



International Network of Museums for Peace

Brief report on the INMP annual board meeting (The Hague, May 2010)

The third annual meeting of the board of the International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP) was held in The Hague (Netherlands), 21-23 May 2010. The meeting was attended by 11 board members (from America, Asia, and Europe) and by the Secretariat Administrator and took place in the meeting room adjoining INMP's secretariat.

Participants had an opportunity to visit the office and meet INMP's first (part-time) employee, Ms Nike Liscaljet, who formally started work as Secretariat Administrator in February. The scheme for inviting organizations and individuals to formally join the network was approved, and its implementation is underway.

It was decided to produce two kinds of brochures (in both digital and printed format), one for publicising the existence of museums for peace and another one for fundraising purposes. The meeting also agreed to aim to publish a volume every year with articles and essays, possibly to be called 'Museums for Peace Review'. A prospectus will be written and sent to potential publishers. Meanwhile, Ikuro Anzai and Kazuyo Yamane will be editing a volume dedicated to the memory of Mayor Iccho Ito of Nagasaki. Possibilities for existing journals about peace education, peace history, and museums to devote special issues to museums for peace were also explored.

On the basis of recent information received from the city, Iratxe Momoitio reported on the plans for INMP's forthcoming conference in Barcelona (30 March-1 April 2011). (It should be noted that in the weeks following the board meeting, the city was forced to cancel its financial support for the conference; instead, it is likely that a smaller event – a workshop, with limited participation - will be held at around the same time, with some support from the city). In order to assist potential organisers of future INMP conferences, a guideline paper will be produced on practical and financial matters involved.

It was decided that INMP should not issue general statements that could be seen as political or controversial; on the other hand, the initiative taken by the Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University to establish an Asia Pacific regional network of museums for peace, in close cooperation with INMP, was welcomed.

Other issues addressed include employment policy; finance; merchandising; improving communications between board members and the office (e.g. through Skype). Steve Fryburg introduced various suggestions regarding merchandising and communications (including development of the website) several of which will be

implemented. A half-yearly newsletter, in digital format, will be produced, with deadlines in October and April.

Members of the Board shared information on developments in their own museums and learnt of the renovation plans of the Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent through a presentation by its director, Roger Mayou. During a guided visit to the nearby Peace Palace, they also learnt of the forthcoming visitors' centre which will soon be built at the entrance of the Palace grounds. Although not a peace museum, it will be an important information centre about the work which goes on in the Palace for the many tourists who visit The Hague. Plans for INMP to cooperate with the Peace Palace in the production and distribution of a travel exhibition (of historic posters in the archives of the library) on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Peace Palace in 2013 were also discussed with Jeroen Vervliet, the director of the library. A visit to the Yi Jun Peace Museum, and a 'peace walk' past several international courts and other organisations, as well as embassies, completed a productive few days.

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General Coordinator