

**Minutes of the
2014 IFRAO Business Meeting**
Guiyang, China, 18 July 2014

Organisations represented: American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA), represented by Mavis Greer (U.S.A.); *Associacion pour le Rayonnement de l'Art Pariétal Europeén* (ARAPE), represented by Jean Clottes (France); Australian Rock Art Research Association, Inc. (AURA), represented by Robert G. Bednarik (Australia); Cave Art Research Association (CARA), represented by Robert G. Bednarik (Australia); *Centro Studi e Museo d'Arte Preistorica* (CeSMPA), represented by proxy by Robert G. Bednarik; Rock Art Research Association of China (RARAC), represented by Zhang Yasha (China); Rock Art Society of India (RASI), represented by Giriraj Kumar; *Société Préhistorique Ariège-Pyrénées* (SPAP), represented by Jean Clottes (France). The meeting is also attended by two observers, Anneliese Peschlow and Tang Huisheng, to enable them to present specific requests.

The meeting was held in the Pullman Hotel in Guiyang City, Guizhou Province, China, on 18 July 2014, and it commenced at 2.00 p.m. It was chaired by Mavis Greer, the Immediate-Past President of IFRAO. The minutes were recorded by the Convener of IFRAO.

1. *Apologies and declaration of proxies.* There were no apologies, and the proxy by CeSMPA was declared.
2. *Confirmation of previous minutes.* The minutes of the previous IFRAO Business Meeting (Albuquerque, U.S.A., 31 May 2013) have been published in *Rock Art Research* 31(1): 127–128. RASI moved to accept them, seconded by ARAPE, and they were accepted unanimously.
3. *Matters arising from these minutes.* No matters arising from the previous meeting were raised or discussed.
4. *Report of the IFRAO President.* The IFRAO President (Mavis Greer) proposed that IFRAO's on-line presence would be enhanced by establishing a Facebook page, and she proposes to effect and maintain this initiative. She was encouraged to do so, especially for the purpose of securing greater public support for rock art preservation campaigns.
5. *Report of the IFRAO-UNESCO Liaison Officer.* No report was tabled.
- 5.1. The CeSMPA Proposal for an action by UNESCO and ICOM to put every IFRAO Member in permanent connection with the UNESCO and ICOM publication centres was discussed, but no specific action by IFRAO was recommended, primarily because IFRAO preserves full autonomy of its member organisations.
6. *Report by the IFRAO Convener.*
 - 6.1. The issue of global rock art protection was raised, citing issues in Chile, Peru, France, U.S.A., Turkey, Australia etc. Members were encouraged to further collaborate in such matters.
 - 6.2. The developments in prioritising World Heritage listing criteria, pursued by Past President Jean Clottes and the Convener since 2006, were discussed. The Past President advised that the standards required by UNESCO are now higher than in the past, and that submissions to the List need to be extremely well presented.
7. Proposal by AURA to nominate the Fourth AURA Congress in Melbourne, Australia, as that year's IFRAO Congress. In view of the concerns expressed by some IFRAO members about the frequency of IFRAO congresses, it was proposed that there be no event in 2016. The AURA proposal was supported by RASI and seconded by ARAPE, and accepted unanimously.
8. *Reports of IFRAO Representatives.*
 - 8.1. ARARA has held its annual meeting in Wyoming, and much of its recent effort has been focused on work with the ARARA Archive, which has been affected by flooding of the building in which it was housed. ARARA also continues to publish its newsletter, *La Pintura*.
 - 8.2. ARAPE's newsletter *INORA* is now in its 24th year and the organisation manages cave art research, e.g. by channelling the funding of the Chauvet Cave project.
 - 8.3. RASI continues to operate the EIP Project together with AURA; will conduct a rock art symposium in Pondicherry in December 2014; and continues to produce its journal *Purakala*.
 - 8.4. RARAC has been preoccupied with the preparations for the Guiyang rock art congress, but its publishing program has also progressed well in 2013/14, with the publication of two books, and the translation of foreign books is being undertaken.
 - 8.5. AURA's members are conducting field work in all continents and the preparation of the 32nd volume of its journal *RAR* is in progress.

9. *Further matters raised by delegates.* CeSMAP suggested that the publications exchange between the IFRAO Members should become systematic, automatic and permanent for the progress of the related IFRAO libraries. The meeting proposed that a detailed representation is required from CeSMAP which takes into consideration the preservation of the autonomy of individual member organisations.

10. *General matters.*

10.1. Observer Anneliese Peschlow presented the imminent threat to the rock paintings of the Latmos Mountains in western Turkey, posed by large-scale quarrying of feldspar. The rock art is likely to be destroyed within one or two years, and to have the issue raised in parliament requires a petition with 30 000 signatures. IFRAO was asked to help with the campaign and Dr Peschlow will provide details, including addresses of the relevant people, to the Convener, who is to request the IFRAO members to take specific action. The proposal was supported by AURA, seconded by ARARA, and carried.

10.2. Observer Tang Huisheng announced that he will endeavour to establish an international rock art dating institute in a Chinese university, to include a global data bank of direct dating work, a library and a laboratory. The facility will conduct its own research as well. Professor Tang asked for IFRAO's collaboration with this initiative, and was assured that it will be given.

11. Zhang Yasha, chairperson of the Guiyang IFRAO Congress, was unanimously elected as the IFRAO President for the new term, beginning immediately.

12. *Adjournment.* The new President adjourned the meeting at 3.20 p.m.