

Minutes of the ISCARSAH meeting, Chicago, 23rd June 2007

Present: Pere Roca (Chairman), David Yeomans (Secretary), Michael Pittas, Kari Avellan, Lyne Fontaine, Claudio Modena, Wilfred Ferwerda, Yaacov Schaffer, Vitor Coias, Steve Kelly, Peter Elliott, Christiane Schmuckle, Gorun Arun, Avrahan Mosseri, Randolph Langenbach, Paul Noyce, Gina Crevello, David Look, Rachel Will, Bijan Rouhani, Derek Trelstad, Donald Friedman,

Apologies were received from:

Paulo Lourenco, Androniki Militadou, Heinrich Schroeter, Milos Drdacky, Predrag Gavrilovic, Ramiro Sofronie, Toshikazu Hanazato, Susan Balderstone, Giovanni Manieri Elia. Pali Wijeratne

- 1 The minutes of the meeting in New Delhi were approved.
- 2 There were no matters arising from these minutes.
- 3 The chairman reported on activities since the last meeting.
 - a) Pere Roca, Paulo Lorenzo and David Yeomans had attended a conference in Poland which was organized by Jerzy Jasienko. The purpose of this was to present the *Recommendations* to Polish engineers concerned with conservation issues.
 - b) Pere Roca and Paulo Lorenzo are involved in the running of an Erasmus-Mondus MSc course. This course is based on the *Recommendations*, is held in four universities (da Minho, Technical of Catalonia, Bath, Padova) and scholarships are provided for non-Europeans to attend.
 - c) Dissemination of the *Recommendations*
Pere Roca has been active in disseminating these in Spain. Steve Kelly is teaching a course at the Art Institute School of Architecture in Chicago, which is based upon the *Recommendations*. He would like to see courses opened up philosophically to encompass experiences from other continents. He is concerned that we are still too Eurocentric and cited his experience in New Delhi where the conference was largely on masonry domes and vaults, which was of little relevance to issues in the USA. Claudio supported this point.
- 4 Reports of other activities.
 - a) Peter Elliott attended the meeting of the International Stone Committee in Edinburgh
 - b) David Yeomans reported on an ICOMOS-UK initiative to set up a web-based forum of exchange. This is presently at an experimental stage but he hopes that it will be developed so that it can be a useful communication medium for the international committees.
 - c) Pere Roca will try to get his university to sponsor a web page www.iscarsah.org
 - d) Steve Kelley noted that US-ICOMOS is not the organization that takes care of technical issues in the US. That is the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) and there is a Preservation Engineers Technical Committee (PE-Tec). Steve wanted to get ISCARSAH to meet members of this committee some of who were present at the meeting. Lyne Fontaine is a member of PE-Tec and noted that it would be holding a meeting just before the Quebec Congress.

- e) Vitor Coias reported that there has been a change in the leadership of ICOMOS in Portugal which he expects will produce some new developments there. A committee has been asked to suggest possible qualifications for people to register as qualified to work on heritage projects. This would cover both professional consultants and contractors. He wondered if our committee could contribute to this.
- f) Yaccov Schaffer reported three meetings of a group in Israel interested in historic buildings. One of the issues that they have considered is the use of glass fibre reinforcement and the uncertainties associated with this. They have also considered the problem of earthquake strengthening.
- g) Michael Pittas reported on two meetings that had been held in Cyprus, one concerned with mortars.

The chairman asked that members send notes of any such initiatives either to him or to the secretary.

- 5 The chairman introduced the draft on membership rules for the new statutes, which he had prepared together with D. Yeomans based on previous discussion and the agreements reached in the last meeting in New Delhi. The chairman suggested adopting the draft as a working document. However, there was a brief discussion, the main concern being that the committee is sometimes asked to admit members whose dedication to either historic buildings or to the work of the committee may be uncertain. If these are experienced professionals the definition of Associate Member is hardly applicable to them and might even appear insulting. Steve Kelley suggested that all members be initially accepted as Associate Members but this does not fit with the general rules. The chairman proposed that all members willing to place amendments to the draft should send a message to D. Yeoman, with copy to him, with their specific proposal. A new amended version of the draft, considering the suggestions received, will be prepared for presentation (and hopefully adoption) at the next meeting in Antalya. A final draft of the new statutes should be ready for its possible adoption by ICOMOS in Quebec.
- 6 We have received an application from ICOMOS Greece on behalf of Prof Dritsos and his CV was tabled. The CV of a number of US candidate's brought by Steve Kelley were also circulated. The following agreements were reached:
 - Stephanos. Dritsos was accepted as associate member
 - Don Firedman and Patrick Sparks were made expert members
 - Derek Trelstat and Rachel Will were accepted as corresponding members
- 7 Wilfred Ferwerda reported on the survey that he had carried out among professional engineers in Southern Ontario, Canada. Copies of these results were circulated. This had proved to be a valuable way of disseminating the *Recommendations* and revealed some of their strengths

and weaknesses. Many respondents had not read the *Recommendations* so the most time consuming aspect of taking part in the survey was to read the document. He noted that their relevance was recognized but that they were under-utilized. There was some confusion among his respondents about the medical analogy used.

The chairman hoped that we might use this survey elsewhere. Lyne suggested that an email list would be a means of contacting people.

- 8 Claudio Modena reported on the guidelines in Italy for the application of seismic codes to historic structures. He believed that there were some statements in the code that required comment. The codes allow a lower safety level to be applied to monuments but there is a question of how such safety levels are to be set. If this is left to the engineer then there is a question of liability. He would like us to produce something to help the designer. One suggestion that he made was that seismic loads should be based upon the conditions of the particular site rather than taking the loads for the region. Also Partial safety factors might be determined on the level of knowledge available.

Members asked about the status of the code in Italy, which is somewhat complex. It has been accepted by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and by the Ministry of Public Works.

An English version of the code is being prepared, but meanwhile he will circulate the Italian version to members.

- 9 Lyne Fontaine reported on the current situation regarding the proposed Annex to ISO 13822. Following our agreement in Cyprus that we would work towards such an annex Heinrich Schroeter attended a meeting of the ISO committee in Berlin to present our case, This was provisionally accepted but the committee is waiting for comments from ISO members not present before a final decision is made. This is expected in a few days. Pere Roca will represent our interests on the ISO committee and there is to be a meeting in Madrid, which he will attend.

Pere would like us to have our own proposals for the annex and this is something to which all members of ISCARSAH might contribute. Lyne has begun work on this but the present gap is the issue of safety levels. Lyne noted that by adding our annex we would be tacitly agreeing to the text of the body of the ISO. Thus it is necessary that we should read this and agree that we accept its wording.

- 10 There was a discussion of the forthcoming Congress in Quebec. The intention is to make some scientific contribution to the theme *Finding the spirit of the place*. Lyne Fontaine pointed out that the word 'finding' is significant. The question to be addressed is: what are the material and immaterial carriers of the values attributable to the place? There was a general discussion on this during which it was said that the spirit is greater than the sum of the historic defining elements. Steve Kelley recalled the Nebraska State Capitol and pointed out that the spirit of that place is that people unconsciously make decisions that produce what they consider to be the right technological decisions in the repair and maintenance of their building irrespective of cost.

The chairman would like to see ideas developed towards an abstract for a paper that could be presented on behalf of ISCARSAH – although this would not preclude or be incompatible with individual contributions. He thought that ideas should be circulated among members. He proposed that members of the committee will possible proposals regarding this issue send an abstract to the secretary or chairman. Once the abstracts be received, one or more specific proposals will be proposed to the consideration of the committee and discussed via e-mail. It was reported that the Canadians are to hold a ‘rehearsal conference’. Wilfred Ferwerda will circulate the call for papers to members of the committee.

11 Future activities

Conscious of the pressures on the time of members the chairman would like to see the committee produce a document on interventions. He notes that the present books available on interventions often suggest methods that are contrary to our *Recommendations*. Contributions are invited from all members of the committee providing real examples. In the mean time, Pere will prepare and submit a possible contents proposal. Steve Kelly proposed the setting up of a building systems and materials task force in collaboration with the 20th century committee.

12 Dates and Places of future meetings.

There are opportunities for the committee members to meet in:
Antalya, Turkey, in September 2007
Bath, UK, in July 2008
Quebec, Canada, in September 2008