

## **ICOMON REPORT 2013 for INC**

Christel Schollaardt reports:

2013 was a difficult year for ICOMON as many of our members suffered from cutbacks due to the financial crisis. The Geldmuseum in the Netherlands is definitely closed, while others have no money to maintain their collections.

The lack of money was also shown in the number of participants at our annual meeting, in Rio de Janeiro. Many overseas members were not able to travel to Brazil. Despite this, we had a good and fruitful meeting:

Under the XXIII. General Conference of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) in Rio de Janeiro held from 10 to 17 August 2013 the XX. Annual Meeting of the International Committee ICOMON took place with representatives of money and banking museums as well as museums in numismatic departments. The conference theme was "Museum (Memory & Creativity) = Social Change". Accordingly, the question for the committee of experts, such as money and banking museum staff and numismatists, was their contribution to the implementation of the equation " Financial Education in the Monetary Museum = Contribution for Social Change ".

In banking and money museums, the theme of the relationship of people to spending money is illustrated in an exemplary and multifaceted way. Education on money management is not only a guide to savings behavior, control expenditure, and the accumulation of money. It also includes the search for a better quality of life, giving confidence to the vision of a peaceful future and builds on the ability to deal with unforeseen events in life. Through the conscious use of money therefore a sense of social responsibility can be encouraged, something which can be given by money and banking museums in a very special way.

After the opening remarks of the President of ICOMON, Christel Schollaardt , the head of the Department "Financial Education" of the Banco Central do Brasil , Elvira Cruvinel, and Telma Ceolin , head of the Money Museum of the Banco Central do Brasil, welcomed participants. Time was then given in memory of the late Dick Doty, the first president of ICOMON, who died in June. His outstanding contribution in the field of numismatics at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and for ICOMON will be missed.

In the first session the theme of education and training was highlighted in the use of cash in the context of monetary museums. Dr. Vera Rita de Mello Ferreira spoke on the behaviour and decision-making factors of the population of Brazil in economic matters and concluded that a change can only be achieved through targeted education and training. This problem can and must be a concern of the monetary and banking museums. In Brazil, Banco do Brasil is a pioneer in such projects.

Next Jun Yang and Wei Huang reported on the composition and casting technology in the production of silver bullion in ancient China, the so-called Sycee which served as means of payment in the period 618–1933. Jijie Wang presented an analysis on the cause of corrosion damage by environmental influences on issued coins and presented proposals on how this can be avoided. Questions and Answers on the preservation of numismatic objects were also the topic of a panel discussion.

The second topic was the exchange of experiences in the practical training in dealing with money and means within the framework of basic education in the school. Mieka Harris, responsible for training programmes in the City Money Gallery at the British Museum in London, reported on new educational programmes. Hasti A. Dwiputranti also presented the training programme of the Museum Bank Indonesia in Jakarta. An impressive presentation was given by Dr. Asma Ibrahim, who over 20 years has established a comprehensive cultural centre in the building of the former Imperial Bank of India on behalf of the State Bank of Pakistan, where today a daily average of 200 students visit and a collection of coins and other cultural assets of Pakistan is displayed.

The following sessions were devoted to projects for education and training in the use of cash. The theme of the final session was monetary museums in Latin America.

During the General Assembly, Board elections took place: President Christel Schollaardt , Vice President Walter Bloom and the secretary Eleni Zapiti were confirmed for a further term of three years. After completing six years, Roswitha Denk resigned as Quaestor and in her place Effrosyni Nomikou was newly elected to the Board. The other members of the Management Board (Outi Jaarvinen, Jennifer Adam, Marie-Alix Roesle, Parissa Andami, Weirong Zhou, Telma Cristina Soares Ceolin and Walter Bloom) were confirmed for three more years. The Assembly elected George Kakavas from Greece, Chaaban Adberrahim from Morocco and Karen Lee of Washington as new members of the Board.

Next Annual Meeting: July 1–4 2014, Belgrade, Serbia. Our host will be the National Bank of Serbia. The theme will be: Money and Banking Museums: raising heritage and financial education awareness.

For the first time there will be a workshop, on setting up numismatic exhibitions, and a joint international exhibition on national coins and banknotes.