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ANNUAL REPORT

Year ended 31 December 2010

1. Membership

Membership increased by about 10% during 2010. As of 31 December 2010 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 23 Expert Members :

Norway (2), Australia (5), Argentina (2), Brazil (1), Canada (1), Chile (1), France (1), 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

A formal meeting of the IPHC was held in conjunction with our conference in Punta Arenas, Chile. In addition there has been an active exchange 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:

ICOMOS Scientific Council and Advisory Committee meetings in Dublin 26-31 October.

The large (c. 2300 attendees) International Polar Year conference in Lillestrøm, near Oslo. Susan was a member of the Steering Committee for the conference and the interaction with so many polar scientists, managers and others – including some IPHC members – gave a good opportunity to promote IPHC's special interests and opinions.

The 1st Latin American Meeting of Polar Archaeology and Anthropology, Belo Horizonte/Brazil, 4-6 August. The meeting was attended by, amongst others, the South American and Australian IPHC members and demonstrated the cooperation that members are eager to achieve across national borders.

When returning from the conference in Chile, the President and the Secretary General Paul Chaplin met with the Antarctic Heritage Trust in Christchurch, New Zealand to discuss matters related to the IPHC and cultural heritage activities in the Antarctic.

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.

It should be noted however that while the current financial status of the IPHC appears strong, in the 2010 annual accounts we are already committed to significant expenditure to complete our 3rd publication which is now in production. (See 2011 budget).

4. Activities

Our main activity this year has been the successful international conference held in Punta Arenas, Chile 22-25 April. The theme was: *"Polar human settlements: territory, technology and heritage"*.

We were greatly assisted in this by the President of ICOMOS Chile, José de Nordenflycht and our Chilean representative, Rubén Stehberg who were able to engage the support of Universidad de Magallanes (The University of Magallanes) in Punta Arenas, and the University's Antarctic Programme. The Instituto Antártico Chileno, The Antarctic Institute of Chile was also involved.

The Eyjafjallajökull eruption which caused major disruption to air travel in Western Europe the week before raised doubts about attendance, but determined participants found a variety of creative travel alternatives. The conference was the IPHC's largest to date and was attended by many students from the University.

We were specially honoured that ICOMOS President Gustavo Araoz accepted the invitation to attend.

Follow-up to the conference will include the publication of illustrated versions of the presentations made at the conference. This will be supplemented by some additional relevant material. In keeping with the Spanish-language context of the conference, the publication will also include Spanish summaries. Publication was started in late 2010 and will be completed early in 2011.

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. This necessarily slowed down the progress as many separate interest groups wished to have their say, but the project got off to a good start in the last quarter of 2010. Four IPHC members are directly involved in the project’s expert group (Norway, Canada, Russia, The Netherlands) 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). This has a deadline of February 2011, while the original project will continue into 2012.

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

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, increased their cooperation by mutually accepting an ICOMOS-TICCIH Doctrinal Text for the protection of industrial heritage during the Advisory Committee meeting in Dublin. 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.

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

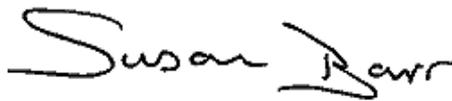
The IPHC website (www.polarheritage.com) continues to be a useful resource for practitioners working in the field of polar heritage protection. It also provides a means of communication and cooperation between individuals and organisations with similar aims and objectives. The level of use of the site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

Future activities

The main focus of activity for 2011 will be the completion of the publication based on our conference in Chile. The Arctic Council project will also be continued.

In addition we will be preparing for the ICOMOS International General Assembly to be held in Paris at the end of November. The formal IPHC meeting to be held at this time will be a milestone meeting as the requirements of the statutes require that both the President and Secretary General stand down from their roles. To ensure continuity, a succession plan, has been established and approved. The meeting is expected to elect an Australian President with a Secretary General and Secretariat based in New Zealand. It is also likely that current President, Susan Barr will be appointed as Vice President for a term of three years in order to keep the balance between Arctic and Antarctic experience.

Executive – IPHC

Handwritten signature of Susan Barr in black ink.

Susan Barr – President

Handwritten signature of Paul Chaplin in black ink.

Paul Chaplin - Secretary General

22 December 2010