

UMAC NEWS December 2003

Dear UMAC member / potential member

This e-mail has four parts

1. The UMAC Conference 2004 in Korea
2. Oklahoma Conference papers now on our web site
3. Report from the December Executive meeting of ICOM
4. Oklahoma University wins funds to help Iraq

1. The UMAC Conference in Korea

UMAC's next conference will be in Seoul during the triennial ICOM Conference and General Assembly, from 2 - 8 October 2004. The UMAC part will be from 4 - 6 plus an optional day excursion on Thursday 7 October. You can find out more about ICOM Seoul on www.icom2004.org/. Please enter the dates into your diary and prepare a paper or poster – the overall theme is: Museums and Intangible Heritage.

If you have suggestions as to the running of the UMAC Conference, or know places we should visit please tell us now, not when you arrive. By then it probably be too late.

The five university museum hosts are:

Prof. Gidong Bae, Director of Hanyang University Museum in Seoul,
Kwangsik Choi, Director of Korea University Museum in Seoul
Chungkyu Lee, Director of Yeungnam University Museum
Sunwha Rha Curator of Ewha University Museum
Bongwon Kang, Director of Kyongju University Museum
The last three persons have particular responsibility as the organising subcommittee.

UMAC will meet at the Museum of SungKyunKwan University in Seoul, which is 600 years old. We are hoping that it will be possible to travel to some of the southern parts of Korea on the excursion day, Thursday.

2. Oklahoma Conference papers now on our web site

Papers from the Oklahoma conference are appearing daily on the UMAC website www.icom.org/umac. If you are an author please check to see if your paper is there. If it is, please check that there are no errors. If it is not, please send it to Peter Tirrell (pbtirrell@ou.edu) or myself. The papers on the web will be refereed and selected ones will be printed in the conference proceedings before Seoul.

3. Report from the December Executive meeting of ICOM

Marta Lourenco attended this meeting as an observer on behalf of UMAC.

ICOM has raised the amount it pays UMAC for each voting member. We now receive 6.18 euros per member.

The ICOM Secretariat is preparing an online directory of its 20,000 members (accessible to Chairs and Secretaries). It is hoped to have it ready next year.

ICOM now no longer informs International Committees like UMAC of non-voting members wishing to receive news of activities. If you know of anyone who would like to be on the UMAC mailing list please let me know. Similarly if you know of anyone who used to receive our news but now has a new e-mail address, or who has fallen off our list for some other reason, please let me know. It is a bit like saying, "Hands up all those who are not here".

The theme for International Museum Day for 2004 is Museums and Intangible Heritage and for 2005, Museums Bridging Cultures.

A new Code of Ethics was voted and approved by the Executive Council. The next step is to translate it into French and Spanish so that it can be approved at the General Assembly in Seoul.

The discussion on a new definition of Museum will go on until March (mostly on the Web). Discussion in French and Spanish will be stimulated in these final months.

4. Oklahoma University wins funds to help Iraq

An amount of \$4,988,569 has been awarded to the University of Oklahoma's College of Continuing Education to partner with the University of Al-Anbar, University of Basra, and Salahaddin University. The Oklahoma Higher Education Partnership (OHEP), which includes Cameron University, Langston University and Oklahoma State University, will provide technical expertise to Iraq's universities and technical colleges. The program will help the universities provide access to research and academic databases, which were previously unavailable under the Hussein regime. The program will encourage Iraqi higher education administrators, faculty and students to engage in the revitalization of Iraq's higher education system. Some of the initiatives include the establishment and maintenance of the academic exchange program, promoting collaborative research and providing opportunities for faculty and students to interact.

With best wishes for Christmas, and a very Happy New Year

Sincerely

Peter