

IFLA

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Mitteilungen der IFLA

Communications de l'IFLA

A message from the president of IFLA

IFLA, I think it is fair to say, is progressing quite well. In 1997, quite a number of encouraging developments have taken place. The Executive Committee of IFLA held a meeting in Versailles on first and second March 1997.

I myself and several members of the Committee took the opportunity to pay a visit to UNESCO on 28 February. We had a chance to have very productive meetings with the Human Habitat division of UNESCO, discussing the future co-operation in the UNESCO Prize for Landscape Architecture, and in several workshops and seminars that UNESCO will support. We also met with Dr. von Droste, the director of the world Heritage Centre, strengthening the ties that our Vice President Central Region, Hans Dorn had worked on so diligently. Our relationship with UNESCO is very strong and active.

In March I attended the annual meeting of the Council of the BDLA, the German Landscape Architects Association. IFLA will be a patron of an international symposium that is planned for the year 2000 on the occasion of the World Fair which will be held in Hannover/Germany under the title «EXPO 2000».

In June an international conference «Pathways to Sustainability» was held under the joint patronage of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Program, the international Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, the International Union of Local Authorities and the 1997 Bicentenary Events Corporation in Newcastle, NSW, Australia. I was invited to give a paper on «Industrial Cities in Transformation», and was able to take this opportunity to stress the vital role that

landscape architects can play in the important local efforts towards greater sustainability in every day developments, a field that will be an important market segment to us in the future. My trip to Australia also afforded me the chance to meet with Mr. Leonard Lynch, the president of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, for a productive two hour talk in Sydney. Just recently the contacts with the American Society of Landscape Architects and with the Landscape Institute have been renewed as well. I am pursuing my policy of «an open dialogue».

Let me briefly touch on membership development within IFLA: The organizers of the IFLA World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina have taken the congress as an opportunity to start an initiative on the South American continent. They have invited colleagues from Paraguay and Uruguay, a chance for first contacts that may hopefully lead to further involvement of these countries in IFLA. I would like to commend our colleagues in Argentina for this positive step. After having had contacts with colleagues in the Peoples Republic of China for a long time, indications grew that the Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture (CSLA) was interested to become a member in IFLA. They reacted positively to my official invitation, but indicated that in their view the «Chinese Landscape Architects Society in Taiwan» (CLASIT) would have to make certain changes in their name in order to overcome obstacles with their government. So far CLASIT has termed the two names proposed by CSLA as unacceptable to them ...

There is a good chance that a professional Institute of Landscape Architects may be established in Zambia, Africa. This would mean a tremendous step forwards on

this vast continent, where the profession is certainly underrepresented so far.

IFLA is also pursuing new contacts in India in order to revive the professional relationship with this country.

Prof. Arno Schmid, IFLA President

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