

Minutes of the Virtual Annual General Conference of AVICOM 2020

Thursday, July 22, 2020, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (CET)

Participants

Michael H. Faber, Bruno de Sa Moreira, Agnes Abastado, Eszter Aczél, Ayça Bayrak Uluğ, Bob Haroutunian, Bulent Bankaci, John Cheeseman, Karina Durand, Ildikó Fejes, Charlotte Clergeau, Ieva Andzane, Aleš Kapsa, Alexander Lawrov, Anna Maria Marras, Marta Peinador, Taisiia Poda

Agenda

- 1) Welcome by Dr. Michael H. Faber, President of AVICOM – Developments in the International Council of Museums
- 2) Development of AVICOM, its membership structure and number of members
- 3) Financial report (Period from 1 September 2019 to 21 June 2020)
- 4) Reports of AVICOM activities and projects
- 5) AVICOM in the media
- 6) Faimp Festival 2020 – 2021
- 7) Others

Item 1) Welcome by Dr. Michael H. Faber

We are holding this year's AVICOM General Assembly online for the first time in the almost thirty year history of our committee, because of the COVID-Pandemic.

Developments in the International Council of Museums

As you have probably already heard from the reports of international or national committees, from the ICOM website or from the public media, a number of ICOM officials have resigned.

Above all, ICOM President **Suay Aksoy**, but also a few members of the Executive Board. The withdrawals have not been justified for a long time by the persons concerned towards the ICOM committees and their members, so that there was a great irritation among the members. It can be deduced from the statements that there have recently been considerable disagreements within the Executive Board regarding internal cooperation, communication, the way in which decisions are made, but also the way in which communication and cooperation with the National and International Committees takes place.

We hope that the new president **Alberto Garlandini** will successfully guide ICOM to the actual tasks.

Bob Haroutunian: you can find detailed information on the ICOM website.

Item 2) Development of AVICOM, its membership structure and number of members

Since its founding in 1991, AVICOM has developed into an international committee.

As of July 21, 2020, AVICOM had a total of 374 members, including 356 individual members and 18 institutional members. This year AVICOM welcomed 8 new individual members.

The numbers are taken from the lists of members that ICOM makes available online to the chairs and secretaries-general of the committees. Only those whose membership fee has arrived in Paris are registered in the list. In addition, data maintenance in Paris is very inaccurate and also delayed. This leads to a further delay in updating the member lists. AVICOM has made Paris aware of this problem several times.

Bob: A problem is in some cases the duplication of the registration.

The new entrants – it is young colleagues who are interested in AVICOM. They also hope that AVICOM will provide them with valuable information and support for their studies or their professional life. The newcomers show a great willingness to work creatively in AVICOM. Examples are Marta P. from Spain, who takes care of our Facebook presentation intensively, and Melissa A. from Costa Rica, who has taken over the layout of our Kyoto conference proceedings. However, we should also make it easier for selected young members to take part in our events after having applied for it through financial support. For this, ICOM provides the committees with appropriate grants that we should use.

Agnes: It is very important to recruit new members on Facebook.

Marta: The platform should be expanded – social media, FB, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn.

Item 3) Financial report

Ildikó Fejes, our Treasurer, has prepared the financial report referring the period 1 September 2019, date of election of the new AVICOM Board, to 21 June 2020. We have now a balance of roudabout 12.938,00 EUR. This is a very good financial situation.

Item 4) Reports on AVICOM activities and projects

Since installing the new board in Kyoto in September 2019, AVICOM has had some very nice activities. Some of our members took part in the international conference "Revolution. Velvet x Digital. 30 years of Digital and Social media in Museums" in Bratislava on November 6 and 7, 2019, which was organized by ICOM Slowensko in cooperation with ICOM Cesko and ICOM Austria and other partners took place. In this conference, our former President Janos Tari presented a report on "Visual trends in ther Award-Winning Museum Projects of AVICOM". Michael Faber gave a well-attended and discussion-giving lecture on "No Future without Instawalk and Virtual Reality?"

Our **Kyoto papers book** is published. Many thanks to Melissa for her work and to all who have sent their full papers for publication. This book was produced very cheep. It is a book on demand, published by the German but also international workin company „Book on demand“ where you can order a copy of the print version but also an e-book-version.

The ISBN: 9783751904506

One goal for the current term of our office is the stronger networking and cooperation of AVICOM with national and international committees (contacts with ICOM Albania in February 2020 during a meeting with the director of the wonderful Marubi National Museum of Photography in Shkoder, Albania, meeting with the main curator of the State Museum of Natural History in Karlsruhe, cooperation with natural history museums and especially with museums in Latin America; contact the International Committee for Museum Education and Cultural Action CECA).

„Middle-digital earth: Museums between digital and emergency. Data, stories and impact“ was the theme of an International online conference from June 29 to July 1, which was organized by the Dipartimento di Studi Storici of the University of Torino in cooperation with ICOM Italy and AVICOM. Anna Maria was the chief organizer. Anna makes report and sends it to the website of AVICOM.

With her registration to our Assembly, Denise proposed for the agenda as a topic: „The digital museum in time of the corona virus. Potential and changes“. We had already discussed in our board meeting whether AVICOM should address this topic, for example with empirical research. The opinion was: yes! But the fact that the museums affected by Corona currently do not have time to answer questionnaires. Perhaps it would be a task of AVICOM to evaluate all of these surveys at a later point in time, on a meta-level - with a view to the question of how Corona changed the use of media by museums. Bülent is already on board regarding an AVICOM survey and is thinking about questions and methodology.

Item 5) AVICOM and its media, AVICOM in the media

With beginning of the work of our new Board in September, we have completely relaunched our website. The new website, with the new address **avicom.mini.icom.museum** shows a completely new structure, easier to handle, and a new attractive design. The new website offers inbetween a lot of news, reports, announcements of events and contributions to different topics. For the first time, the website offers an English and French version as well as a Spanish version. Grateful thanks to Anna Maria, Karina and Agnes for checking the versions.

You can use the old website address further on.

In addition, AVICOM continues to maintain its Faimp Festival website: **faimpavicom.org**. Thankfully, Ildikó, in cooperation with the Hungarian National Museum.

Thanks to the initiative of Anna Maria, Agnes and Marta, we have an incredible presence on Facebook. New posts appear almost daily on facebook @ icomavicom. Large museums, other museum associations and cultural institutions are also using our Facebook site more and more to post news. We are also present on Instagram, but still modest. (Instagram @ avicom). Our presence on Twitter has not been updated since 2017: twitter @ avicom.

After a long break, the first edition of our completely redesigned electronic newsletter was published in May. Grateful thank to Olga, who had maintained the AVICOM newsletter in previous years. The first edition of AVICOMNEWS was sent to 236 addresses. The opening was over 50%. New subscribers keep registering on our website.

Item 6) Faimp festival 2020 and 2021

General assembly and conference of AVICOM 2020 was planned as part of our international media Festival Faimp, which was to take place in mid-October at the Airborne Museum in Normandy. The festival has to be postponed due to the covid-19 pandemic.

We had in our online Board meeting some weeks before, an extensive discussion about the Festival 2020. Finally we decided unanimously: Merging the festivals 2020 and 2021 into one festival and holding this festival in autumn, if possible in early October, 2021. The Airborne

Museum has signalized to host the postponed festival as combination of festival 2020 and 2021. Meanwhile, we have extended the deadline of submission of contributions for 2020 to end of September 2020*). The jury will then meet and select the winners.

Item 7) Others

Subsidy for the Festival „Best in Heritage“.

Thank for the participation and contributions, closing the Annual Meeting.

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Keeper of the minutes: Eszter Aczél, AVICOM General Secretary

Approved: Michael H. Faber, 01.10.2020

*) Meanwhile extended to October 31,2020 (01.10.2020)