the EHESS and the Collège de France as an Assessor Member until the 2010 Congress. The Treasurer, Professor Pierre Ducrey, whose term was to expire in Sydney in 2005, graciously agreed to extend it until the end of this year. Professor Laurent Tissot, of the Université de Neuchâtel, is being proposed as Treasurer until the Amsterdam Congress. The Secretary General is therefore submitting nominations for new members to the General Assembly.

Preparations for the Beijing General Assembly, a joint effort by the Chinese Historians Association, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the ICHS General Secretariat in Montréal, were lengthy and complex, often requiring a great deal of effort and attention to detail. In December 2006, the Secretary General and the ICHS President travelled to Beijing to finalize various details. In keeping with the ICHS's tradition of providing scientific content at each event, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Chinese Historians Association presented a symposium on the state of contemporary Chinese historiography. The Secretary General thanked the Chinese Historians Association and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences for their outstanding work, excellent organization and unfailing cooperation.

Gaps in the membership's geographic representation continue to be one of the Committee's weak points, as the Secretary General has pointed out in previous reports. Many commitments are still not being fulfilled despite five years of outreach, but at least the Committee's initiatives are generating interest and good will in many quarters. Although a high level of scientific activity in some regions of the world is unsustainable without significant financial backing, the outlook is far from bleak: since Oslo and Sydney, the African Historians Association has remained very active, and projects by the Korean and the Japanese National Committees demonstrate that historians in the Asia-Pacific region wish to maintain close ties. The ICHS is also trying to make greater inroads in Latin America. Moreover, the number of National Committees will rise this year if the Assembly approves the application of Kazakhstan. Overall, the ICHS's membership remains stable at 53 National Committees, 29 Affiliated International Organizations and 12 Internal Commissions.



Preparing the next Congress has been one of the Secretariat's major tasks since Sydney. A call for themes was issued on 1 March 2006, and the deadline for submissions was 31 October 2006. After a Bureau meeting, the deadline was changed to 31 December 2006.

The Secretariat has received 201 proposals. At the Bureau meeting in Santiago de Compostela, the Sydney Congress was reviewed and minor changes were proposed for the structure of the upcoming Congress. As the Assembly will be dealing with this subject later, this report will not discuss it further.

The organization of the 2010 Congress is progressing well. The Secretary General was invited to meet the Netherlands Organizing Committee on 28 February 2007 in Amsterdam and tour the venues for the Congress. The logistics of the Congress were entrusted to the International Institute of Social History (*Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis*), which has expertise in organizing international meetings. Professor Hans Blom, the President of the Netherlands Organizing Committee, would be discussing the details of the organization in his report later in the day. Also, the final list of themes will be decided by the General Assembly.

One of the Secretariat's major tasks is to produce the *Bulletin*, the Committee's calling card. The most recent edition (Volume 32-2006) was published in 600 copies but not issued until March 2007 given the late scheduling of the Bureau's meeting in Santiago de Compostela. In view of the expense of sending out the previous edition, which contained the directories of the ICHS's archives in Paris and Lausanne, the most recent issue does not contain a historical section. The size of the *Bulletin* has to be limited in general due to rising postage costs, but the Secretary General will continue the tradition of including a section on ICHS history. He is currently preparing a table of contents of Bulletins published between 1953 and 2007. To save on postage costs in the future, most historical documents about the *Bulletin* will be available only on the ICHS's Web site.

The Web site is being updated more regularly and new features are being added. It now contains the minutes of the meetings of the ICHS's various committees, the membership directory, information on the Congress, working documents, historical perspectives on the ICHS, and a necrology section. Links are provided to members' sites, but since some of them do not provide a link back to the ICHS, members are reminded to include this feature. The Secretary General is contemplating some changes to the Web site but will have to stagger this project in view of budget constraints.

At the General Assembly in Sydney, two sub-committees were formed to study the issues of expanding the ICHS and its resources and establishing a procedure for programming the quinquennial Congress. The sub-committees have been active, but since the Assembly will be discussing the sub-committees' reports later, this report does not elaborate any further.

The ICHS maintains relations with UNESCO mainly through the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS), of which it is a founding member, and the joint ICHS-UNESCO Committee. The ICPHS held its General Assembly in Alexandria in November 2006, but the Secretary General was unable to attend. The significant financial problems stemming from UNESCO's steady reduction of the budget are being resolved, but the situation remains uncertain. The publication of *Diogène* magazine is secure for now, but other ICPHS activities are being scaled down.

The Joint ICHS-UNESCO Committee has taken up much of the Secretary General's time since 2003. Bureau members received the final report prepared for UNESCO in December



2005. Now that UNESCO has withdrawn funding as of 2006, the Joint Committee has ended its useful life for the time being and is unlikely to be re-created as it once was.

Between 2000 and 2005, the budget of the Joint Committee was approximately US\$300,000. It still might be possible for the ICHS to receive funding for specific events from UNESCO's funding program for multilateral or bilateral meetings, also known as participation programs (PP), as long as the events involve several member countries. Thus, the Sydney experience has shown that a well-organized plenary session can be very successful and that a funding scenario might be achieved for Amsterdam. The Secretary General has communicated with several people connected to UNESCO in the hope of obtaining one-time financing for the 2010 Congress.

As for regional meetings, they are no doubt positive and desirable, but it is impossible for the Secretary General to continue organizing them because his time is monopolized by other tasks. The Secretary General proposed that Bureau members assume the responsibility of organizing one or two regional meetings during the quinquennium as a more equitable way of distributing tasks and responsibilities. He would also like to maintain the tradition of including scientific content in all the meetings of the Bureau and the General Assembly.

In conclusion, the ICHS has limited means at its disposal and depends in large measure on the volunteer work of the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary General. As the Committee has no executive secretary or full-time personnel, the Secretariat cannot be expected to meet further demands. The Assembly was asked to keep these facts in mind as it prepares to discuss the reports of the two sub-committees. In closing, the Secretary General thanked Bureau members, the National Committees, the Affiliated International Organizations, and the Internal Commissions for their cooperation, and reminded members of the Committee's debt to the History Department of the *Université du Québec à Montréal*, which assumes some of the costs of running the Secretariat. Lastly, he thanked Renée McNicoll for her invaluable work as the Secretariat's administrative assistant.

The Assembly unanimously approved the Secretary General's activity report.

3. Treasurer's financial report and appointment of two auditors

Treasurer Pierre Ducrey presented the profit and loss accounts, the balance sheets for 2005 and 2006 and the 24 May 2007 audit report by la Compagnie fiduciaire Temco SA Lausanne (Suisse). He highlighted the following points:

- In fiscal 2005, the year in which the General Assembly was held in Sydney, the accounts closed with a loss of CHF 35'081.96 despite the Committee's efforts and the subsidies it received. The balance sheet fell from CHF 143'426.15 on 31 December 2004, to CHF 106'741.51 on 31 December 2005.
- On the other hand, fiscal 2006 closed with a surplus of CHF 15'311.81, which brought the balance sheet to CHF 126'267.43 on 31 December 2006.

Although the Bureau and the *Bureau restreint* are striving to cut costs, some expenses continue to rise, as shown in the accompanying chart on pages 84 and 85. Overall, the Committee's funds are steadily decreasing, which is cause for concern.



The Treasurer described how the *Bureau restreint* and the Bureau are cutting costs and increasing the Committee's capital where possible. For example, Bureau members were asked to turn to their educational institutions for help with travel expenses. This request has already had positive results. It is also hoped that one host country will assume the entire cost of one Bureau meeting each quinquennium. And lastly, if organizers can find adequate financing for the 2010 Amsterdam Congress, the Committee will not need to provide any financial support as it did for the 2005 Sydney Congress.

The Treasurer deplored the fact that some members are irregular in their payments. But worse still, three South American National Committees — Bolivia, Chile, and Venezuela — have left the ICHS's ranks in the past 10 years. The Committee will work on bringing back some of these committees.

Lastly, the Treasurer praised *l'Université du Québec à Montréal* (UQAM), the Secretary General's institution, and *l'Université de Lausanne*, the Treasurer's institution. Both schools have been providing facilities, faxes and telephones, computers, software, and bookkeeping and other services free of charge, thus benefiting all ICHS members and saving the Committee substantial funds.

The Assembly then appointed Arnita A. Jones (USA) and Alexander Heerma van Voss (Netherlands) as the two internal auditors who will examine the Treasurer's documents.

4. Presentation by Professor Hans Blom on preparations for the Amsterdam Congress

Professor Hans Blom presented a detailed account of the organization of the Amsterdam Congress, which will be held from Sunday, 22 August to Saturday, 28 August 2010. He described the amenities of the City of Amsterdam and its main cultural, intellectual and tourist attractions. The sessions will be held at the University of Amsterdam, which has a good choice of venues near restaurants and hotels in the city. A variety of reasonably priced hotel rooms have been found to suit every budget. The format for the opening and closing sessions has now been decided, and the organization is progressing rapidly. For members' convenience, registration will be on-line on the Website of the Congress at: www.ichs2010.org.

After discussion with the Bureau and other parties, it was decided that the registration fee would be 240 Euros for regular registration and 380 Euros for late registration. The student rates are 120 Euros and 190 Euros. These fees are comparable to those of other international congresses. As in the past, simultaneous English and French translation of the major thematic sessions will be provided, and other languages may be added if resources permit. Reiterating the importance of attracting young historians to the Congress, Professor Blom pointed out the need to carefully select the participants for the specialized sessions.

The Netherlands Organizing Committee has developed a financing plan for the Congress, which includes a solidarity fund to encourage the attendance of colleagues from emerging countries. Professor den Boer presented the highlights of the plan, including its purpose and conditions, emphasizing that the Netherlands Organizing Committee would have a significant sum earmarked for this aspect of the budget. He also explained the criteria that would govern the allocation of funds. The President thanked Professors Blom and den Boer for their reports and the encouraging prospects for the 2010 Congress.



5. Admission of new members to the ICHS

Jean-Claude Robert took the floor again to present an affiliation request from the Association of Kazakhstan Historians. The Bureau recommended that the General Assembly admit the Association as a National Committee, based on the report of the correspondence of the Secretary General with the Association and the verification of its constitution.

The International Commission on the History of the Russian Revolution has responded to the *Bureau restreint's* proposal to strike it off the list of Internal Commissions. After acknowledging that the Commission had deviated from its constitution, the President of the Commission asked the Secretary General to help reinstate the organization. In view of this new development, the Assembly agreed to follow up on the *Bureau restreint's* motion and mandated the Secretary General to assist the Commission. The Bureau will defer any decisions on the Commission's status until a future General Assembly.

The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Law and freedom of research

During its session of 19-20 April 2007, the Council of the European Union adopted a framework decision on the fight against racism and xenophobia, a decision which threatens to fetter historical research.

This framework decision is the result of an initiative launched at the beginning of January 2007 by the German Justice Minister, Ms Brigitte Zypries, who wished to bring to its conclusion a process which began in 2001, imposing on all Member States of the European Union legislation to criminalize the denial of genocides, notably the Holocaust. This legislation already exists in Germany, Austria, France, Poland, Romania, Lithuania, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. This initiative provoked a great deal of negative responses but ran its course at the European level, and will be given wider application through this framework decision, which applies not only to racist and xenophobic remarks and the denial of the Holocaust, but also to "publicly condoning, denying or grossly trivialising crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes as defined in the Statute of the International Criminal Court (Articles 6, 7 and 8)". Within two years after the adoption of this framework decision, each Member State will be required to adopt matching legislation which makes provisions for a penalty of between 1 to 3 years' imprisonment.

This decision raises many concerns, such as vagueness about which judicial instances will be empowered to decide which historical events will be considered as crimes. The Holocaust is not included, since it has been subjected to the Nuremberg Trials. As for the International Criminal Court, it is only allowed to judge crimes committed after 1 July 2002. Therefore, one assumes that for the other crimes, decisions will be taken by courts set up on an ad hoc basis, as was the case for Rwanda or the former Yugoslavia, by ordinary judges in a given country or else by legislative bodies. In addition, the concept of « grossly trivialising » is very vague and, as a result, can be abused very easily. This framework decision is also concerned with crimes of totalitarian regimes, even if these crimes remain outside of the stated normative framework: the decision considers these crimes to be « deplorable » and envisages extending this norm to them after a « public European hearing » organised by the Commission. Technically the aim of this hearing



remains undefined, though one may speculate that it will consist in drawing up a list of historical events which will form part of a list of enumerated crimes. This decision comes in the wake of the French memorial laws [*lois mémorielles*]: first the Gayssot Law in 1990, about the denial of the crimes pursued at Nuremberg; then, a law of 2001, which recognised the Armenian genocide during World War I, a law that was revised in 2006 with norms criminalizing denial; the Taubira Law in 2001, on the treatment of African slaves; and the Mekachera Law in 2005, on the subject of French colonialism. These laws stirred up strong protests among French historians, notably the *Liberté pour l'Histoire* [Freedom for History] petition in 2005, which received 1000 signatures.

All this shows the dangers of such legislation. Although it arises from the necessary and just fight against racism and xenophobia, it ends up — through a series of conceptual shifts — touching on issues which are the proper domain of historical research. Indeed, it is necessary for historians and politicians to keep at arms' length, each in his own domain. Politicians can decide which use of history best serves their own ends, by instituting official commemorations, for example; but they must not interfere — through the judicial system — in the work of historians. This framework decision marks a very dangerous turning point in the delicate and often difficult relations between politicians and historians. It is therefore necessary that historians in Europe and elsewhere in the world address the motives and the consequences of such a framework decision.

Motion of the ICHS

Motion on the "Council framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia"
(Council of European Union, April 2007)

Since the decision of the Council can have an impact on the freedom of research, it is moved that,

1. ICHS is deeply concerned with this complex matter of the possible intrusion of the power of the law into historical research.
2. ICHS urges all its members to examine more closely this question and initiate discussion among their own members.
3. ICHS proposes to set up a special session in Amsterdam in 2010, on the theme "Historical research, ethics and law".

Motion carried.

7. Approval of accounts and vote on the Treasurer's report

The two internal auditors read their report later in the day. Having examined the profit and loss accounts, the balance sheet and the audits for the 2005 and 2006 fiscal years, they moved that the General Assembly:

- Approve the accounts, the balance sheet and Temco Lausanne SA's audit;
- Grant the Bureau discharge in respect of its management of the accounts and the auditors in respect of their report.

Both motions were carried unanimously.



8. Reports of the two sub-committees established at the Sydney General Assembly

During the Sydney General Assembly the Bureau was asked to study two issues, the expansion of the ICHS and the question of tiered fees, and the procedure to develop the program of the quinquennial Congresses, an issue that has arisen because of criticisms that the current procedure was too opaque. The Bureau was asked at that time to give a report to the General Assembly in Beijing in 2007. When the Bureau restreint met in Madrid it created two sub-committees composed of Bureau members and representatives of the National Committees and the Affiliated International Organizations to study these dossiers. The sub-committees met in Santiago de Compostela in October 2006, discussed further by e-mail and prepared their report.

The reports of both sub-committees were sent to the members before the General Assembly and are included in this edition of The Bulletin on pages 94 and 106. The Chairs of the sub-committees presented their respective reports to the General Assembly.

Discussion on the report on the expansion of the ICHS

A slightly modified version of this report is appended to these minutes.

The Assembly made a number of decisions after long and intense discussions. Some of the main arguments for improving the ICHS's visibility included better use of the ICHS "brand". Members were concerned about some countries not paying their dues, as in the case of Denmark, or paying late. They wanted the Committee to work on enlisting new members, particularly National Committees in unrepresented European countries especially Eastern Europe and also in South America and other parts of the world (Africa, Southeast Asia). It was suggested that *ad hoc* historian committees be admitted from regions where no constituted National Committees exist.

Some national committees vigorously opposed opening up ICHS membership to national and international historical research institutes.

The discussion then turned to the fee structure. The development of separate criteria for the Affiliated International Organizations proved to be a difficult process. Some participants remarked that it would be equally difficult to do the same for National Committees and that the whole process would lead to endless discussions.

Rather than pursuing these avenues, it would be preferable to regularly apply modest increases in order to improve the ICHS's financial situation.

Conclusion

At the end of the debate, a consensus was reached on the following points:

- The ICHS must do all in its power to re-enlist the National Committees that have left its ranks and work on enlisting new National Committees and Affiliated International Organizations, particularly from South America, Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe. In areas where there are no National



Committees, the Committee would strive to foster the creation of National Committees or temporary informal organizations.

- By a show of hands, a wide majority of the Assembly rejected the motion to create a new membership category that would have included national and international historical research institutes.
- The Assembly rejected the motion to introduce tiered membership dues by a vote of 29 against 8, but recommended flexibility with regard to new members or National Committees in obvious financial difficulty.
- Lastly, it recommended that the Bureau do whatever was necessary to affirm the ICHS's identity, particularly at congresses or meetings that it patronizes or organizes. The quinquennial Congresses should receive the most attention in this regard.

Discussion of the sub-committee's report on the Congress program

As the sub-committee had yet to complete its work because of delays in receiving responses to the questionnaire, the General Assembly decided that the sub-committee should continue its efforts and present a final report to the General Assembly at the Amsterdam Congress.

9. Nominating Committee proposals

After reading article 5 respecting the nomination of a committee for the election of a new Bureau, the Secretary General proposed the following names for the 2010 Bureau: Krassimira Daskalova (International Federation for Research in Women's History), Robert McCaa (International Commission for Historical Demography), Yoichi Kibata (Japanese National Committee), and Jean-François Sirinelli (French National Committee). The President reminded members that the composition of the Nominating Committee must be diversified in terms of gender and country. Moreover, National Committees as well as Affiliated International Organizations must be represented. The vote would take place the following day, and the Secretary General would accept other nominations until then.

*Tuesday, 18 September 2007
Morning*

10. Nominating Committee proposals

The President asked the members of the Assembly if they wanted to amend the Bureau's motion. As the answer was negative, the four proposed candidates were elected unanimously.

The following individuals will constitute the new Nominating Committee:

- **Three Bureau members** : José Luis Peset, Marjatta Hietala, Jean-Claude Robert;
- **Four outside members**: Krassimira Daskalova (Fédération internationale pour l'histoire des femmes), Robert McCaa (Commission internationale de démographie historique), Yoichi Kibata (Comité national du Japon) et Jean-



François Sirinelli (Comité national de France).

The Committee will hold a formal meeting in 2009 on the occasion of the Bureau's meeting in Tokyo. At the Amsterdam Congress in 2010, in accordance with Article 5 of the constitution, "[...] the Nominating Committee...shall present its proposals at the first of the two General Assemblies which take place at each quinquennial Congress. Counter-proposals may be submitted to the Board between the first and the second Assembly. To be admissible, a counter-proposal has to be signed by the representatives of five National Committees or International Affiliated Organizations. The Board shall be elected at the second of the two General Assemblies held at the quinquennial Congress."

11. Structure of the Amsterdam Congress and discussion of proposed themes

The Secretary General presented the Bureau's amendments to the structure of the Amsterdam Congress and the format of the sessions. Both the sessions and the round tables require greater differentiation, and the number of communicators should be reduced so participants can have more discussion time.

The round tables would have five participants in all: one leader, who prepares a single document that is distributed in advance to four commentators recruited according to their knowledge of the field and their body of work, who will discuss the leader's document.

The formula for the sessions on specialized themes would remain unchanged, except that they would have a maximum of six participants in addition to the organizer and the discussant.

The sessions on the major themes would have a maximum of twelve participants in addition to the organizer and the discussant. Each communicator would have the floor for 15-20 minutes and the discussant would be given 15 minutes. The Bureau will not break the major themes down into sections.

The Bureau reduced the number of sessions to forty, making in total three major themes, twenty specialized themes and fifteen round tables. To encourage more input from the Affiliated International Organizations and the Internal Commissions, it is instituting a new type of session called the joint session, which would be led by two or more Affiliated International Organizations or by National Committees and Organizations or Commissions. The objective of the new session is to increase collaborative ties among ICHS members and feature the work of Organizations and Commissions more prominently in the program. The Bureau would plan for a maximum of ten joint sessions at the Amsterdam Congress, making fifty sessions in all.

The responsibilities of the organizers and discussants should be more clearly defined so that the organizers do not present the substance of the communications before the presenters have a chance to speak. The organizer must limit herself/himself to presenting the theme and its attendant issues, while the discussant summarizes the presenters' contributions and launches the discussion.

The General Assembly unanimously approved these amendments.



The Bureau presented the list of proposed themes, which had been harmonized by a sub-committee of the Bureau composed of José Luis Peset, Hilda Sabato, William Jordan, Jean-Claude Robert, and Pierre Ducrey, who used the suggestions received from National Committees, Affiliated International Organizations and Internal Commissions. Presenting the results of their work, Professor Hilda Sabato explained the difficulty of whittling down 201 proposals to three major themes, twenty specialized themes, fifteen round tables, and ten joint sessions. The sub-committee had proceeded as follows:

1. Using the initial list of themes submitted by members, the sub-committee found it could identify major themes and group them in clusters. The number of theme proposals far exceeded the number of sessions planned.
2. The sub-committee was careful not to introduce new themes, but rather to simply reformulate or group them together.
3. Priority was given to recurring themes.

For the major themes, the sub-committee selected those that recurred most frequently, excluding those that had already been selected as major themes for the three most recent Congresses. The major themes were reworded loosely enough to make chronological or geographic comparative treatment possible. For the specialized themes, the sub-committee excluded those that had already been identified as major themes as well as those that seemed more suitable for the round table format. The themes were reformulated to make comparative treatment possible. For the joint sessions, the work was easier as there were fewer proposals.

After this presentation, the Assembly examined the proposals, a list of which had been sent in advance to all members.

After many interesting debates and lively input from the Assembly, the list of theme proposals was slightly modified and some themes partly reformulated. The Assembly then studied the major themes in detail. The International Federation for Research in Women's History formally moved to add a new major theme. After discussion, a vote was held on the four proposed major themes, after which only the three themes with the most votes were retained. The majority of the votes were for the three themes on the initial list. After an in-depth study of the specialized themes and round tables, the Assembly tackled the joint sessions. Seven joint sessions were selected, and the Assembly agreed to add three more in order to have the maximum of ten. Eight proposals were put forward, and the Assembly voted on each one. The three proposals with the most votes were added to the list of joint sessions.

The list of themes for the Amsterdam Congress was then approved by majority vote. This list appears on page 78 in this edition of the *Bulletin*.

12. Miscellaneous

No item was raised.

13. Closing of the General Assembly

Before dismissing the Assembly, the President gave the floor to Professor Zhang Haipeng, who said he was happy that the General Assembly of the ICHS had selected



Beijing, and congratulated members on the work accomplished. The President then thanked all the participants for their attendance and participation and said he was pleased with the outlook for the Amsterdam Congress.