

## **Second World Summit on the Arts and Culture to be staged in Singapore**

The second World Summit on the Arts and Culture will be hosted by the National Arts Council of Singapore in November 2003, with the date and theme to be announced shortly.

The decision, made by the interim board of the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies (IFACCA) at its meeting in Singapore last week, will see senior representatives of arts and culture agencies from around the world gather to exchange ideas and debate key issues.

A number of other new projects and initiatives were discussed and approved by the interim board. Key among them was IFACCA's Future Leader's Exchange program (FLEx), which is to be launched as a pilot scheme on 16 May.

Significant progress was also made on finalising IFACCA's constitution and board election processes, matters that will be voted on by members at the first General Assembly to be held alongside the 2003 World Summit.

Another landmark of the Singapore meeting was the board's acceptance of the Federation's first affiliate members, who were warmly welcomed as an important supplement to IFACCA's national membership. Among these new members are Americans for the Arts, the International Network for Cultural Policy and the Asian Cultural Council.

The interim board was delighted to welcome its newest member, Fernando Vicario. With over 17 years of experience in developing arts and cultural projects in Latin America, Señor Vicario is a significant addition to a team that now draws on expertise from six continents.

While in Singapore, the interim board also enjoyed the opportunity to meet representatives of key arts agencies from around Asia, including Jun'etsu Komatsu (Japan Foundation), Che Zhaoguang (Chinese Embassy), Sri Histanto (Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Tourism), Heidi Ho (Instituto Cultural of Macau), Kietsiak Itchayanan (Office of the National Cultural Commission, Thailand), Zanita Anuar (National Art Gallery, Malaysia) and Tim Doling (Visiting Arts, Viet Nam).

Singapore's Senior Minister of State (Transport and Information, Communications and the Arts), Mr Khaw Boon Wan, hosted a gala dinner to enable the international guests to meet some of Singapore's leading artists and arts administrators.

IFACCA's Executive Director, Sarah Gardner, reinforced the value of such face-to-face meetings: 'The issues faced by arts policymakers and funders in Asia are similar to those faced around the world. Although it was a brief exchange, the meeting invigorated our collective commitment to strengthening ties across Asia in support of the arts. We look forward to gathering again in Singapore next year.'

Dr Shirley L Thomson, Chair of IFACCA and Director of the Canada Council, praised the considerable progress made by the Federation since its inauguration in December 2000. 'We have received overwhelming support for our fortnightly online news service, ACORNS and researchers and policy analysts have also found the three research reports released under our D'Art program of great practical value. The IFACCA website is a hive of activity.'

'But we have much more to do,' Dr Thomson added. 'Now that our administrative base is firmly in place, we must focus on generating even more concrete projects that help develop the arts and aid in the vital work of our members.'

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