Message from the President

05.12.2019

The International Committee for Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) has a long history of commitment to World Heritage preservation and management. ICAHM has served ICOMOS and the World Heritage Committee since 1990 by providing advice, consultation, and by monitoring conditions of inscribed archaeological sites on the World Heritage List. Our annual and occasional meetings have become important gatherings for dialogue on conservation and preservation issues regarding archaeological sites, and have contributed significant doctrines for archaeological heritage management such as the Salalah Guidelines for the Management of Public Archaeological Sites that was adopted as a Doctrinal Text by the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly, New Delhi, India, 15 December 2017.

Previous international venues for our annual meetings have included Jishou in southwestern China, Salalah in Oman, Bagamoyo in coastal Tanzania, at the village of Montalbano Elicona in central Sicily, and, upcoming, in Arica in northern Chile. These meetings give members exposure to archaeological heritage landscapes around the world and give the host venues collaboration with our global network of preservationist specialists and archaeologists. In 2020 we anticipate co-meeting with the Sydney ICOMOS General Assembly, and each year will host membership meetings at the annual General Assembly.

ICAHM has been aggressive in supporting ICOMOS initiatives including Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Emerging Professionals, the Africa Initiative, and the Nature-Culture dialogue and appoints members as representatives to these ICOMOS working groups. ICAHM also encourages cross-membership and dialogue with other scientific committees and with ICCROM among other UNESCO organizations dedicated to heritage preservation.

Membership provides access to a knowledgeable community of preservationists and also opportunities to provide input through desk audits and site visits for current nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List. Each year the president receives notices of interest from the World Heritage Committee and makes recommendations to the WHC for members with expert knowledge about the specific nominations. In addition requests from groups come to the President for expert advice regarding the World Monuments Watchlist and institutions such as
the World Bank as well as requests for expertise by prospective and already inscribed World Heritage properties.

Please contact us personally and visit us at an ICAHM or ICOMOS meeting. We also collaborate with the European Archaeology Association, the Society of American Archaeology, the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association, and the World Archaeological Congress among other organizations through their activities as well as sessions and membership meetings, and welcome all to join us in this global preservation network.

John A. Peterson, President