

FOREWORD

This publication contains the minutes of the International Scientific Symposium held in Madrid on December 3-4, 2002, as part of the ICOMOS 13th General Assembly.

Under the general motto of the Assembly, the symposium was divided into six thematic sections:

Section 1. **Documentation**

Recording and documenting the world's cultural heritage. Listing cultural properties to be protected. New categories of heritage, such as 20th century heritage and cultural routes. Modern documentation techniques.

Section 2. **Protection**

Legislation and ethics for the protection of monuments and sites. International conventions and recommendations.

Section 3. **Conservation**

Principles and practices of conservation. From the Venice Charter to the World Heritage Convention. The Nara Document on authenticity and the ICOMOS charters in the present global context. Management plans. The practice of restoration of works of art and movable objects as integral part of historic buildings. Economics of conservation. Financing conservation programs. Preservation as sustainable development.

Section 4. **Monitoring**

Periodic reporting and reactive monitoring. General methodology. Specific types of heritage: monuments, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, historic towns... Preventive conservation. Risk preparedness.

Section 5. **Training**

Conservation research and science. Capacity building. Co-operation with higher education.

Section 6. **Public awareness**

The social role of the community. Education. The ICOMOS World Report on Monuments and Sites in danger (Heritage at Risk). Cultural Tourism.

The papers presented offer a panoramic view of the different approaches to heritage conservation in different parts of the world and the achievements and

advances as well as the deficiencies and imperfections existing in all countries and in all fields. But, above all, their fundamental value lies in showing that cultural heritage and its conservation are not the exclusive showing that cultural heritage and its conservation are not the exclusive showing that cultural heritage and its conservation are not the exclusive showing that cultural heritage and its conservation are not the exclusive responsibility of certain social classes, groups or professions, but a multidisciplinary issue that requires the joint effort of the whole of society: political leaders, professionals from a wide range of disciplines and citizens aware of the values contained in their historical and cultural identity. Because of this, all the themes covered in this symposium and all branches of knowledge involved in their study –whether they are basic or applied sciences or disciplines having a humanistic, philosophical or social content– are equally important for conservation.

As it is known by all, our globalised world has serious problems that affect a large part of humanity: natural disasters, wars, discrimination, malnutrition, unhealthy conditions, lack of resources for access to education, etc. In the face of such problems, culture and its diverse manifestations appears to be of secondary importance. It could thus appear from a superficial point of view that the persons gathered here in this ICOMOS Assembly and Scientific Symposium are not reflecting on the vital problems currently faced by humanity. However, to oppose those who consider that the spiritual and material values represented by cultural goods are not fundamental for human beings or those who mistakenly believe that development requires a drastic change in existing conditions, our institution faces the challenge of strengthening and disseminating its postulates and demonstrating that culture and hence cultural heritage is a vital element for development.

The communications fostered by globalisation also help us to understand that cultural goods are not just isolated manifestations, but rather part of a much wider and complex fabric in which mutual cultural influences have

left their mark on the cultural heritage of the different peoples of the world. Clear proof of this dynamic reality and its wide-ranging manifestations can be found in cultural routes, in which all conceptual categories are represented, from the simplest one of a monument to the most complex one of a cultural landscape.

The enormous task of organizing a world Assembly in a period of practically only six months (instead of the usual six years) has been a difficult but also an enriching experience for the Spanish Committee of ICOMOS. We hope that the fruits of our efforts, one of which is this book, will achieve the ideals that have inspired us, i.e. is, to strengthen the

principles of democracy, equal participation, respect for all cultures and not only technical and scientific capacity but also the humanistic capacity and capacity for reflection of our institution. In short, we hope that all this work will have served and will continue to serve not only for the 13th ICOMOS General Assembly of ICOMOS to be remembered by those who attended it as an agreeable and intellectually enriching event, but also as a useful milestone in bringing closer the peoples and cultures represented by the delegates who have met here in Madrid. And, above all, as a milestone in building an ever better and more useful ICOMOS for humanity.

María Rosa Suárez-Inclán Ducassi
President of ICOMOS Spain