

## En route for Brisbane!

With colleagues in the Secretariat, I have been looking forward to the forthcoming Congress in Brisbane with eager anticipation. I visited the Brisbane Convention Centre in October 2009 and was very impressed by the state of the art facilities there. Brisbane is a pleasant city where it is easy to move around, with all the infrastructure that one would expect in a modern vibrant city. Our Australian colleagues have been planning meticulously for many years and have put the necessary structures in place, to ensure that this major event in the ICA Calendar will run smoothly. After a rather slow start to registrations in early 2012, these have gathered pace and, as I write these lines, there is every indication that we will secure a very respectable attendance.

When I became Secretary General in August 2008, I was told by my predecessor that one of the most challenging aspects of the role was the organization of the Congress every four years. While I cannot deny that I have had some anxious moments, overall I have found that coordinating the efforts of the ICA network outside Australia and Pacific Region, on behalf of our elected officers and the Executive Board, has been a very rewarding experience. I should like to thank successive Directors-General of the National Archives of Australia, Ross Gibbs, Stephen Ellis and David Fricker, for their unswerving commitment to the first ever International Congress in Australia and to the cause of internationalism in archives. Margaret Kenna, Deputy Secretary General, has been a tower of strength in planning and marketing the



David A. Leitch  
ICA Secretary General  
leitch@ica.org

2012 Congress over the last four years. In addition, the Australian archival community, which has been deeply involved in the organization of the Congress, wishes to take full advantage of this unique opportunity to welcome in their own country colleagues, who represent so many cultures and traditions.

The Congress is an occasion for the global archival community to celebrate its achievements and to develop solutions to the new challenges on the horizon. Australian archival practice is widely recognized to be one of the most advanced in the world, and this is the chance to find out more about it. For ICA itself it will be a time for the introduction of several major reforms and for a thorough renewal of the organization.

I have my own questions linked to the three conference themes. How can archivists work in partnership with other professionals, while retaining their distinctive *identity*? How can we, as the professional and impartial guardians of the collective memory, gain the *trust* and support of the general public and decision makers? How can we convince them that the *sustainability* of archives and archive institutions really merits investment, given the many other pressures on the public purse? Looking at the very rich professional programme, I am sure that by the time I leave Brisbane I will have at least some answers to these questions.

Partly because of the effects of prolonged economic recession, Brisbane 2012 may not attract the very high numbers of some previous ICA Congresses. However, I am confident that all those who make the special effort to attend the Congress will find the programme stimulating and the whole experience very worthwhile.

## Special Congress



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## Flash

Editor: International Council on Archives (ICA)

Publication Director:  
David A. Leitch

**The International Council on Archives (ICA)** is dedicated to the advancement of archives through international co-operation. Archives, by providing evidence of human activities and transactions, underlie the rights of individuals and states, and are fundamental to democracy and good governance. In pursuing the advancement of archives, ICA works for the protection and enhancement of the memory of the world.

*Flash* communicates news on ICA activities and highlights current issues in archives. It is the complement to the in-depth professional reflection, reports and debate in *Comma*.

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### ICA

60, rue des Francs-Bourgeois  
75003 Paris, France  
T : +33 14027 6306  
F : +33 14272 2065  
E : [ica@ica.org](mailto:ica@ica.org)  
I : [www.ica.org](http://www.ica.org)

Graphic design:  
Raphaël Meyssan  
T : +33 6 20 49 12 15  
E : [raphael@meyssan.net](mailto:raphael@meyssan.net)  
I : [www.editorial-design.org](http://www.editorial-design.org)

Impression: DEJA-GLMC  
Garges-lès-Gonesse, France

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## People

New National Archivists have been appointed in the following countries:

Austria

→ Wolfgang Maderthaner

Benin

→ Alphonse Labitan

Cambodia

→ Ky Lim (Acting Director)

Canada

→ Normand Charbonneau (Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec)

Ireland

→ Frances McGee (Acting Director)

Laos

→ Thongsy Vang

Malaysia

→ Hajah Daresah Haji Ismail

Senegal

→ Diarra Fatoumata Cissé

Slovenia

→ Jože Dežman (Acting Director)

Thailand

→ Naiyana Yamsaka (Acting Director)

Turkey

→ Ugur Ünal

## Welcome

New category B members:

France

→ Archivistes sans frontières – Section France

Republic of Korea

→ Korean Association of Records Managers and Archivists  
→ Association of Digital Documents

Spain

→ Asociación Vasca de Profesionales de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Centros de Documentación (ALDEE)

United States

→ Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists

# Welcome to Australia



## International Council of Archives Congress, Australia 2012

ICA colleagues,

**O**n behalf of the National Archives of Australia I look forward with pleasure to welcoming you to Australia in August for the ICA 2012 Congress *A Climate of Change* [www.ica2012.com](http://www.ica2012.com). I believe the Congress will provide the perfect environment to enjoy stimulating debate, an exchange of ideas, and many discussions about the challenges facing us all in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We are fortunate to have such eminent keynote speakers as the US National Archivist, David Ferriero, and Judge Baltazar Garzón from the International Criminal Court, who uses archival evidence in support of human rights. Other special guests include the Information Commissioners from Australia (John McMillan), Miriam Nisbet (US) and Jenifer Stoddart (Canada). Also on the program is former head of MI5 and best-selling author Dame Stella Rimington.

Having joined the National Archives of Australia only this year, I am delighted to be able to participate in this exciting event. A gathering of this scale requires four years to prepare and coordinate and is the most keenly anticipated of the international archival community and the foremost opportunity for us to get together on strategic and critical issues facing archival institutions the world over.

Australia's accomplishments and strategies in the management of digital records have long been acknowledged. We are very proud to have been honoured last year with the UNESCO/Jikji Memory of the World Prize for innovation in preserving digital records and heritage documents.

At the Bern meeting the ICA Executive Board identified the digital archive among its priorities and many ICA members have expressed interest in knowing more about Australia's responses to the challenges of the digital era. I'm delighted that several of our staff will be sharing their experiences at the Congress, including Michael Carden, one of the keynote speakers who, with Andrew Waugh from the Public Record Office of Victoria, will speak about *Digital Archives, Digital Preservation – Now and the Future*.

With the Congress themes of *Sustainability, Trust and Identity*, the organisers have created a stimulating and relevant program. The presentations promise a rewarding experience for all delegates covering the widest possible spectrum of issues faced by archivists today. From Australia's perspective we are currently engaged in a government program to see all Australian Government agencies adopt digital information management practices while dealing with the changing legislation surrounding access to information and privacy issues.

I am certainly looking forward to learning more about the innovative ideas and approaches of our international archival community and can see from the wealth of fascinating presentations on offer that we will be spoilt for choice. I would particularly like to thank everyone on the organising committees who have brought us to this stage in the lead up to the Congress.

I know that for many of you attending the Congress it will be your first visit to Australia. I hope you have time to enjoy more of our wonderful country – as well as sharing the highlights of your colleagues' professional achievements. Brisbane, one of Australia's most popular tourism destinations, provides many attractions for international visitors. To help you enjoy them the Congress social program includes an evening river lights dinner cruise and also the Australian Outback Spectacular's *Spirit of the Horse*.

I look forward to meeting you in Brisbane and sharing our ideas on how we can shape our archival futures. With best wishes.

**David Fricker**  
ICA Vice President,  
Congress 2012  
Director-General  
National Archives of  
Australia  
[david.fricker@naa.gov.au](mailto:david.fricker@naa.gov.au)  
[www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)



# The Congress Professional Programme: a Reason to be Cheerful

**It is always difficult to bring into focus the programme of an international congress, as any colleague who has, at least once in his or her career, had the privilege to be part of a professional committee will tell you, and the members of the programme committee of the 2012 Congress are no strangers to this fact.**

Some criteria are well-known and come up time and again: for example, how to marry global standards with respect for local traditions and cultures, which are very important in the case of archives; how to satisfy a broadly diverse audience by addressing a wide range of subjects, and yet remain as focussed as possible and keep to the chosen congress theme; and finally, how to create a special place for the culture of the host region, in this instance the Pacific, while at the same time maintaining a truly international and inclusive stance that embraces all the regions of the world. By no means an easy task. The programme that you have before you is

the result of two years' work by an international committee which has asked, discussed and debated a great many questions. But we also looked forward to the intellectual stimulation of reading the most part of around 330 proposals for papers. Given the number of proposals and the relatively few spaces we had available, we had to operate a strict selection procedure. The teams responsible for each of the three sub-themes, 'Sustainability', 'Trust' and 'Identity', had great difficulty in coming to their decisions. That is why some papers have been placed together, so that they could fit into the same session and profit from a comparative approach. By the same token, speakers will doubtless find that their time is quite constrained and it can be frustrating to travel from the other side of the world to speak in some cases for only fifteen minutes. However, as a result of these constraints, papers will be the more concise and thus have greater impact, and speakers will be able to benefit from the comments and contributions of their audience, which will help to broaden their argument for future publication.

The choice of the overall congress theme 'A Climate of Change' is also a challenge in that it gives rise to paradoxes. With the race towards innovation and the evolution of new technologies, which often give archivists headaches, coupled with the worrying developments in politics, economics and climate, which affect the whole planet, how are we to achieve a form of stability and continuity and so guarantee that everything continues to function, not to say improves? And besides, the sub-themes already mentioned, 'Sustainability, Trust and Identity', carry within them the notions of stability, durability and security. The choice of papers reflects these paradoxes, in that they accept change but nevertheless aim to preserve the knowledge and expertise of the profession. So, there will be papers about the 'survival of archives in a climate of change', but also about 'refounding' archival institutions; the commemoration of anniversaries will be mentioned, such as that of the Great War, but so also will the need to archive social networks, one of the future components of our memory and

## The undulating road to 20 August 2012

**In January 2008 planning began for the ICA 2012 Congress in Brisbane. For those who haven't been involved in planning and presenting a large public event, this may seem like an excessive timeframe – but believe me it isn't.**

The task began with the search for a suitable venue and a professional conference organizer (PCO) and this entailed public tenders with attendant selection processes and interviews. The result was a location, venue and PCO that suited needs precisely.

We started on our road with high expectations of attracting up to 2,000 delegates. The international exchange rate on

the Australian dollar made Australia an attractive destination for visitors. Also there was a lull in the full force of natural disasters. So... all aspects seemed optimistic.

However, the Global Economic Crisis and a succession of natural disasters affected many member countries quite brutally. Nevertheless, having set the course for 2012, we could only proceed, but with much reduced expectations and more realistic plans and goals.

Our first marketing thrust was presented at the 2008 ICA Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This involved a great amount of preparatory work in setting a brand for Congress 2012 and producing

a DVD presentation together with innovative marketing materials to distribute at the Congress. A Congress website was launched in late 2009 to convey information as it became available and a twitter link was later established to foster and enable discussion.

A Planning Committee was established that included Australian colleagues and representatives of nearby ICA regional groups. This group set the initial framework of the event and assisted in the selection of the PCO, the drafting of a workshop menu and forecasting the realities of the task we faced.

A Programme Committee that was representative of the broad international

our identity. We will discuss green building construction, while at the same time stressing the importance of digital archives. Furthermore, the archive profession itself, although still convinced of the perennial quality of archival values, has become subject to ever stronger and more varied external developments and pressures, and as a consequence is questioning its own identity. The profession must once again review its role so that, rather than be swept along in the wake of these changing times, we instead make an active and effective contribution to them.

Our colleagues in the Pacific region, and in particular our host country, have acquired great expertise in many fields. They have developed new and often innovative approaches and so have won a special place in the programme, to showcase their national programmes as well as projects which they have agreed to lead on behalf of ICA. This is the golden opportunity to learn more about their practices and to meet them in their own surroundings.

What is the place of ICA in this context? Two of the programme streams will give participants a better understanding of our organization, its activities and programmes. The leaders of the association, the Secretariat and the volunteers who are currently working on projects will be giving presentations at a number of sessions, during which you can ask

questions and find out how you can contribute to ICA's activities, which rely on cooperation and support.

It won't be possible for you to attend all the sessions, those are the rules of the game, and you will therefore have to make some difficult choices. But we've given some thought to this: don't miss the round-up of the main points of the day which will be circulated each evening by a team of young professionals. Among these will be the Flying Reporters, who will also be providing daily articles, interviews and comment on what they have seen and heard. Follow their blogs throughout the congress and go and meet them. Of course, ICA will be producing various publications after the congress – the most noteworthy articles will appear in several languages – drawing together the best parts of the programme for your benefit. Please let the Secretariat know about any sessions which particularly impressed you and which you think should be recorded for posterity!

And there's one last thing which might concern you: perhaps you can't understand a word of English, or conversely, you don't know any language other than English. Don't worry: all the plenary sessions and some of the parallel sessions, as well as the daily round-ups, will be translated into French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Japanese. Some

papers will be given in the speaker's own language. You can also seek out the Flying Reporters: collectively they speak French, English, Spanish, Chinese, German, Polish and Swedish. They will be able to ask questions on your behalf and publish the answers on their blog in a language you will understand. Catch up with your colleagues by enlisting the help of a 'facilitator': the best I know is nice glass of Australian wine or beer – there's nothing like it for loosening tongues, whatever the language!

#### To find out more

The programme online :  
[www.ica2012.com/program/](http://www.ica2012.com/program/)  
The Programme Committee :  
[www.ica2012.com/about/programme-committee.php](http://www.ica2012.com/about/programme-committee.php)



**Christine Martinez**  
ICA Deputy Secretary  
Genera, Programme  
[martinez@ica.org](mailto:martinez@ica.org)



**Didier Grange**  
ICA Special advisor  
[grange@ica.org](mailto:grange@ica.org)

ICA membership was established early on. This committee convened physically only a few times and given its global nature, much of the work was undertaken via email.

The *Call for Abstracts* resulted in receipt of well over 500 abstracts from all corners of the globe. The Programme Committee did a remarkable job, working in physically separated teams, reading and considering all abstracts received. This resulted in a very strong professional programme with a broad range of international speakers, representing both the experienced and the new professionals, and the many and varied aspects of archives and information management.

We have endeavoured to meet the needs of the international community through the provision of simultaneous interpreting for all keynote presentations and sessions presented in the plenary hall in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Japanese.

The National Archives of Australia (NAA) has provided strong support for my work in coordinating the Congress throughout the 4 ½ year lead up period. Since April 2011 I have had the pleasure of working with Helen Walker and her very professional and efficient team at NAA. Their work ensures a Congress experience for you that will be memorable and enjoyable.

As I write this article I am aware that we are nearing the end of the Early Bird registration offer period and the registrations are looking very healthy and broadly representative of the extensive international nature of the ICA membership.

In conclusion I can only say –  
*See you there!*



**Margaret Kenna**  
ICA Deputy Secretary  
General, Congress 2012  
[margaretkenna@bigpond.com](mailto:margaretkenna@bigpond.com)

# Brisbane: Cultural Aspects

If you're heading for Brisbane this August, you will already appreciate the richness of the professional programme awaiting you at the Congress, but you should also be aware of the wealth of cultural and leisure activities that the city has to offer during those off-duty moments. For those who haven't already seen it, there is a list of things to do and see on the Congress website ([www.ica2012.com](http://www.ica2012.com)), some of which have also been reviewed in *News from Brisbane* on the ICA website, but it's worth highlighting a few of them here.

The main cultural precinct of Brisbane lies on South Bank, within easy reach of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, where you will find a range of museums and art galleries. The Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art ([www.qagoma.qld.gov.au](http://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au)) has over 15,000 works of art, including sculptures and multi-media installations, and in recent years has focussed more specifically on contemporary and indigenous art and sculpture from Australia and the Pacific region. Among the temporary exhibitions that will be on show during the Congress is 'Portrait of Spain: Masterpieces from the Prado', a rare chance to see a selection of 100 masterpieces illustrating the evolution of painting in Spain from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, including works by El Greco, Velázquez, Ribera and Murillo. Your Congress ID will entitle you to the concessionary rate of \$18 for this exhibition.

Also in the cultural precinct is the Queensland Museum and Sciencentre, which houses collections relating to the material culture and natural history of Queensland, as well as developments in transport and technology ([www.qm.qld.gov.au](http://www.qm.qld.gov.au)). You can find further information, including a list of other independent art galleries, on the ICA website ([www.ica.org/12720/news-from-brisbane/news-from-brisbane-9.html](http://www.ica.org/12720/news-from-brisbane/news-from-brisbane-9.html)).

If you're interested in live performance, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre stands opposite the Congress venue on

South Bank. The Centre boasts three theatres and a concert hall, as well as a restaurant, cafés and bars, and hosts a varied programme of theatre, opera, ballet, music, dance and comedy. Its current programme can be seen on [www.qpac.com.au](http://www.qpac.com.au).

Those of you wishing to shop, or just browse, might like to know that *News from Brisbane* ([www.ica.org/12808/news-from-brisbane/news-from-brisbane-12.html](http://www.ica.org/12808/news-from-brisbane/news-from-brisbane-12.html)) introduces you to some of the more important retail sites including the Queen Street shopping mall, about a 15 minute walk from the Congress venue, and New Farm, an inner-city suburb described as a 'trendy enclave that houses the latest Australian and international designers'.

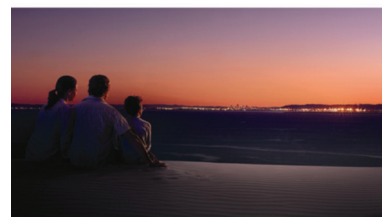
As for relaxing at the end of the day, *News from Brisbane* also gives some useful information on places to eat and drink. Eagle Street Pier, for example, is renowned for its world-class dining and is just a short walk from the city centre. It is located on the waterside enjoying unrivalled views of the river and of Story Bridge ([www.eaglestreetpier.com.au](http://www.eaglestreetpier.com.au)). Next door to Eagle Street Pier you can find a further range of restaurants on the Riverside boardwalk, and for those who like Asian food there is always Chinatown in Fortitude Valley, an urban village in the centre of town.

On the other side of the city on Boundary Street in West End, a 15 minute walk from South Bank and the Congress venue, is the appropriately, if somewhat intriguingly, named Archive Beer Boutique Bistro, which must be worth a visit if only to satisfy one's curiosity. It describes itself as Brisbane's premier craft beer bar and bistro, with 14 rotating beers on tap and over 400 bottled beers – clearly one for the specialists among you.

So whatever your tastes, cultural, retail or gastronomic, you will be sure to find something to occupy your free time in Brisbane next month.



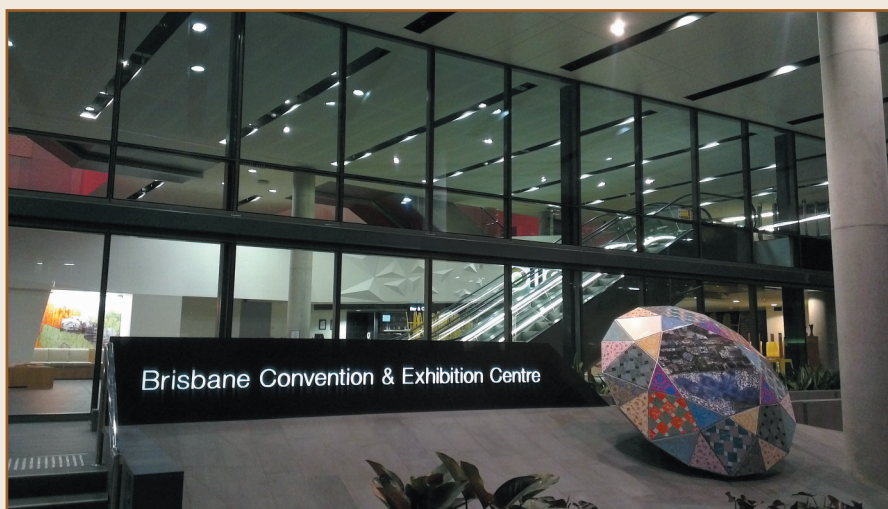
**Stephen O'Connor**  
ICA Senior Publications  
Officer  
[oConnor@ica.org](mailto:oConnor@ica.org)



# A time for organizational renewal

Many participants at an ICA Congress focus entirely on the content of the professional programme. They are often only vaguely aware that many business and governance meetings are also taking place, and that these meetings may result in decisions that have profound implications for the future of the organization. Good decision-making, based on well-prepared papers and thorough discussion, is essential for organizational health. In my experience some business meetings can turn out to be unexpectedly interesting and even lively. Indeed, if any meeting that has been prepared by the Secretariat turns out to be bland and predictable, I am always a little bit disappointed.

Some sections and branches are meeting in Brisbane in order to elect new members to their bureaux, and to plan their activities for the next four years. Increasingly the Programme Commission (PCOM) intends to play a more pro-active role in coordinating section and branch initiatives. In addition to the oversight of projects financed or endorsed by ICA, PCOM is now also responsible for the professional content of the Annual Conferences and the Congress and, depending on the outcome of the vote on the new constitution (see below), it may soon have a new power to set up expert groups on any matter of professional interest and concern. The members of PCOM are leading international archival experts who are also representative of ICA's linguistic and cultural diversity. Lew Bellardo, the Chair of PCOM, has worked tirelessly since he took office in 2008 and he has been ably supported by Christine Martinez, Deputy Secretary General (Programme). PCOM has done an outstanding job in putting together an impressive large portfolio of flourishing projects. After four years of very distinguished work, Lew will be handing over to the highly experienced Henri Zuber (outgoing President of SPA) in Brisbane. Another piece of good news is that



Sarah Tyacke and her fellow Trustees on the Board of FIDA (Fund for International Archival Development) have indicated their willingness to continue for another two years. Since it became operational in early 2010, FIDA has financed many useful projects that are intended to help archival professionals and institutions that are working in especially challenging conditions. It now wishes to ensure a wider geographical spread of projects and that funds are available for FIDA to continue its work on a long term basis.

On 21 August the new Forum of National Archivists will be meeting for only the second time, after the constitutional provisions for its establishment were approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Toledo on 28 October 2011. The Forum will be chaired by Daniel J Caron, National Librarian and Archivist of Canada, and will cover the Open Government Partnership, the appraisal of digital information, trusted digital repositories, and training in the digital age.

The ICA Executive Board will be meeting on the afternoon of 20 August, mainly to make final preparations for the Annual General Meeting on Friday 24 August, which promises to be even more stimulating than usual. Voting members are urged to ignore all competing distractions and to make a point of attending the AGM, so that they can have their say on several major proposals which will affect the organization for many years to come. After receiving reports from various ICA bodies, the AGM will consider the proposed new

draft constitution. The main features of the reform are the following:

- ▶ The right to vote is extended to institutional members in category C
- ▶ The votes of each member category do not have the same value but are weighted
- ▶ The powers of the President, elected Vice-Presidents and Secretary General are more precisely defined
- ▶ The powers of the Executive Board are strengthened and the Management Commission (MCOM) is abolished
- ▶ The wider remit of PCOM is clearly described
- ▶ The role of the branches and sections are clarified

The discussion of the constitutional proposals will be handled at the AGM by George Mackenzie, Director of the National Records of Scotland and ICA's widely respected constitutional authority. Members will be also asked to approve first steps towards an entirely new system of membership dues over the next three years and to endorse The Principles of Access to Archives.

I anticipate that members may feel rather tired after the AGM this year but at least they should have the satisfaction of knowing that they have given ICA a clear sense of direction until the next Congress in 2016.



**David A. Leitch**  
ICA Secretary General  
leitch@ica.org

# Annual Conferences in the post-Brisbane Cycle

As DSG for Conferences I am responsible for delivery of the three annual conferences between the Brisbane Congress and the Seoul Congress. There is very little of the detail in the process that I don't get involved in.

The process starts with the call for bids to be host. We have a set of criteria which serve as a way of assessing whether the applicant can deliver the facilities ICA needs to put on the annual conference. The criteria cover things like the type of institution or partnership that is applying (we encourage involvement of ICA branches and sections) and the region or country because we aim to have annual meetings in all parts of the world. We are also looking for the benefits that having the annual conference in that country will bring to ICA (increased exposure, furtherance of strategic and programme goals) as well as to the country or region. We obviously need reassurance of the support of the parent body and the national government and that there is no hindrance to any ICA member to enter the country and attend the conference. Of course we also look at how the applicant proposes to organise the conference and what resources are available because this is crucial to the success of the conference.

Apart from the criteria document, we have also drawn up other documentation intended to guide prospective hosts through the process. We have a process document which explains the process and time-frame to prospective hosts. This document will need updating in the light of the recent and prospective constitutional changes. We also have notes for candidates bidding to be host which gives more detail about the requirements for governance meetings, interpretation services and other logistical aspects



of putting on a conference like this. Another document is a checklist for candidates which asks specific questions under each criteria heading to enable them to give as much information as we need to assess their bid.

Once we have a host, we start to work with their team on the organisation and logistics (Annick Carteret, the Corporate Business Manager, liaises closely with me on this). We also begin developing the professional programme with the Programme Commission and the host's programme experts. The third aspect of delivering the annual conference is arranging the FAN meeting and currently Margaret Turner, Publications and Translations Adviser, is the Secretariat's liaison with FAN.

Nearer the time of the conference I will begin to work on allocating ICA's budget for providing funding to participants from countries who cannot otherwise afford to attend ICA meetings. This is a process that is developing and we aim to make it increasingly transparent and accessible. We are working on the idea of two

or three funding streams: one for governance meeting participants to attend and one or two for participants who can make a case for a training or professional development need and/or for being able to take the annual conference experience and turn it into a concrete benefit for ICA, their country or region. As we develop the process, we will be developing documentation designed to help candidates write the most effective application they can.

The next big milestone for me is the launching the call for bids to host the 2015 annual conference, which will be limited to candidates from Africa. I would welcome early expressions of interest (email me: [crockett@ica.org](mailto:crockett@ica.org)) but also see the relevant page on the ICA website: [www.ica.org/12573/annual-conference-news/about-annual-conference-2015.html](http://www.ica.org/12573/annual-conference-news/about-annual-conference-2015.html)



**Margaret Crockett**  
Deputy Secretary  
General, Conferences  
[crockett@ica.org](mailto:crockett@ica.org)