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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Year ended 31 December 2011**

#### **1. Membership**

Membership increased by about 10 % during 2011. As of 31 December 2011 membership of the IPHC consisted of:

##### Expert Members

An expert member is; “a person with an active professional involvement and/or relevant practical experience in the protection and conservation of heritage sites in Arctic and/or Antarctic regions, who is interested in the work of the IPHC and be able to assist the IPHC to achieve any of its objectives”.

We have a total of 26 Expert Members :

Norway (2), Australia (5), Argentina (2), Brazil (1), Canada (1), Chile (1), France (2), Germany (1), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (4), Russia (1), Sweden (1), United Kingdom (1), USA (1).

This is considered within ICOMOS to be a good increase for one of the International Scientific Committees with a more specific focus.

The outreach of the committee is increased by the efforts of individual members to create networks of polar heritage expertise within their own country.

##### Associate Members

Associates are “persons with relevant skills and expertise who are recommended to the Executive of the IPHC by an Expert member as being a person interested in the work of the IPHC and able to assist the IPHC to achieve any of its objectives”

We have a total of 6 Associate Members:

Australia (2), Russia (1), Sweden (1), USA (2)

In addition the IPHC has a number of “General Associates”, who are not formal members but have an interest in the activities of the committee and are able to contribute to various aspects of the committee’s work.

#### **2. Meetings**

The formal meeting of the IPHC was held on 30 November in conjunction with the ICOMOS General Assembly in Paris. The elections this time produced a new result since the President and Secretary General had by now been in office for the maximum time of 3 x 3 years. Julian Bickersteth, Australia was elected new President and Nigel Watson, New Zealand new Secretary General. To keep the continuity and the Arctic balance, Susan Barr was elected Vice President, a new position for the IPHC,

but one that is recommended in the ICOMOS statutes. Seven members attended the committee meeting, but the election had also been thoroughly announced by email in advance. The formal takeover of the new Executive will take place in Hobart in March in connection with the IPHC conference (see below).

In addition there has been an active exchange throughout the year with many members on various aspects of the committee's work.

IPHC President Susan Barr has also represented the interests of the IPHC at other meetings and forums. These were:

The ICOMOS Scientific Council and Advisory Committee meetings and General Assembly in Paris 26 November – 2 December. The IPHC continues to receive compliments for its work from both past and present ICOMOS Presidents and other members of the Executive.

The President held the keynote speech on behalf of the IPHC at a South Georgia conference in Dundee 7-9 September. The title was *Polar Heritage – Neglected child becomes international talking point*. Many attendees were particularly interested in the information that it is accepted policy in Norwegian polar heritage management that a certain number of heritage sites are allowed to decay naturally to ruins.

The Secretary General also attended the ICOMOS General Assembly in Paris 28 November – 2 December and several IPHC members held presentations during the Scientific Council's seminar.

The President also meets as a member of the ICOMOS-Norway Advisory Council.

In addition, individual members also attend other international meetings related to various aspects of polar heritage protection.

### **3. Finances**

The IPHC Secretariat is supported financially by a grant on a year-to-year application basis from the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage (Riksantikvaren). These funds are managed by ICOMOS Norway and the Directorate. Financial accounts for the use of these funds are produced separately.

The completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IPHC publication, as well as attendance in Paris have depleted the secretariat funds to a level that makes further work totally dependent on the possibility to continue to receive funding from the Directorate (see 2011 accounts and 2012 budget).

### **4. Activities and achievements**

In addition to the meetings mentioned above, our main activity this year has been the completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IPHC publication – *Polar human settlements: territory, technology and heritage* – based on the presentations held at the successful international conference in Punta Arenas, Chile in 2010. We are proud to state that, in keeping with the Spanish-language context of the conference, the publication also includes Spanish summaries.

ICOMOS Chile reports that the IPHC conference in Punta Arenas held together with ICOMOS Chile has resulted in increased interest in ICOMOS in Chile, also amongst influential authorities. It enabled the President of ICOMOS Chile to stand for election as a member of the ICOMOS Executive Committee. Unfortunately he lost the election by only two votes.

Distribution of our previous publications *Cultural Heritage in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions* and *Historical Polar Bases – Preservation and Protection* has continued. These have proved to be very useful in promoting principles of polar heritage protection and the work of the IPHC.

The IPHC President proposed in 2008 (cf the Annual Report for 2008) a project for designating Arctic heritage sites of exceptional international significance which should receive extra international attention and protection. In order to give the project more impact and acceptance among the Arctic countries' authorities and the indigenous populations, we were asked to incorporate it as an Arctic Council approved project. The project got off to a good start in the last quarter of 2010. Three IPHC members are directly involved in the project's expert group (Norway, Canada and Russia) together with other Arctic heritage professionals. The group was asked to take on an additional Arctic Council project, concerning the effects of increased shipping in the Arctic on cultural heritage and communities (AMSA II project). Our contribution was completed in February 2011. The original project continues and will hopefully be presented to the Arctic Council in early 2013. In 2011 the group confirmed the proposal for Statement of Best Practice and the principles for site nominations. Communication with local communities who may have a site proposed was initiated and a start was made on suggestions for the list of sites. An expert group meeting was held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC 20-21 October.

Finally work began on the arrangements for the next IPHC conference – *Conservation challenges, solutions & collaboration opportunities in uncontrolled environments* – to be held in Hobart, Tasmania 9-11 March 2012. Attendance at our conferences increases each time, and this conference is also expected to attract a record number of attendees.

Individual members are active with a wide variety of polar conservation projects and publications in the course of their professional work.

Two IPHC members were presented with national awards for their work:

Cornelia Lüdecke, Germany, was awarded the Reinhard Süring Medal by the German Meteorological Society for her "long-time dedicated activities in research and teaching in the field of history of natural sciences (especially of meteorology) and the successful organisation of numerous national and international symposia".

Louwrens Hacquebord, Netherlands, was appointed Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau for his long service to the polar research and activity of the Netherlands.

### **Cooperation and consultation with external agencies**

After earlier submissions to both the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the Committee for Environmental Protection in Antarctica (CEP), the IPHC continues in its role as a non-partisan expert group that may be used for consulting and advice concerning polar cultural heritage.

ICOMOS and TICCIH, the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, have increased their cooperation by mutually accepting an ICOMOS-TICCIH Doctrinal Text for the protection of industrial heritage. The IPHC has previously initiated a formal connection between the IPHC and a newly formed (2009) Polar Industrial Heritage group within TICCIH and we hope for increasing contact in the future. Our aim is to encourage separate groups who wish to work towards similar aims for the benefit of cultural heritage in the Arctic and/or Antarctic, to support common networks and joint exchanges and to work together as far as possible.

The IPHC continues to consult closely with the Antarctic Heritage Trust (AHT) in New Zealand and cooperates with preparations for conservation work at the historic Norwegian hut site of Carsten Borchgrevink's wintering at Cape Adare. This work bore fruit at the end of 2011 when Prime Minister Stoltenberg announced that Norway would be giving 4 million kroner towards the restoration of these huts.

In addition the IPHC secretariat has established an informal association with several institutions with an interest polar heritage protection. These include:

- Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge UK
- Norwegian Polar Institute
- Antarctica New Zealand
- Barrow Arctic Science Consortium
- Universities of Minnesota (USA) and Waikato (New Zealand)

### **Website**

The IPHC website ([www.polarheritage.com](http://www.polarheritage.com)) continues to be a useful resource for practitioners working in the field of polar heritage protection. It also provides a means of communication and cooperation between individuals and organisations with similar aims and objectives. The level of use of the site continues to increase.

### **Future activities**

The main focus of activity for 2012 will be the conference in Hobart and the development of the new secretariat. The Arctic Council project will also be continued.

Executive – IPHC



Susan Barr – President



Paul Chaplin - Secretary General

3 January 2012