

ICOM The Netherlands Annual report 2015

The National Committee of The Netherlands experienced an intensive year. After a financial reorganization the Board implemented a new policy. An extended activity programme for the members was organized:

1. An annual congress with a typical ICOM theme. In november 2015 the following conference was organized: "Protection of (World) Heritage", about the danger of armed conflicts and illicit trade and how to protect our heritage in times of distasters; in cooperation with the Dutch Museums Association and the national UNESCO committee. Also four students of the Reinwardt Aacdemy of Museology helped out with the registration on that day and made a (Dutch) review.

Speakers were Nao Hayashi- Museums Programms Officer UNESCO, France Desmarais- Drector of Programms ICOM, Boris van der Ham- World Heritage NL, and also Steph Scholten director Special Collections UvA- about the disputed provenance of the Krim treasures and Renger de Bruin, board member ICOM NL- about the Dutch contribution for the General Conference in Milan 2016- *The Roman Frontier along the Rhine; up for World Heritage candidacy in 2020.*

Around 100 people attended, in the venue of the recently opened Waterlinie Museum in a Fort close to Utrecht. The Waterlinie is als up for World Heritage site in 2017 and is a unique defence symstem in Holland with forts and waterdefencelines. During the break everyone was free to walk around and have special guided tours through a WOI exhibition.

The participants came from a broad range of museums, cultural heritage organisations and for example from the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defense, Blue Shield Netherlands and the Prince Claus Fund. The conference was therefor also a tool to engage with other organisations from the cultural field.
2. The annual ICOM/NL Thesis Award for the best museological thesis on innovative international developments in the museum world, was won by Dutch art history student at VU University Laura Berghuis with 'An oligarchy without oil', a thesis on the co-operation of Abu Dhabi with world famous museums like the Louvre and Guggenheim. What are the motivations, expectations and effects of this co-operation? In her thesis Berghuis writes about Western vs. Middle-Eastern museological values which lead to a very sharp analysis. Berghuis received €1.500 and an invitation to join the General Conference in Milano in 2016. The jury read 12 theses and nominated 4. One jury member is a representative of the ICOM/NL board. All 5 members are museum professionals.
3. Travel grants for ICOM NL members, preferably for Board Members of International Committees or active participants/lecturers (in 2015 nine members received a grant).
4. From summer 2015 the preparations started of a Dutch presentation at the General Conference in Milano 2016. ICOM Netherlands presents, with support and cooperation of ICOM CECA, EXARC, ICOMOS NL, ICOM Germany, ICOM MPR and foundation 'Roman Limes Netherlands' "The Roman frontier along the River Rhine, The role of museums in revitalizing cultural landscapes" A multidisciplinary session. Parts of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire in Europe have been ascribed as UNESCO World Heritage Site (for instance the Hadrian's Wall). For the Frontier on the River Rhine, the Dutch Government has decided for a WHS candidacy in cooperation with Nordrhein-Westfalen and Rheinland-Pfalz in Germany. Many initiatives and solutions were created to enhance the visibility of the Limes, which is mostly invisible, underground, and partly formed by the (former flow of the) Rhine. What is the museum's role in these challenges? A varied group of speakers will be lined up in this

session, which is of interest to a wide range of museum professionals. The following experts will talk about museums & cultural landscapes, visitor engagement, tourism, cooperation, governmental responsibility and development areas: David Breeze (UK), archaeologist and scholar of Antonine Wall; Erik Graafstal (NL), archaeologist Castellum Hoge Woerd, Utrecht; Christof Flügel (GE), archaeologist and Bavarian Department for Museums, Martin Müller (GE), archaeologist and director of the LVR-Archaeological Park Xanten; Frederike van Ouwerkerk (NL), tourism expert; Tamar Leene (NL), Programm-manager Roman Limes Netherlands/Province of Utrecht and Thomas Otten (GE), Province of NordRhein Westfalen. The session will be moderated by Astrid Hertog and Renger de Bruin (both from ICOM Netherlands).

5. A donation of € 4.000 was made to ICOM in order to support the salvage and rescue of cultural heritage in Nepal. At the member meeting in May 2015 the board suggested to donate € 4000,- for emergency matters. During the general assembly in Juni 2015 board members Astrid Hertog and Chair Luc Eekhout discussed and decided with Corine Wegener and France Desmarais that the donation would be contributed to the Disaster Task Relief Force, and especially to the Nepal emergency actions.

The budgets for these activities were created by cutting on costs of the membership administration. A volunteer assisted in the secretariat, but the rising number of members necessitated us to hire a secretary. This must solve the traditional problem of a volunteer Board. Due to the financial reorganization we could create a structural budget for a part time professional secretariat from 2016 on.

Board members in 2015

Chair: Janrense Boonstra (until 18 May 2015) / Luc Eekhout

Secretary: mrs. Anneke Boonstra (until 18 May 2015) / Diederik von Bönninghausen a.i.

Treasurer: Luc Eekhout

Members: Arnout van Aalst, mrs. Susan van 't Slot-Koolman, mrs. Frédérique van Steekelenburg, mrs. Astrid Hertog, mr. Renger de Bruin (elected 18 May 2015)

Numbers of members:

	2014	2015
Individual	1998	2279
Student	559	419
Senior	327	363
Institutions	<u>52</u>	<u>51</u>
Total	2935	3112