



## **Amsterdam, 21 August 2010**

The Bureau held its last meeting of the quinquennium on 21 August 2010, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Amstel I and II rooms of the Convent Hotel Amsterdam (Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 67) on the eve of the inauguration of the 21st International Congress of Historical Sciences.

**Present:** José Luis Peset, President; Koichi Kabayama, William C. Jordan, Vice-Presidents; Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General; Laurent Tissot, Treasurer; Shahid Amin, Michael Bibikov, Roger Chartier, Michael Heyd, Marjatta Hietala, Hilda Sabato, Assessor Members et Jürgen Kocka, Counsellor.

**Invited guests:** Hans Blom, President of the Organizing Committee of the 21st Congress, and Pim den Boer, member of the Organizing Committee of the 21st Congress.

### **Agenda**

1. Opening
2. ICHS Affairs and Secretary General's report (2005-2010)
3. Nominating Committee's report
4. Report of the Congress program sub-committee
5. Treasurer's report
6. Discussion of the agendas for the 22 and 26 August General Assemblies
7. Report on the organization of the Amsterdam Congress
8. Upcoming Bureau meetings
9. Miscellaneous

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

The President welcomed Bureau members and expressed gratitude on their behalf for the hospitality of the Netherlands Organizing Committee and its President, Hans Blom. He said that Bureau members would be making important decisions during this meeting, especially in relation to the annual publication of the ICHS. After quickly reviewing the items on the agenda, he acknowledged the presence of the full Bureau and thanked the members for the work they accomplished during the past five years. He also thanked Pierre Ducrey, Treasurer until September 2007, and Sorin Antohi, a Bureau member in 2005 and 2006.

The President then gave the floor to Jean-Claude Robert.

#### **2. ICHS activities and Secretary General's report**

The Secretary General previously sent his report to Bureau members and it will be distributed to the delegates of the General Assembly. The report will also be included in the Appendix to the minutes of the General Assembly of 22 August. He offered a brief summary, emphasizing certain points such as the Committee's renewal and rejuvenation efforts, as well as its efforts to expand and improve communications. Regarding the first issue, the ICHS has endeavoured to spotlight young scholars, especially during the regional conferences organized in conjunction with Bureau meetings, and during the Congress. The International Students of History Association (ISHA) organized two special



sessions for this year's Congress, and the ICHS is pleased with the renewed contact. Women play a larger role in this year's Congress, accounting for a total of 42% of papers. More efforts are needed to increase that number even though good progress has been made since Oslo and Sydney, when female historians accounted for only 20% and 27% of the papers respectively.

The ICHS's main modes of communication are the *Bulletin* and the Web site. The latter has greatly expanded in recent years, whereas the *Bulletin* has become redundant. The Web site offers flexibility and can be updated regularly, unlike a print publication, which takes a great deal of time to prepare and distribute. The Web site can be easily accessed from anywhere and by anyone, which is not the case for the *Bulletin*. Lastly, printing and mailing costs have risen steadily; in fact, they increased by 75% between 2001 and 2009. With these facts in mind, a motion was made during the *Bureau restraint* meeting in Madrid to stop publishing the annual *Bulletin* and to use the resulting savings to enhance the Web site.

The ICHS's membership numbers have remained relatively stable. In 2005, the ICHS had 53 National Committees, 29 Affiliated International Organizations and 12 Internal Commissions. Five years later, it has 54 National Committees, 29 Affiliated International Organizations, and 12 Internal Commissions. Not every organization is active, however. In the wake of the 2007 survey of members, the Secretary General initiated a follow-up operation for members who did not answer. Some organizations expressed an interest in becoming more active in the ICHS, but others did not respond and will be removed from the membership list after the Amsterdam Congress. The Secretary has also received new applications for admission, some of which will be submitted to the General Assembly.

The Argentinian National Committee has resigned from the ICHS a few years ago, but a group of university historians, the Sociedad Argentina de Investigadores en Historia, has asked to be recognized as the new Argentinian National Committee. After reviewing the group's constitution and finding it consistent with that of the ICHS, the Secretary General recommended that this Committee be recognized. As a reminder, two historian groups have applied, in 2008 and 2009, for admission as Affiliated International Organizations, the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP), founded in 1991 and now with 1,200 members in 30 countries, and the Network of Global and World History Organizations (NOGWHISTO). The Bureau already recommended that both organizations be admitted. The United States National Committee has asked for recognition of a new Internal Commission, under the name of the International Federation for Public History. Public history is a rapidly growing field that brings together university, government and corporate historians, history consultants, museologists and archivists, and its activities are conducted outside of university settings. Lastly, a group of historians based in Madagascar, Mauritius, the Comoros Islands, Sri Lanka and India has requested recognition as an Internal Commission of the ICHS under the name of International Commission of Indian Ocean Historians. Having reviewed the constitutions of both groups and finding them consistent with that of the ICHS, and having verified the international representation on their interim Boards, the Secretary General recommended that both groups be recognized as Internal Commissions for an initial period of five years, with the objective of recognizing them as Affiliated International Organizations in 2015.

The Secretary General concluded his report with two sobering thoughts. Despite its efforts, the ICHS is under-represented in some parts of the world, and the Secretariat's lack of resources is seriously hampering ICHS activities. There are not enough funds to operate a bona fide permanent secretariat, and the Secretary General's actions are

limited by the fact that his assignment is a part time, voluntary work position. He concluded by saying that he could not have fulfilled his task without the financial and material support of his department and his institution, the *Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)*. He also thanked Renée McNicoll for her faithful service to the secretariat and her work updating the Web site since 2004.

The members of the Bureau received the Secretary General's report and discussed the effects of stopping the publication of the *Bulletin*. While understanding the financial reasons for this decision, some members were saddened about the potential demise of the ICHS's "calling card" and were concerned that all traces of the ICHS's activities might eventually disappear altogether. The Secretary General assured them that all ICHS documents on the Web site also exist on paper and are kept in the ICHS archives. To help with the flow of information, the next ICHS directories will be available for download on the Web site each year. A paper copy of the directory will also be placed in the archives.

Bureau members approved the Secretary General's report and the admission requests.

### **3. Nominating Committee's report**

The Nominating Committee received 19 nominations and reviewed them during the summer of 2009 before convening in Tokyo on 15 September 2009. Their report was e-mailed to each National Committee, Affiliated International Organization and Internal Commission on 15 April 2010, along with the second notice of meeting for the first General Assembly and the candidates' abbreviated curriculum vitae. The Committee followed six main guidelines in its review process: The first one is the regional geographical equilibrium to ensure that the various regions of the world and Europe be represented adequately, as much as our limited resources allow (12 members on the Bureau). The second principle is a fair representation of the various fields and periods of historical research among the Bureau members. The third is a better gender balance and the fourth is the ability of the candidates to do team work and develop international networks. The fifth principle is to choose future Bureau members from the proposals both from the National Committees and the Affiliated International Organizations. Finally, Bureau members should all be from different countries, so that there is no more than one member from the same country. The Committee has therefore selected the following candidates:

1. Marjatta Hietala was proposed and approved as the President. Laurent Tissot has agreed to another term as Treasurer, and Robert Frank (Paris) (new member) was proposed as Secretary General.
2. Two outgoing Bureau members, Michael Bibikov and Hilda Sabato, have agreed to another term.
3. In addition to the new Secretary General, six new candidates were proposed:.

W. (Pim) den Boer  
(Pays-Bas)

Andrea Giardina  
(Italie)

LIM Jie-Yun  
(Corée)

Karen Offen  
(États-Unis)

John Rogister  
(Royaume-Uni)

TAO Wenzhao  
(Chine)



Four of these six members were nominated by National Committees, and two were nominated by Affiliated International Organizations. The new members' complete curriculum vitae will be available for inspection between the two General Assemblies.

Bureau members discussed the report and the Nominating Committee's adherence to various criteria.

#### **4. Report of the sub-committee on the Congress program**

The sub-committee's report was filed in June and sent to each ICHS member. As background information, it was explained that this group had been constituted after a motion made at the General Assembly in Sydney (2005). The sub-committee filed interim reports in 2006 and 2007 and held two formal meetings, one in Santiago de Compostela in 2006 and another in Rome in June 2009; all other business was carried out by e-mail. The sub-committee conducted a survey of ICHS members in 2007 and took the survey's findings into account in its final report. The report has four sections: the first examines the structure of the ICHS and contrasts the diversity of the National Committees with the relative uniformity of the Affiliated International Organizations, suggesting that these structural differences may be a factor in the organization's communication problems. The second section discusses the importance of the quinquennial congress for ICHS. The third section reviews the actual procedure for the creation of the program. The last section puts forward eight motions that will be submitted to the General Assembly, after which the Bureau will decide any initiatives. For sub-committee members, it was most important to review the Congress's generalist vocation, which is central to the ICHS's objectives, and discuss the process for organizing the Congress program. Bureau members received the report and agreed with the motions in principle, but suggested two clarifications. The maximum 200-word text mentioned in the second motion should actually be a minimum 200-word text. The fourth motion (third motion in the English version) was restated in simpler terms. Bureau members noted that most of the Committees and Organizations were satisfied with the current process. The Secretary General suggested submitting the report to the first General Assembly and then closing the debate during the second General Assembly. He would also be open to receiving any motions between the two assemblies.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Laurent Tissot presented and commented on the profit and loss accounts and balance sheets for the 2007, 2008 and 2009 fiscal years, and the auditor's report submitted by Compagnie fiduciaire Pointet SA Neuchâtel (Switzerland) on 18 August 2010. The highlights of these documents will also be published in the minutes of the General Assembly of 22 August 2010. The Treasurer reminded Bureau members that they are just as accountable for the information as the Treasurer and the *Bureau restreint*, and that the General Assembly would be voting on discharging them in respect of these documents.

#### **6. Discussion of the agendas for the 22 and 26 August General Assemblies**

The Secretary General clarified some items on the agenda for the first General Assembly. Having already discussed the admission of new members when he presented his report earlier, he pointed out that the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) had already been the subject of a motion at the Bureau meeting in



The Hague (2008), and the Network of Global and World History Organizations (NOGWHISTO) had been the subject of a motion at the Bureau meeting in Tokyo (2009).

The Secretary General has received only one formal offer to host the 2015 Congress, from the city of Jinan, capital of Shandong Province, approximately 400 km southeast of Beijing. Consistent with procedure, the delegates from the candidate city will be given 20 minutes to present their proposal to the first General Assembly (22 August), and a vote will be held during the second General Assembly, on 26 August. Bureau members emphasized the need for transparency in the process of organizing the Congress and respect for the broad principles of freedom of expression advocated by the ICHS. In addition, the visa process should be communicated and explained well ahead of time.

## **7. Report on the organization of the Amsterdam Congress**

The Secretary General said that organizational problems led to the cancellation of two sessions: specialized theme session No. 9, "La construction des nations dans le monde islamique au XX<sup>e</sup> siècle / Nation-Building in the 20th Century Islamic World", and joint session No. 7, "Les petits pays comme modèles d'innovation politique / Small Countries as Models of Innovative Politics". On the other hand, special sessions were added to the schedule, including sessions organized by the International Students of History Association.

Professor Hans Blom, President of The Netherlands Organizing Committee, described the week's activities and acknowledged the work of many people and institutions. The Congress was organized mainly by the congress office of the International Institute of Social History (IISH/IISG), with the support of the congress office of the University of Amsterdam (Elles Baaijens and Kitty Jonker). Mrs. Els Hiemstra and Mrs. Ineke Kellij of the IISG were thanked in particular for their work. The opening and closing sessions were organized by Karen Tessel, with the financial support of Leiden University and the collaboration of Opera staff and the staff of the congress office of the University of Amsterdam. The history department of the University of Amsterdam (Jouke Turpijn), the Amsterdam Historical Museum and the National Museum of Natural History organized the Holland History House, a venue where delegates can mingle in a more relaxed setting and enjoy musical performances (daily at 5:30 p.m.). The activities will be held in the courtyard of the Amsterdam Historical Museum. Other activities are also planned elsewhere in the city.

The Solidarity Fund, an independent fund created for the Congress, helped many colleagues from developing countries (80) attend the Congress, thanks in part to the efforts of Gees van der Plaats. The Congress's main source of funding came from registration fees, subsidies granted by history-related institutions, and cultural foundations. Contributions from the private sector were relatively weak. The President of the Organizing Committee was concerned about the Congress's low registration numbers, around 1,500 at this point, and questioned the Congress's general format, which would be discussed later.

The members expressed their satisfaction and thanked The Netherlands Organizing Committee. They hoped that in the future, many of the sessions' proceedings would be published in book form or as a special journal issue in order to preserve the memory and contribution of the Congresses. They also wanted more languages to be included in the sessions. The Secretary General reminded everyone to use the ICHS logo in their Congress publications. The next Bureau will review the Amsterdam Congress when it



convenes in 2011 .

### **8. Upcoming Bureau meetings**

As normal procedure dictates, the Bureau's meetings for the upcoming quinquennium (2010-2015) were announced. The new Bureau will hold its first meeting in Amsterdam on 27 August 2010, at 10 a.m. In 2011, the Bureau will meet in Finland at the invitation of the Finnish Committee of Historical Sciences. The Hungarian National Committee has invited the General Assembly and the Bureau to hold their meetings in Budapest in 2012. The 2013 Bureau meeting will be held in the city selected to hold the 2015 Congress. The location for 2014 is yet undetermined, and the Bureau meeting in 2015 will be held in the Congress's host city.

### **9. Miscellaneous**

The President thanked Bureau members for their work during the 2005-2010 quinquennium, especially outgoing members Shahid Amin, Roger Chartier, Michael Heyd, Koichi Kabayama, William Jordan, Jürgen Kocka and Jean-Claude Robert.