

Brief report on the International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP)
Board Meeting (Geneva, June 2009)

A meeting of the board of the International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP) took place in Geneva (Switzerland), 19-21 June 2009. The meeting, which was attended by 12 board members (from various European countries, Japan, India, and the USA) took place in the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and was hosted by its director, board member Roger Mayou.

Among issues on the agenda were the constitution and the appointment of officers (following the legal incorporation of INMP in The Hague earlier this year), finance, membership system, office in The Hague, website and logo, place and time of the next conference.

Iratxe Momoitio was elected as INMP secretary, Steve Fryburg as treasurer, and Gerard Loessbroek as membership secretary. In order to effectively start up the office, it was decided to appoint a part-time secretariat administrator for one year in the first instance (this is the current limit of INMP's financial resources). The availability of this position is now being advertised and an appointments committee has been established. One of the first tasks of the appointee will be to implement the formal membership scheme, adopted at the last conference (but with some small modifications).

Various proposals to improve the website were discussed and are being implemented by Steve Fryburg who continues to be INMP's webmaster. In order to promote publications about museums for peace, a publications committee was established. Following the submission of various designs by the artist, Mr. Yusuke Saito, agreement was also reached on the finalisation of the logo.

Since the city of Barcelona had formally expressed an interest in organising the next conference of INMP, the meeting decided to accept this offer. The conference will be held in November 2010 or March 2011 (the city will soon decide) during three days and for about 150 participants. It will be held in the Montjuic Fortress (on the hill overlooking Barcelona) and which the city is now converting into the Barcelona International Peace Centre (including a permanent peace exhibition/interpretation facility).

On behalf of all participants, Mr. Mayou sent a letter of thanks to Professor Ikuro Anzai for his long and tireless efforts on behalf of INMP.

The most recent manifestation of this was his generous donation of Euro 10,000 to INMP's account to help with the starting up of the office in The Hague.

Board members enjoyed a guided visit of the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as well as a peace walk through the city. Among the highlights of the tour was a visit to the historic Alabama Room, in the Town Hall, where the first Geneva Convention was signed in 1864, and where the famous arbitration between the USA and Great Britain of disputes arising from the American Civil War was held in 1872.

INMP expresses its gratitude to Roger Mayou and his staff for the generous and efficient hosting of the meeting.

Peter van den Dungen
General Coordinator INMP