

Committees, Forums, Groups

Cultural Identity and Development Committee



Rehearsals in the buffer zone in Nicosia, WALLS Project, 2014

Report of the Cultural Identity and Development Committee CIDC

Taking into Account the Changes and Demands

Since the last ITI World Congress the CIDC has gone through a dynamic process of finding a new structure for the committee. CIDC needs to evolve in order to take into account the demands of the world and the fast changes happening around us. To replace the General Secretary in a radical way by two young members failed.

Board Meeting in Manila 2012

The board meeting in Manila/Philippines, in February 2012, aimed at stabilizing the work of CIDC without putting any of the projects at risk. At the board meeting in Baku/Azerbaijan, in November 2012, it was decided to give the former General Secretary Alexander Stillmark from Germany and Anette Asp Christensen from Denmark the task of the General Secretariat of CIDC ad interim. Anette Asp Christensen should be introduced into the work of a general secretary of CIDC and be presented at the next congress. As the location for the next congress was changed, the decision proved to be appropriate because a lot of work on communication had to be done.

Joint Committee and ITI Executive Board Meeting in Paris 2013

During the 4th Joint Committee and Executive Board Meeting (November 2013, Paris) the members of CIDC presented the experience with the structure, together

with the observation to the Executive Board and to the office bearers of other committees and listened to the critical remarks of the Executive Board members and the Director General of ITI.

Board Meeting in Lecce 2014

Transformation of CIDC into 3 Project Groups
During the board meeting in Lecce/Italy in April 2014 the board members decided that the following solution should be communicated to the Executive Council of ITI. The CIDC is to be divided into smaller units:

- 1. Theatre in Conflict Zones.** This Project Group includes projects like WALLS (Italy, Turkey, Cyprus, etc.), My Unknown Enemy (Germany), Centre for Theatre in Conflict Zones (Sudan).
- 2. Staging Cultural Identities.** This Project Group deals with traditions like the Festival of Latin America and Caribbean (Colombia), Maya Project (Mexico), Ancient Greek Drama Festivals (Cyprus), and projects in Brazil and Australia, with Migrant Theatre like Ma-Yi Theatre in USA and with minorities like the work with Roma.
- 3. Theatre for Social Change** This committee deals with Community Work (Philippines, Mexico, etc.); with Theatre of the Oppressed (Brazil, etc.), and with Climate Change (Philippines, etc.).

According to the Rules and Guidelines Committees, Forums and Groups are independent to decide on their own structure.

Cultural Diversity Convention of UNESCO

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Left: Board Meeting in Lecce, Italy, 2014.. Right: CIDC event in Bohol, Philippines



Additionally the CIDC proposes that the work on the follow up of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions should be done directly under the Executive Council or the Director General ITI, in a working group. This should put accent on the importance of the work for the convention.

Carlos Duering, Mexico
Shaig Safarov, Azerbaijan
Adel Harbi, Sudan
Dieter Welke, Germany
Jorge Ortoll, USA
Kostas Hadjgeorgian, Cyprus
Leopold Ngoulou, Rep. Congo
Jae-Oh Choi, Korea Rep.

Ongoing Projects

- Ancient Greek Drama Festival (Cyprus)
- Walls, Theatre in conflict zones of the Mediterranean Area (Italy, Turkey, Cyprus, France, etc.)
- Maya Project: 14° Caravana de la Imaginación (Mexico)
- Ma-Yi Theatre activities for US Theatre Artists of Asian Origin (USA)
- World Forum of Art for Peace and Post Conflict St. Marta (Colombia)

Submitted by Alexander Stillmark

Highlight – Invitation to the United Nations

One of the highlights of CIDC was the invitation for Cecile Guidote Alvarez as ITI/CIDC president to the 37th session of UN General Conference, in April 2014. This invitation is a recognition for her active and never-ending work for CIDC in the Philippines, on climate change, on poverty alleviation and on assistance for people in need during catastrophes, using theatre and the arts.

Board Members

Cecile Guidote Alvarez, Philippines – President
Fabio Toledi, Italy – Vice-President
Isabel Quintanar, Mexico – Vice-President
Lydia Font, USA – General Secretary until Nov. 2012
Alexander Stillmark, Germany – General Secretary since Nov. 2012
Anette Asp Christensen, Denmark – Assistant General Secretary since Nov. 2012

Henriette Roels, Belgium Fl.
Luz Patricia Moreno, Colombia
Zeca Ligiero, Brazil
Basilo Nova, Dominican Republic