ICOM Kyoto 2019 General Conference: Launch of the Steering Committee

The first meeting of Steering Committee was held at the Kyoto National Museum on 18th April 2017. Formed under the directive of ICOM Kyoto 2019 Organizing Committee to lead practical preparations for the General Conference (GC), it is comprised of 47 members, representing heads of each of ICOM’s International Committees, as well as representatives from local business, government, and museums in Kyoto.

Discussions touched upon a range of topics, such as the organizational structure of the committee, and future plans for the GC. From here on, members of this committee will attend various ICOM conferences and meetings required for ICOM Kyoto 2019. In addition, they will be subdivided into specialized focus groups with responsibility for planning and implementing more specific works required for the conference.

Comment:
Chair of ICOM Kyoto 2019 Steering Committee
Yuji KURIHARA

Since this April, our Steering Committee, a group of museum professionals, researchers and cultural administration officers, has begun preparations for ICOM Kyoto 2019. On behalf of the committee, I would like to extend a warm invitation for you to visit Kyoto in 2019.
The ICOM 2017 International Museum Day (IMD) Symposium was attended by roughly 200 participants. A keynote address by President Aksoy provided an overview of ICOM and its influence on global affairs; with presentations on previous General Conferences (GC) by Vice-President Garlandini, and Executive Board Member, Ms. Chang; and an update on preparations for ICOM 2019 by Chair of the Steering Committee, Mr. Kurihara. These presentations highlighted the importance of ICOM and the GC, whilst encouraging participation in Kyoto 2019.

Finally, to explore the IMD theme, "Museums and Contested Histories" Prof. Yoshida, Prof. Kurushima, and Prof. Higashi, along with ICOM delegates, led an animated discussion to consider the challenges of representing difficult histories in museums.

**ICOM Visits to Prospective venues: 5/18-22**

During their staying in Kyoto, ICOM delegates visited venues for the main conference and offsite meetings, including several cultural facilities.
Prior to the International Museum Day Symposium, a workshop was held by ICOM Kyoto 2019 Steering Committee. Firstly, ICOM delegates, including President Suay Aksoy, gave short presentations about past ICOM General Conferences based on their individual experiences, and the perspective of the HQ Secretariats in their host country. These case studies provided important guidance for committee members involved in the preparations for the Kyoto GC.

In the second half, members divided into 4 groups to discuss, “Let’s Simulate Joint sessions!” with the aim of facilitating dialogue between different committees, such as joint sessions across International Committees, or International Committees with other organizations and communities. During this session, ICOM Executive members dropped into each groups’ discussions to provide feedback and advice. After the workshop, ICOM Executives and Steering Committee members attended a friendly event to exchange valuable information and experiences with each other. Through this workshop, members gained a deeper awareness about key issues and challenges to be discussed at the 2019 GC.

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### Selection of the PCO

After a rigorous selection process, ICOM together with ICOM Japan chose Congress Corporation as the Professional Congress Organiser (PCO) for 2019 ICOM Kyoto GC. This Japan based company was appointed to organize many international conferences such as G7 Ise-Shima Summit 2016. Their first task for 2019 ICOM Kyoto GC is the development of our official website.
Kyoto Information

#1. Unique Guide to KYOTO

Kyoto is a city open to foreign visitors. There are many resources to help visitors have an enjoyable time during their stay. One of them is the Kind & Lovely-Guide. The following infographics are from a website, “Tripgraphics” produced by Trip Advisor. Using cheerful illustrations, it encourages visitors to learn about Japanese culture in a fun way.

The insiders’ guide to KYOTO
http://tg.tripadvisor.jp/kyototourism/

VENUE Introduction

#1. Kyoto International Conference Center (ICOM Kyoto 2019 Main Venue)

Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto) has;

1. **Great location and surroundings**: easy access to metro which connects to Kyoto station - City center - ICC Kyoto; rich natural environment surrounded by mountains.

2. **Comprehensive facilities**: attractive architectural design, beautiful Japanese garden; ample lobby space, various halls & rooms, high quality sound & screen equipment.

3. **Staff services**: around 50 years of experience in coordinating international conferences.

Moreover a new hall will be opened in October 2018.

ICC Kyoto HP
http://www.icckyoto.or.jp/en/

New Brochure! for ICOM Kyoto 2019

The 2nd version is shaped like a traditional Japanese folding screen, with the back side displaying an image of "The Gion Festival Screen", which you can view by standing the brochure up. From the beginning of June, we will distribute the latest versions at the ICOM annual meetings in Paris.

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