



---

From the President's desk

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

by Carla Bossi-Comelli, WFFM President

December 2006

---

Words from the WFFM President highlighting the main activities developed throughout 2006 and the future perspectives for this year.

---

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Dear Friends,

Over the last few months WFFM has been busy with many interesting projects, involving both its members and other international organisations, which helped widen the scope of our Federation, increase the awareness of our objectives, and spread the idea of a world of Friends of museums.

As you know, the 2006 WFFM Council and General Assembly Meeting held in Chile, April 21-23, 2006, was a success and the results more than satisfactory. The next Council and General Assembly Meeting will be held in Singapore, April 26-29, 2007.

The new WFFM Statutes, amended in accordance to the new Belgian law on nonprofit organisations and approved by the Council and General Assembly in Santiago, were officially adopted by WFFM in September 2006.

During the Santiago Council Meeting it was decided to create a new WFFM website in order to improve the current perception of the World Federation of Friends of Museums as an institutional and cultural nonprofit organisation worldwide. The on-line publication of articles and essays on topics of common interests will contribute to the development of present and future initiatives involving our members or carried out in conjunction with other similar organisations.

The Italy-based editorial team is working on its new graphic design and on the update of its contents. The new website will be on-line by the end of March.

I am delighted to inform you that the WFFM-ICOM joint committee on "Museums and Sustainable Tourism" is working towards possible initiatives to be followed up in the future.

There is no doubt that the most relevant issue of Sustainable Cultural Tourism is a priority in the policy of WFFM and of its members. On this subject, it is vital that Friends and museum professionals reach a shared point of view.

I would also like to underline the importance of our members' participation in general conferences and WFFM Regional Meetings.

The Australian Federation of Friends of Museums Conference, "Friends across Africa-Asia-Pacific Promoting Museums", and the WFFM Regional Meeting, held in Sydney, September 8-10, 2006, enjoyed a remarkable attendance and contributed to emphasise the idea of Friends and volunteers of museums in the Far East.

The WFFM European Meeting workshop, held on September 29 in Brussels was another major achievement, mostly due to the presence of many WFFM delegates from European countries.

One of the topics discussed on that occasion was the role of museums in education. The formulation of educational programs (for children, teenagers and adults) organised by our members has proved to be a signal of success. It was suggested to keep record of the educational purposes and aims of all European WFFM's members. These will be stored in a live update database managed by Ellen Julia, representative of our office in Paris.

Another topic of discussion was that of tax allowances for membership fees, donations, etc. It was suggested to collect and collate "fiscal



---

From the President's desk

rules and advantages" in all European countries. The French Federation of Friends of Museums will co-ordinate this research.

Both researches will be subsequently extended to all the other regions in order to obtain a general overview of the situation around the world.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the next WFFM Congress will be held in Jerusalem, September 21-28, 2008.

Our triennial Congresses are a vital tool to achieve one of the primary objectives of WFFM, that is to foster, by all possible means, "international co-operation between associations of Friends of Museums to promote mutual understanding, the exchange of information, and to pool experience with the purpose of intensifying the life and developing the function of Friends organisations."

The success of the next WFFM Congress will depend on the participation of all our members – Active, Associate, Individual, Donor and Benefactors. I am sure you will save the date!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Carla Bossi-Comelli, WFFM President  
Mexico City, Mexico – December 2006