



**Montreal, 6 March 2009**

At the invitation of Professor Jean-Claude Robert, ICHS Secretary General, the *Bureau restreint* held a meeting at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) on 6 March 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to review ICHS operations between the regular meetings in The Hague (November 2008) and Tokyo (September 2009).

**Present:** José Luis Peset, President, Laurent Tissot, Treasurer and Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General.

**Agenda:**

1. President's Opening Statement and Remarks
2. ICHS Operations
3. Treasurer's Financial Report
4. Preparations for the Amsterdam Congress
5. Miscellaneous

**1. Welcome**

The President welcomed the members of the *Bureau restreint* and thanked Jean-Claude Robert for his hospitality. He expressed concern about the effect of the current economic crisis on ICHS activities, saying that the ICHS's finances were relatively unstable and that it was necessary for the Committee to bring its expenses in line with its income.

**2. ICHS Operations**

*a) Bulletin, Vol. 34*

The *Bulletin*, Vol. 34 (2008) was printed in 600 copies and mailed out to members in two batches, in late December and early January. At 152 pages, it is shorter and less costly in terms of postage. This year's edition contains the Congress program and the names of the session organizers and discussants. The *Bulletin* will be published again in 2009 and will include the full-length version of the Amsterdam Congress program. The relevance of continuing with a paper version was discussed, and it was agreed that the issue should be raised at the General Assembly in Amsterdam, when ICHS members have the opportunity to voice their opinion and make a decision.

*b) Website*

The ICHS Website has been updated and now includes all the features of the *Bulletin*. The Website was overhauled last year to make it more user-friendly. One prominent addition was a new section for ICHS notices and deadlines. Traffic at the Website continues to grow with over 1,100 monthly visits in December and January from readers in more than 70 countries.



c) *National Committees, International Affiliated Organizations, Internal Commissions*

There is little news to report. The minutes of the Bureau meeting in The Hague and the call for nominations for the next ICHS Bureau were e-mailed to each member.

d) *Relations with UNESCO*

The ICHS Secretary General attended the General Assembly of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS) in Cape Town on 27 and 28 November 2008. He reported that the Council appears to have a more youthful membership and that it wants to refine its mandate. The ICPHS's financial position has clearly improved now that accounts are being settled in connection with the publication of its journal, *Diogenes*. As usual, the Secretary General submitted a grant request for the upcoming Congress. This money would be used exclusively to help delegates from emerging countries attend the Congress.

Professor Jerzy Kloczowski moved for the revival of the Joint ICHS-UNESCO Committee. However, in light of information the Secretary General received during his consultations, this project would be too demanding for the ICHS because it entails redefining the Joint Committee's mandate and obtaining approval for the project from UNESCO's General Conference. In view of experiences in 2000-2005, exploratory meetings between the Secretary General and UNESCO representatives, and the ICHS's scanty resources, the *Bureau restreint* decided not to pursue the project.

### **3. Treasurer's Financial Report**

The Treasurer presented the profit and loss accounts for 2008 and the balance sheet dated 31 December 2008. The account shows revenues of CHF 36,991.93 and expenditures of CHF 48,597.31, resulting in a negative balance of CHF 11,605.31. This deficit is due primarily to investment losses incurred during the financial crisis in the last quarter of 2008. The balance sheet assets are CHF 113,504.05, a loss compared to 2007. The Treasurer gave each member of the *Bureau restreint* a copy of the accounts and the balance sheet as prepared by GO Fiduc in Neuchâtel. An agreement was reached concerning the payment of the Secretary General's and the Treasurer's administrative expenses.

### **4. Preparations for the Amsterdam Congress (2010)**

The recruitment period for organizers and discussants for each session is now closed. By 28 February, the Secretariat had received the full list of participants' names for 13 out of 52 sessions, or 25% of the sessions. This is about the same proportion reported for the same period prior to the Sydney Congress. It was resolved that organizers would be reminded of their responsibilities during the upcoming week.

The Affiliated International Organizations and the Internal Commissions have been very active and will play a major role in the Congress. In total, twenty-two AIOs and three ICs have given notice of their intention to meet in Amsterdam and have submitted their theme. Organizations and Commissions have until 15 June 2009 to submit the details of their programs (presenters' names and title of their papers, etc.)



The Congress program published on the Congress Website and the ICHS Website presents each session in order — by major themes, specialized themes, round tables, joint sessions, special sessions, sessions of the Affiliated International Organizations and Internal Commission sessions, thus providing exposure for every type of session.

## **5. Nominating Committee**

According to the Constitution of the ICHS, the Congress General Assembly elects the new Bureau for the coming quinquennium (2010-2015). In Amsterdam, new candidates will have to be appointed to replace the President, the Secretary General and three members of the Bureau. The Nominating Committee will be convening in Tokyo on 15 September, and all its members have confirmed their attendance. The Committee is composed of seven members, three designated by the Bureau (José Luis Peset, Marjatta Hietala and Jean-Claude Robert) and four designated by the General Assembly [Krassimira Daskalova (IFRWH), Robert McCaa (ICHHD), Yoichi Kibata (Japan), and Jean-François Sirinelli (France)].

## **6. Miscellaneous**

At the invitation of the Japanese National Committee, the next Bureau meeting will be held in Tokyo, Japan, from 10 to 16 September 2009. It will be preceded by a two-day scientific conference with Japanese colleagues on 11 and 12 September (Friday and Saturday), during which each Bureau member will give a presentation. The Bureau will convene on Sunday the 13th and Monday the 14th, and the Nominating Committee will meet on 15 September. Bureau members are grateful to the Japanese Committee for assuming their expenses for this meeting.

Possible locations for the 2015 Congress were briefly discussed.

In the absence of further questions, the President closed the meeting.