

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ICOMOS CHINA

Distinguished ICOMOS members,

The city of Xi'an, China, has been selected as the venue for the 15th General Assembly of ICOMOS, taking place from 17 to 21 October 2005. On behalf of the Chinese National Committee of ICOMOS, I would like to extend my warm and sincere invitation to you all to attend this grand gathering of the ICOMOS family to be held for the first time in China.

The numerous well-preserved monuments and sites that can be found all over China are not only a splendid cultural heritage belonging to the Chinese people, but also an important component in the historical development of human civilizations around the world. For this reason great importance has always been attached to the protection of cultural heritage in China and learning from useful experiences made in foreign countries in the field of heritage conservation has also been highly valued.

We sincerely hope that the 15th General Assembly will provide a privileged opportunity not only to further deepen cultural exchanges and co-operation but also to achieve a better understanding and to raise world-wide awareness on the crucial importance of a balanced relationship between the protection of historic monuments and sites and the improvement in the living conditions and environment of humans, thus making our due contribution to achieving the aims of ICOMOS.

I am looking forward to meeting all the ICOMOS family members in our ancient Chinese city of Xi'an.

ZHANG Bai
President of ICOMOS China