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# International Training Committee

ICOMOS

## Comité International pour la Formation

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CIF

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The ICOMOS International Training Committee (CIF) seeks to promote international cooperation in the field of training and education in the protection, conservation and revitalization of monuments and sites, and the built heritage in general, in order to advance greater understanding in the recognition of such heritage, technology, management, and doctrine, and to advise on the development of ICOMOS programs in this field.

The Committee shall accomplish its objectives by providing a forum for the interchange of experience, ideas, knowledge, and the results of different research between trainers and researchers, by:

- ◆ endorsing the collection and dissemination of information about existing training programs;
- ◆ Encouraging further studies and development in training and education in subjects related to heritage conservation;
- ◆ Developing scientific cooperation by creating links with schools, centres, committees and international organizations involved in conservation training and education



In Svätý Jur, training and education in crafts for conservation were mostly discussed with regard to vocational and technical training, and a need for both basic training and continued education was established. Such training should ensure that interventions can be correctly executed, and that trades persons both must be able to advice on maintenance programmes, and to read heritage values. Even if one important objective of such training was to make survive the know-how of traditional techniques, a developed training programme could reach even further. In the annex of the report it was stated that:

*“Such training should be considered as a new profession based on earlier knowledge obtained from the practice that can still be transmitted by the masters and also based on theoretical knowledge carried by superior institutions, research centres, and training centres.”*

This draws attention not only to the application, transfer and communication of knowledge and skills in the conservation process, but also to the modes of production and re-production of knowledge in areas that have been regarded as tradition based.

The CIF three-year program (2005-2008) will deal with the specific problems of training/education in crafts in relation to the general problems in conservation training.

What are the specific gaps of knowledge both within the trades, as well as in other professions about aspects of craftsmanship in the built heritage? How are we to value the need of specialist knowledge in relation to heritage and conservation, vs. the need for placing conservation in the curriculum of general vocational training on basic level? What are the needs and reach for continuous or recurrent training in crafts?

How to link specialist training to research, how to balance between theory and practice, how to translate between abstract and concrete, how to develop communication between professions and experts, are all questions applicable to the theme of this workshop. Others can be directed towards the training/education organisers: how to develop multi-disciplinary training and communication to overcome both problems and gaps in knowledge in management?

This has to do both with economy and the organisation of building activities, but also with professional boundaries and traditions in conservation. Therefore the CIF decided to organize a working conference to discuss the matter.



### Working Conference

### ***“Training and Education in Crafts for Conservation.”***

**18-21 October 2007  
in Pisa  
Italy**

The Conference aimed at offering a forum for an in depth exploration of the challenges and needs that are inherent to the traditional role and position of craftsmanship in heritage conservation. This exploration will be the basis for identifying the changes to the educational system if it is to respond effectively to these challenges and needs. The Conference addressed these issues from the various points of view and the experiences of the various regions, notably Africa, Europe, and South America; the outcome will be presented at the General Assembly in Quebec 2008.

In addition to this theme, part of the agenda was reserved for discussion about and proposals to address the resolution #34 from the General Assembly during the ICOMOS Scientific Symposium in Xi'an.

#### **34. Training of young African heritage practitioners**

*Proposed by the National Committees from Africa and the Middle-East*

Recognizing the need for building skill and capacity in the heritage management sector in Africa, and the successful existing training efforts of a number of institutions that are directed only towards heritage professionals from government institutions,

The 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, meeting in Xi'an, China in October, 2005 resolves to:

- support an initiative by African sub-regions to initiate pilot projects that aim to provide training for young African heritage practitioners who operate outside of government institutions through the offices of all the International Scientific Committees, but especially the International Training Committee (CIF).

Four sessions were presented:

1. General subject on practical training, by “International Training and Education Centres”
2. Earthen architecture conservation issues presented by Togo, Canada for Iraqi Kurdistan and possible solutions, by Lithuania, Italy for Sultanate of Oman, Mexico, and, Chili.
3. Education of Crafts as a University discipline, by Government Institutions and as part of the fieldwork
4. Youth and the Communities introduced to crafts to revive cultural identity and roots