

## ***Recommendations Working Group 3***

### **Networking: Co-ordination and Collaboration among Diverse Institutions and Organisations in Emergency Preparedness and Response**

#### **Introduction**

In the spirit of the Kobe/Tokyo International Symposium, and the Hyderabad gathering, Working Group 3 submits the following recommendations to ICOM.

#### **Recommendations to ICOM**

- ICOM Executive Council should meet with the ICBS Board to develop a functional, operational structure for response to emergency situations;
- ICOM should work to enhance the ability of ICBS to fulfil its commitment to the Second Protocol of the Hague Convention;
- ICOM Executive Council should call on specialists in the field to assist in developing an emergency response network;
- ICOM should reform the objectives of National Committees to have the imperative of including emergency preparedness and response studied in national deliberations so that they can act in emergency situations;
- ICOM should take the opportunity of the current review of the Code of Ethics and Statutes to include a chapter on the protection of cultural heritage in emergency situations;
- National Committees should be required to present reports to the Secretary General assessing conditions of their countries on preparedness and response capabilities, and doing so as soon as possible;
- to be effective, cultural emergency response teams need an operational support structure. (ICOM Secretary General should review the structure of Médecins sans frontières, Red Cross/Red Crescent and others and make a proposal to the Executive Council for a cultural property emergency response mechanism);
- an adequate communication structure should be established, including the building of relationships with the media and administrative and political bodies;
- a collection point for information on emergency preparedness should be established;
- ICOM is not yet recognised as a first responder able to assist nationally or internationally and a protocol is needed to make this happen;

- standard operating procedures should be developed to prepare for emergency response;
- a staffed, permanent task force for emergency response should be established;
- a database of specialists and professionals should be instituted, drawing on ICOM members and other organisations who may assist in emergency response and training;
- missions should include:
  - on-site assessment (before and after the crisis),
  - professional training programmes and response,
  - training of museum professionals,
  - training of non-museum professionals,
  - assisting cultural property organisations in writing emergency plans,
  - preparing ethical guidelines for emergency response;
- the Secretary General of ICOM should encourage the ICOM National Committees to co-operate with local, religious and governmental authorities as well as other cultural organisations holding cultural heritage in emergency preparedness;
- as a tool for emergency preparedness there should be a Web site to be used, for example, for emergency plans for local cultural institutions;
- governmental authorities should be urged to support emergency preparedness and action plans. Special attention should be paid to documentation and inventories both in substance and on site;
- ICOM National Committees should create local information networks with religious and other cultural organisations dealing with emergency preparedness;
- ICOM National Committees should ensure that emergency plans are integrated in local state and national plans.

### **Networking: Communication and Information**

We accept that MEP is a recent initiative of ICOM. ICOM should adopt the following priorities: raise awareness generally among all museum people, holders of collections and relevant outside bodies (emergency services, etc.) on the need for emergency preparedness and planning.

#### *Priorities should Include:*

- promoting MEP through *ICOM News* – MEP news column in each issue;
- developing a MEP Web site within the icom.museum Web service;
- e-mail information and discussion list for MEP;
- recommending the development of an *Intranet* system to support MEP development (funding will be needed).

ICOM should set information priorities: providing relevant information on emergency preparedness, response and recovery for the benefit of all museum people, holders of collections and relevant outside bodies (e.g. emergency services).

*Priorities will Include Information on:*

- relevant existing networks and sources, centres of excellence, training programmes and resources;
- making existing documents available in various formats: Web, CD, printed copies in regional documentation centres and museums, and specifically through MEP partners, i.e. ICOM, ICOM International Committees, e.g. ICOM-CC, ICMS and ICTOP, ICCROM and GCI, plus other relevant bodies with existing material, such as UNESCO and other Blue Shield member organisations.

*Types of Material Needed:*

- official documents, such as international treaties and agreements and information on their application (e.g. Hague Convention, Geneva Conventions, regional agreements);
- working papers (e.g. the proceedings of this meeting);
- case studies and model emergency systems as examples of best practices;
- training resources and programme details.

*New Materials:*

- identify needs in relation to the development of new material of all kinds relevant to the MEP project;
- seek cooperation from National Committees (and relevant regional and international committees, in particular ICOM-CC, ICMS and ICAMT to provide lists and details of incidents on a confidential basis, reporting on museum emergencies of all kinds, ranging from minor vandalism through to catastrophic disasters and including cases where the risk was successfully avoided or contained.

*Legal Issues:*

- negotiate copyright agreements for the posting of material on the proposed Web site, and for distribution in different formats, e.g. photocopies, printed publications or CDs. (We propose specifically that MEP partners should be approached on this as soon as possible).

*Languages:*

- all material should be made available in the original language and when this is not one of the three ICOM languages, there should be an abstract in translation;
- we envisage and encourage the National Committees of ICOM to be very active partners in providing abstracts and, whenever possible, full translations into national and local languages.

**Final Note**

We request that ICOM declare an "International Awareness" day or week devoted to Cultural Property, Response and Recovery in Emergency Events.