



**Tokyo , 13 September 2009**

At the invitation of the Japanese National Committee, the Bureau held a meeting at the University of Tokyo on 13 September, in Collaboration Room 1, located on the fourth floor of the 18th Building, Komaba Campus.

**Present:** José Luis Peset, President; Koichi Kabayama, Vice-president; Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General; Laurent Tissot, Treasurer; Mikhail Bibikov, Michael Heyd, Marjatta Hietala and Hilda Sabato, Assessor Members; and Jürgen Kocka, Counsellor.

**Excused:** William Jordan, Vice-President, Shahid Amin and Roger Chartier, Assessor Members.

**Invited Guests:** J. C. (Hans) Blom, President of the Congress Organizing Committee and W. (Pim) den Boer, member of the Organizing Committee.

**Agenda:**

1. President's opening statement and remarks
2. Secretary General's report on ICHS operations
3. Program sub-committee's interim report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Report on the Amsterdam Congress
6. ICHS-UNESCO relations
7. Upcoming Bureau meeting
8. Miscellaneous

**1. President's opening statement and remarks**

The President welcomed Bureau members and thanked his Japanese colleagues for their hospitality. He underscored the importance of some of the issues up for discussion at the meeting: the preparation of the 2010 Congress, the Program sub-committee's report, the Nominating Committee and the impact of economic conditions on the Congress. He thanked the Dutch organizing committee for the preparation of the Amsterdam Congress and then passed the floor to the Secretary General.

**2. Secretary General's report on ICHS operations since November 2008**

Since the Bureau's meeting in The Hague, the Secretary General has devoted a great deal of time to preparing the 2010 Congress and the Bureau Meeting in Tokyo.

*2008 Information Bulletin*

The publication of the Bulletin continues to be a priority for the Secretariat. Six hundred copies of Issue No. 34 were printed in 2008 and were mailed in two stages, in late



December 2008 and early January 2009. The font and layout were changed to give it a more streamlined appearance and reduce the number of pages. All the information published in the Bulletin is also available on the ICHS Web site.

#### *ICHS Website*

The Web site is being updated more regularly (approximately every three months). It receives about 900 visits per month from readers in more than 60 countries. The server was changed last March, which led to a two-month delay for the update. Everything is now in order thanks to the collaboration of Treasurer Laurent Tissot.

#### *National Committees, AIOs and ICs*

As part of the work of the sub-committee on the Congress Program, the Secretary General reviewed the status of ICHS members. Some National Committees, Affiliated International Organizations and Internal Commissions do not respond regularly to information requests sent to them. The Secretariat will examine each case and propose that members who never respond should be removed from the roll.

#### *ICHS expansion*

Hilda Sabato presented the result of her ongoing efforts to elicit more participation from Latin American colleagues. Their participation rate has increased for the upcoming Congress, and some countries have started to get organized. Bureau members discussed the continued absence of Arab/Muslim historians from the ICHS. Currently, the African Historians Association represents African colleagues, and a good delegation will be present at the Amsterdam Congress.

#### *Application for admission*

A new association, the Network of Global and World History Organizations (NOGWHISTO), founded in Dresden in July 2008, has applied for admission to the ICHS as an Affiliated International Organization. The Network is well established with five regional associations in many countries: the World History Association, the European Network in Universal and Global History, the Asian Association of World Historians and two organizing committees in Africa and Latin America. Its Web site is <http://www.uni-leipzig.de/~gwhisto/>.

A duly completed application was sent to the ICHS Secretary General. A review of the organization's statutes and Bureau shows that its statutes are compatible with those of the ICHS and its Bureau composition reflects its international vocation. The Secretary General therefore moved that the Bureau approve the application and submit it to the upcoming General Assembly for approval.

President Peset noted that a medieval epigraphy association is being established, pointing out that it might submit a request for membership in the ICHS.

### **3. Interim report of the sub-committee on the Congress program**

The sub-committee established on a motion of the Sydney Congress and composed of Marjatta Hietala (Bureau), Arnita Jones (American Historical Association), Brunello Vigezzi (Commission on the History of International Relations and Italian National Committee) and the Secretary General, has pursued its work and has already presented



two reports, one at the Bureau meeting in Santiago de Compostela in 2006 and another during the General Assembly in Beijing in 2007 (See *Bulletin* 32 – 2006 and *Bulletin* 33 – 2007). It also convened on 29 June 2009, on the occasion of a meeting held by the *Giunta Centrale per gli Studi Storici* in Rome on 30 June 2009. The Secretary General thanked the *Giunta* for its hospitality in providing accommodation for the sub-committee's members.

He went on to present and comment on a series of charts summarizing the findings of the 2007 questionnaire, and submitted a preliminary written opinion. A study of the structure of the ICHS membership shows many differences in the National Committees. The analysis classifies them into four categories: some Committees are led by a national association of historians, on the pattern of a non-governmental association (NGO), and are dependent on dues collected from their members; others are led and funded by a national academy; some Committees are directly financed by government; and, lastly, some meet only to organize their national participation in the quinquennial Congress. Conversely, the Affiliated International Organizations (AIOs) all follow the same pattern of self-financing and self-management by a General Assembly. As for the National Committees, they are generally established to promote history in their own country, particularly their own national history, whereas the AIOs target their work to their own theme. A look at the ICHS's recent history reveals the emergence and rapid growth of the AIOs. In the early days of the ICHS, there were only National Committees, which held the right to vote during assemblies, and the AIOs have gradually obtained more powers, including the right to vote. This dual structure has had some influence on how the ICHS operates.

The sub-committee discussed a number of issues. One of the purposes of the ICHS is to organize a generalist historians' Congress every five years. Should this core mission be re-examined? In addition, what about expanding the role of the National Committees and the Affiliated International Organizations in preparing the Congress program? In this regard, the decision made by the Bureau in Santiago de Compostela to create joint sessions could be an interesting option for the future. The question of creating a project, other than the quinquennial Congress, involving all ICHS members was also discussed.

Several alternatives for building the Congress program were examined. It appears that one of the problems is the lack of information on the procedure the Bureau and the General Assembly follow to develop the program. In reality, crafting a program from theme proposals as numerous as they are diverse is no easy task. The General Assembly's role is to approve a choice of themes rather than to try to revise the selection. Until now, the preparation of the program has been the responsibility of the Bureau, which assigns some of its members to an *ad hoc* program committee. Should this committee accept two representatives elected by the General Assembly, i.e. one elected by the National Committees and the other by the AIOs (similar to the Nominating Committee's procedure)? Lastly, the process of proposing themes could be more interactive. Preliminary discussions could be held on proposed themes if the Web site had more interactive capabilities. However, this would involve a large expenditure that ICHS cannot assume given the current state of its finances.

Such were the main thoughts of the sub-committee. It will complete its report and send it to all ICHS members before the first General Assembly in 2010.



#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the profit and loss accounts for fiscal 2008 and the balance sheet dated 31 December 2008. The accounts show revenues of CHF 36,991.93 and expenditures of CHF 49,447.31, resulting in a negative balance of CHF 12,453.38. The deficit is due to investment losses incurred during the financial crisis of September 2008 and a decline in Bulletin sales. The balance sheet assets amount to CHF 101,898.67, a loss compared to 2007. The Treasurer gave each Bureau member a copy of the accounts and the balance sheet as prepared by GO Fiduc in Neuchâtel, along with a bank statement dated 7 September 2009.

The Treasurer then reported on membership dues. A reminder will be sent out in October 2009 to encourage late-payers to bring their account up to date. The expense of publishing the Bulletin raises uncertainties about whether it can continue in its current form. This question will be discussed at the next Bureau meeting.

#### **5. Report on the Amsterdam Congress program**

##### *Report of the Amsterdam Congress Organizing Committee*

Professor Hans Blom, Committee President, presented his report. The Congress's work is proceeding as planned. On the whole, the Organizing Committee remains optimistic despite the difficult economic climate. The program is well under way, although some session organizers have still not completed the registration process for participants in their sessions. The Affiliated International Organizations and Internal Commissions are in the same situation. The Committee has prepared a preliminary session schedule, which is being reviewed by the Secretary General. The program and session schedule should be published in the next edition of the Bulletin. Some Affiliated International Organizations will be holding parallel sessions in other locations in Amsterdam.

The major theme sessions are scheduled to be held in the University aula. Insofar as possible, the other sessions will be held in the University of Amsterdam's main buildings to cut down on travel time. The opening session is firming up and will have four segments: an opening address by the Prime Minister of The Netherlands, a speech by the ICHS President, four presentations on the role of water in the history of four areas of the world (China, Africa, North America, and The Netherlands), and a cultural presentation featuring a new, original score composed for Joris Ivens' classic short film, *Regen* ("Rain", 1929), as well as other pieces. A reception will follow the ceremony. The closing session will kick off with a brief introduction of the new President of the ICHS, after which Nelleke Noordervliet, a celebrated Dutch historical novelist, will give an address. The closing session will also be open to the public. The Organizing Committee is working on a diversified cultural program for the Congress in collaboration with several of Amsterdam's museums and institutions.

The solidarity fund has collected almost 200,000 Euros from various foundations, including the Mellon Foundation. Pim den Boer, the fund's president, briefly outlined the conditions for eligibility for the subsidies.

Close to 1,100 participants have already registered for the Congress, although this number will change because of the anticipated withdrawal of many delegates whose



presentations were not accepted. The Organizing Committee will examine the Bureau's suggestion to postpone the deadline for registration at the regular rate by several weeks to coincide with the period when research grants are usually announced in North America, generally sometime in April. It is hard to predict the impact the economic crisis will have on final registration counts in 2010, but the Committee is confident that it will break even. If finances permit, it also plans to hold a second reception during the week of the Congress. In closing, Professor Blom reminded members of the need to widely publicize the Congress and asked for the cooperation of ICHS members in circulating the information among their colleagues.

#### *Recruitment of organizers and discussants*

Even though the recruitment period for organizers and discussants is now closed, some sessions have had problems because of withdrawals. The final recruitment is incomplete in three cases, although the Secretary General is confident that all available slots will be filled.

#### *Sessions hosted by Affiliated International Organizations*

The AIOs were to provide the numbers for their sessions early on, but the Secretary General reported that there has been a delay in finalizing their programs, which they were supposed to do in June. This is causing a delay in preparing the final program. Each AIO has three half-days to hold its general assembly and scientific sessions. These events are incorporated into the full Congress program, and have been from the very beginning. Although the Committee has tried to spread the AIO and main sessions evenly throughout the Congress from the very beginning, the need to avoid overlapping themes has made it difficult to perfectly coordinate both types of sessions.

## **6. Relations with UNESCO**

The International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS) held its general assembly, which was attended by the ICHS Secretary General, on 27 and 28 November 2008, in Cape Town, South Africa. The ICPHS will be granting the ICHS a small subsidy to help delegates from emerging countries attend the Amsterdam Congress. The journal *Diogenes* is following a new formula of thematic editions, and the ICHS could consider proposing some themes. The ICPHS is looking to more effectively position its mission both with UNESCO and among its member associations.

Professor Jerzy Kloczowski contacted the Secretary General about the possibility of relaunching the Joint UNESCO-ICHS committee, which operated from 1999 to 2005. However, it seems clear that such a project does not mesh with current UNESCO policy. The Secretary General does not think it is necessary to pursue the matter any further and believes that the ICHS should explore other avenues to reach its specific objectives of fostering greater international cooperation among countries and associations and more participation in international congresses.

## **7. Next meeting**

The next Bureau meeting will be held on 21 August 2010 in Amsterdam, beginning at noon.



## 8. Miscellaneous

The Nominating Committee will hold a meeting on 15 September, immediately after the Bureau meeting, to work on replacing seven outgoing Bureau members, i.e. José Luis Peset, Koichi Kabayama, William Jordan, Shahid Amin, Roger Chartier, Michael Heyd and Jean-Claude Robert. After some discussion, the Bureau concluded that its future members should be selected on the basis of their scientific, organizational and networking abilities, as well as their ability to function in one of the ICHS's working languages (English or French). It would also be important to consider regional, main historical periods and gender diversity and to rotate national representation and representation of the Affiliated International Organizations.

The President informs the Bureau of the publication of the proceedings of the colloquium held in 2005 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Rome Congress: *La storiografia tra passato e futuro. Il X Congresso Internazionale di Scienze Storiche (Roma 1955) cinquant'anni dopo. Atti del Convegno internazionale Roma, 21-24 settembre 2005.* (Roma, Unione Internazionale degli Istituti di Archeologia, Storia e Storia dell'Arte in Roma, 2008). In the absence of further business, the President thanked all the members of the Bureau and closed the meeting.