

# **Newsletter of the International Network for Cultural Diversity**

## **Vol. 1 - 7**

### **INCD Conference and Founding Meeting**

Seventy delegates from 20 countries met on the beautiful Greek Island of Santorini in late September to examine how economic integration, globalization and the trade agreements are restricting cultural diversity and to explore what the world's cultural community can do in response. The delegates discussed the theme from many angles - the perspective of the individual artist, audiences and the heritage community - the particular challenges of aboriginal communities - culture and sustainable development. The delegates included individual artists and producers; representatives of heritage institutions, trade associations and unions; academics and journalists; and others with an interest in the issues.

The structure of the Conference format and the timing constraints inhibited a thorough tactical and strategic discussion. However, there was clear agreement to the launch of an international network that would bring together non-governmental organizations and individual artists concerned about promoting cultural diversity. There was also consensus that the most appropriate way to preserve the ability of states to implement policies promoting cultural diversity is through the development of a new international instrument on cultural diversity. The delegates directed the INCD to work with others on the proposed new international instrument.

The final session of the two-day meeting was devoted to the launch of the International Network for Cultural Diversity. The network will have a formal membership structure, with a modest fee to permit basic communication and maintenance of the Website. The Steering Committee will examine ways in which additional resources can be obtained to allow the INCD to monitor developments internationally and to advocate the agreed positions.

Ministers of Culture from 23 nations met in their fourth annual gathering at the same site beginning the following day. A formal statement from the Conference and the INCD was presented to the Ministers by a delegation from the NGO meeting, comprised of Christos Lazos, from the National Book Centre of Greece, one of the meeting co-hosts, Japan Mthembu, General Secretary of South Africa's Performing Arts Workers Equity and Megan Williams, from the Canadian Conference of the Arts, another of the meeting co-hosts.

A copy of the Founding Statement of the INCD delivered to the Ministers by this delegation is attached. Also attached is a report from Mireille Gagné on the meeting of experts convened by UNESCO in Paris just prior to the meeting of the INCD.

We anticipate that participants in the Santorini conference will be posting reflections in the Agenda Greece 2000 section of our website (<http://www.incd.net/forum>), and encourage everyone to participate in any ensuing electronic discussions. For more information on the web site, please contact [annarr@bydesign-elab.net](mailto:annarr@bydesign-elab.net).

## **Next INCD Meeting**

It has been agreed that, at least for the time being, the meetings of the INCD will take place concurrently with the meetings of the culture ministers. This provides a focus for the sessions and an opportunity for the NGOs to work with a key group of government officials who are generally moving in the same direction.

This means that the date and place of the next meeting are already set - September 21-23, 2001 in Lucerne Switzerland. Representatives of the INCD held productive meetings with officials from the Swiss Federal Office of Culture during the Santorini meetings. Agreement has been reached that the Federal Office of Culture will assist the INCD by providing a meeting facility and translation services for the meeting. The Office has also provisionally booked sufficient hotel rooms in the city for the NGO meeting.

There was also discussion about finding ways in the Swiss meeting to facilitate the dialogue between the ministers and the NGOs. In Santorini, the ministers received the statement from the INCD, but there was no opportunity to discuss it with them in the formal meeting. The Federal Office of Culture and the INCD have agreed to encourage a direct and formal dialogue at the 2001 meeting in Lucerne.

There has already been useful feedback from some Santorini delegates about the agenda for the Swiss meeting of the INCD. Next year's meeting must be tactical and strategic, it cannot be an academic survey of issues. We must also use our presence in the home country of the WTO and many other significant agencies to advocate our positions to them. We should examine questions such as:

- How do we move the idea of the new instrument forward?
- How do we influence the WTO and the other intergovernmental agencies?
- What should be the role of UNESCO in the emerging developments?
- How do we best organize ourselves?
- What relationship should we establish with other citizens' movements?

For cultural NGOs struggling to survive and carry on their daily activities, September 2001 is far in the distance. And the INCD is not going to be an organization that exists merely to meet. However, as Garry Neil from the INCD secretariat will be in Switzerland later this year, some preliminary planning for the 2001 meeting will need to be undertaken in the next few weeks.

As always, your thoughts and ideas are critical to the process. Whether or not you were able to join us in Santorini or will be able to travel to Lucerne, let us know what issues should be on the agenda and who should be invited to the meeting. Please mail to [Janet\\_Creery@mail.culturenet.ca](mailto:Janet_Creery@mail.culturenet.ca) (Janet Creery)

## **Newsletter**

Now that the Santorini launch is behind us, we can turn our attention to upcoming activities. A key to action on an international level is communication. Important information will be posted on the Website and the secretariat will publish a monthly electronic Newsletter. But we need your input for these to be effective. Be sure to send us information about events in your area, let us know what your government is saying about the cultural dimension of trade and the new instrument. Also, let us know what information you need in the Newsletter. We intend to organize the Newsletter on a thematic basis, so send us your ideas for the themes we should cover in the new few months, and about individuals who might contribute to the publication. Once again, please mail to [Janet\\_Creery@mail.culturenet.ca](mailto:Janet_Creery@mail.culturenet.ca) (Janet Creery)

## **WTO's Agenda on Trade in Services Moves Forward**

The WTO agenda continues to move forward in secret. Over the next three months, there are important meetings discussing intellectual property (the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property - TRIPS - Agreement) and trade in services, continuing a process launched early this year. However, there is no public information about what is being discussed and there is no public record of the outcome of the meetings.

Garry Neil  
International Co-ordinator,  
Canadian Conference of the Arts

## **International Network for Cultural Diversity**

*Statement to the Ministers of Culture Meeting at The International Network for Cultural Policy*

The International Network for Cultural Diversity comprises artists, creators, cultural workers, producers and those who bring the artistic creation to local and global audiences. We are part of the world's arts and cultural communities and its living heritage, our past and our future.

As part of civil society, the members of the Network are non-governmental organizations and individuals who are working for cultural diversity.

We Believe:

- Expression through arts and culture is a fundamental part of human society
- Human society is diverse
- Cultural diversity strengthens us all

Seventy delegates representing more than 200 non-governmental organizations and activists from 47 countries who met on Santorini, Greece, confirmed the launch of the International Network for Cultural Diversity on September 26. The first meeting of the Network came at the conclusion of a conference on "The Artist, Culture and Globalization", which examined several major themes:

1. The challenges to cultural diversity resulting from corporate mergers, technology and the trade agreements;
2. How promoting pluralism in the arts and culture requires sensitivity= to the needs of indigenous and minority communities;
3. How promoting pluralism in the arts can be a positive force for sustainable development; and
4. The pivotal role of the recorded media for cultural expression in today's world.

We Believe:

- The fruits of artistic creation are more than conventional goods and services, each is unique and all are an integral part of human societies
- Cultures should have the opportunity to interact with each other, enriching artistic expression and expanding choices
- Market forces alone cannot ensure cultural diversity at the national and international levels
- States have a right and responsibility to implement policies and programs that support diverse artistic and cultural activities and to protect these from unwanted interventions from outside political or economic forces.

The Network has launched a dialogue we will extend to others in our communities. We will implement an action plan in support of our objectives. We will work together and with the ministerial network, governments, intergovernmental agencies, other movements and other institutions to achieve the objectives.

The Network will monitor international developments and seek registration as an international NGO at the United Nations, UNESCO and other institutions, in order to engage them in the dialogue.

We will meet again in Switzerland in 2001 and South Africa in 2002 to continue our parallel process with the ministers of culture in the International Network for Cultural Policy. We believe that both our networks would benefit from direct discussion between us at these times.

The delegates to the conference also concluded that current trade agreements do affect the arts and cultural expression and that "exempting" culture from their terms appears to be insufficient to permit states to retain the broad scope of policy making necessary in the era of globalization. We need to redress the imbalance between concerns for cultural diversity and economic imperatives. We need to promote the full social, human and economic development aspects of a commitment to cultural diversity.

We know that culture is broad, it touches all aspects of society. But there is a particular challenge at this moment, between culture and commerce, culture and trade. We urge you to work in your own countries with all relevant ministers and civil society to ensure that no government enters into any agreement that

constrains local cultures and the policies that support them.

We Support:

The implementation of a new international instrument that will give a permanent legal foundation for cultural diversity.

The Network will work with culture ministers, UNESCO and others to research and build consensus for the terms of this new international agreement.

We believe we are a vital component of the process now underway. But, as non-governmental organizations and individual citizens, we share many problems, including a chronic shortage of adequate resources to do our work. We are grateful for the support we received from the governments of Greece and Canada, the Canadian International Development Agency, the World Bank, the Prince Claus Foundation, and the International Network for Cultural Policy. We will look to other agencies, governments and foundations for the support we will need to ensure our active and full participation in this process.

We wish to thank our Greek hosts, the National Book Centre of Greece and the informal committee of Greek non-governmental organizations, which worked with them. We also thank the Canadian Conference of the Arts, the Swedish Joint Committee of Literary and Artistic Professionals and the many others who laid the foundation for the successful launch of the International Network for Cultural Diversity.

INCD Steering Committee:

Luciana Castellina (Valencia Forum, Brussels/Rome) Peter Curman (Swedish Joint Committee of Literary and Artistic Professionals, Stockholm) James C Early (Director of Cultural Heritage Policy at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC) Mireille Gagné (Canadian Music Centre, Montreal) Maxine Heppner (Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists, Toronto) Aris Marangopoulos (Society of Greek Writers, Athens) Japan Mthembu (Performing Arts Workers Equity, Johannesburg) Yolanda Schweri (SuisseCulture, Zurich)

To view a photo from Santorini, Greece click on <http://www.incd.net/greece.jpg> (250K)

Information about the International Network for Cultural Diversity and reports about the conference can be found on our website at [www.incd.net](http://www.incd.net) . For help with the web site, please contact the byDesign eLab [annarr@bydesign-elab.net](mailto:annarr@bydesign-elab.net)

\*\*\* The following CCA representatives were present at this founding meeting of the International Network for Cultural Diversity in Santorini, Greece: Megan Williams, National Director, Garry Neil, Coordinator, International portfolio, Janet Creery, Associate Coordinator, International portfolio, Katharine Misener, Intern, International portfolio, Mireille Gagné, CCA past President and Co-chair of the International Advisory Committee, Maxine Heppner, CCA Board member and Co-chair of the International Advisory Committee

For more information:

Megan Williams, CCA National Director  
(613) 238 3561; fax (613) 238 4849  
[cca@mail.culturenet.ca](mailto:cca@mail.culturenet.ca)

Please post and/or distribute. When reprinting CCA Bulletins from the INCD project, please give appropriate credit.

### **Meeting of Experts on Cultural Diversity at UNESCO**

At the request of the Director General, an international meeting was convened in Paris by UNESCO on September 21-22, 2000. The main theme of this meeting was the reinforcement of UNESCO's role in the promotion of cultural diversity in the age of globalization.

A Committee, comprised of representatives from 18 member countries knowledgeable on this matter, communicated its primary findings to the other members of the meeting (observers from other states, institutions, non-governmental organizations such as the CCA). In the second part of the meeting, various practical proposals were presented for discussion and implementation purposes.

All stakeholders agreed to confirm the importance of UNESCO's intervention in a field which is clearly part of its mandate, namely Culture. The complexity of the matter, the diversity of the understandings of the very concept of cultural diversity, the very strong links that exist between culture and economics, and the impossibility to ignore this fact, have all led to the drafting of a few propositions that could be part of a UNESCO trans-sectoral action plan, whose highlights are as follows:

1. To reinforce UNESCO's role in the field of intellectual reflection by establishing a Forum of experts.
2. To amplify awareness-raising action in an attempt to reduce current asymmetries, be they of an economic, technical or other nature; to support and encourage the member states' cultural authorities in the development of a better coordination of knowledge and actions in so far as it relates to the implications of international trade negotiations for cultural diversity.
3. To emphasize the necessity of drafting a Universal Declaration on culture and cultural diversity, a Statutory Declaration would be submitted for the approval of UNESCO's General Conference; this declaration would create a basis with a few strong political principles to guide world-wide upcoming reflection on the interaction between the different players and the operators of culture.

Ideally, the Ministers of Culture themselves would be invited to approve the final document during their next round table (December 11-12, 2000), in the form of a Declaration. This text would then be carried on by the Director General for presentation at the General Conference in October, 2001.

A very interesting matter that is worth following.

Mireille Gagné  
Member of the Steering Committee, International Network for Cultural Diversity.

## Conferences and Calls for Submissions

### *Conference on Migration, Work & Identity*

9-12 November 2000

At the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, UK

Organised by the National Museum of Labour History and WORKLAB, the International Association of Labour Museums

Featured speakers include

Naseem Khan (Arts Council of England), Peter Ludvigsen (Workers' Museum, Copenhagen and Chair of WORKLAB), Geoffrey Brown (Euclid, European Union UK Cultural Contact Point, Liverpool), Kuljit "Kooj" Chuhan (Artist, UK), Piet Creve (Institute for Social History, Belgium, Gent)

For more information please contact

[MynaT@nmlhweb.org](mailto:MynaT@nmlhweb.org)

Dr Myna Trustram

Keeper of Collections

National Museum of Labour History

103 Princess Street

Manchester

M1 6DD

0161 431 9872 (tel) 0161 237 5965 (fax)

### *Submissions Call for Maid in Cyberspace/Les HTMLles Web Festival*

Montreal, Canada, February 7- 11 2001, at the Cinematheque de Montreal Studio XX, Montreal

Founded in 1995, Studio XX is a women's media centre that strives to make positive and creative interventions in the field of digital media technologies. Through artists' salons, educational workshops, research and critical discussions, Studio XX members seek to engage with the wired world.

We are looking for artwork that explore this year's theme of Mutant Cultures and Identities. The festival will present a selection of Web projects, installations, performances and conferences, produced by female artists that investigate present day flux and mutation of both identities and cultures. Submissions are welcome for on-line projects, sound as well as visual. Also we are looking for a participative Web installation that will be showcased above the main foyer of the Cinematheque.

Deadline for application is November 27th 2000.

Only completed projects will be accepted.

For more information, please contact:

Alexandra Guite  
Coordinator of the festival  
[alexg@studioxx.org](mailto:alexg@studioxx.org)  
338, Terrasse Saint-Denis, Montreal (Quebec) H2X 1E8  
Tel: 514-845-7934 Fax: 514-845-4941  
Site: [studioxx.org/](http://studioxx.org/)

*World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Forms of Related Intolerance*

The Forum of NGOs of the Americas will be celebrated in Quito, Ecuador on the 13-17 of February, 2001. This alternative event is part of the process culminating in the World Forum and Conference "Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and other forms of Related Intolerance" which will take place in Durban, South Africa in August- September, 2001.

**IF YOUR ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE AND ITS PROCESS REQUEST ACCREDITATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

In order to participate in the World Conference in South Africa and the official preparatory meetings, send your request for accreditation to:

Ms. Catherine Brémont  
OHCHR, Room PW 1-051  
Palais des Nations, 8-14  
Avenue de la Paix  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Tel: 00 41 22 917 92 62  
Fax: 00 41 22 917 90 11  
e-mail: [cbremont.hchr@unog.ch](mailto:cbremont.hchr@unog.ch)

The format for accreditation and the list of required documentation can be found in the web page [www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/ngo.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/ngo.htm)

For additional information about the participation and registration of NGOs to the diverse preparatory events of the UN, contact :

Sandra Aragon-Parriaux  
OHCHR, Palais des Nations  
Room PW-RS181, 1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22) 917-9129  
Fax: (41-22) 917-9050  
E-mail: [saragon.hchr@unog.ch](mailto:saragon.hchr@unog.ch)

The Preparatory Governmental Meeting will be held in Santiago, Chile on the 5-7

of December, 2000; the organizations and entities may participate as observers in this meeting requesting their accreditation as stated above. The accreditation for the regional meeting will be sufficient for all other official meetings and the Conference in South Africa.

ACCREDITATION CAN TAKE UP TO 6 WEEKS SO IT IS VERY URGENT THAT YOU DO IT NOW.

The Governmental Meeting will be preceded by a Citizen's Conference Against Racism which will be celebrated in the same city the 3rd and 4th of December. It is hoped that an ample representation of organizations will participate in this conference and present their goals and demands with the aim of formulating common recommendations to the Governments. For more information:

[www.confciudadana.cl/](http://www.confciudadana.cl/)

Request your participation to:

Sr. Francisco Estevez Valencia  
Fundacion Ideas  
Almirante Riveros 033, Providencia  
Casilla 318 Correo 22  
Santiago de Chile  
e-mail: [director@ideas.cl](mailto:director@ideas.cl)  
phone: (56-2) 2222425, or (56-2) 6353035  
fax: (56-2) 2220771

Americas NGO Forum ,World Conference Against Racism and Xenophobia,  
Contact Organizations:

ALAI (Agencia Latinamericana de Informacion - Derechos Humanos)  
C.P. 17-12-877  
Quito, Ecuador  
Tel: 593 2 505-074  
Fax: 593 2 505-073  
e-mail: [ddhh@alainet.org](mailto:ddhh@alainet.org)  
URL: [alainet.org](http://alainet.org)

Human Rights Internet  
8 York Street  
Suite 302  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1N 5S6  
Tel: (613) 789-7407  
Fax: (613) 789-7414  
E-mail: [hri@hri.ca](mailto:hri@hri.ca)