8. Network for Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration N-HIM

Thursday, 23 February 2023, 14h00 – 15h00,
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Fujairah City

During the "Committees internal meetings" at the Congress and following the information received by the General Assembly, the N-HIM members met and discussed the future of the split of the N-HIM into two Forums.

The N-HIM members exchanged views, thoughts, and reflections on a better future for N-HIM. It was decided that the existing committee could no longer function as it is, as the three major fields it embraces (Heritage, Indigenous, Migration) are three different committees.

N-HIM members strongly believe that splitting the N-HIM into two Forums/Committees is necessary, as the theme, action, and objectives of each one will be clearer. This will help both attract new members and work in harmony with a specific field, create dialogue and project partnerships between the members, and of course, each Committee/Forum to be active in ITI's network.

Accordingly, the members of the N-HIM proceeded to:

1) The creation of a committee named "Heritage & Diversity Forum", which will be chaired by the current President and Vice-President of N-HIM (Christos GEORGIOU and Mathias GEHRT, respectively).
2) The creation of a committee for Indigenous & Migration headed by Ova SAOPENG.

Heritage & Diversity Forum

With the creation of the new Forum named "Heritage & Diversity Forum" and led by Christos GEORGIOU and Mathias GEHRT, the staffing procedures for the attendance of new members took place at the Congress, as well as the first meeting of the Forum's members.

"Heritage & Diversity Forum" aims to explore cultural heritage in the theatre and performing arts' sector by focusing on the past and modern times, through the issues that arise in the applied context of heritage. Special emphasis will be given to the practical and operational implementation of cultural heritage projects and events, especially through festivals, so that the complex relationships of cultural heritage in the field of theatre development to be explored in depth. The Forum goals to research and study, but not limited to the ancient theatre as a special theatrical code and as a cultural phenomenon, the surviving ancient dramatic texts in terms of philological and theatrical context, theatre venues and archaeological testimonies in general, as well as the reception of ancient Greek and Roman drama, as well as the traditional theatre to the modern and contemporary European literature, theatre, dance, cinema, and other forms of art. Throughout history, drama has performed and represented political, religious, national, ethnic, class-related, gendered, and individual concepts of identity.

The "Heritage & Diversity Forum" aims to focus on the vast history of European drama from ancient Greek drama to nineteenth-century theatre, focusing on identity and diversity.

The modern world's contact with its ancestral cultural heritage is accomplished through a specific and established interpretation that combines philological, philosophical, aesthetic and theatrical components that are developed and expressed on a European and international level.

Members:

Christos GEORGIOU (Cyprus) – President
Matthias GEHRT (Germany) – Vice President
Lina TAL (Jordan)
Zaza MUCHEMWA (Zimbabwe)
Okbaoui CHEIKH (Algeria)
Mohamed SHASHAA (Palestine)
Ayad Kadhim AL- SALAMI (Iraq)

Contact:
Christos GEORGIOU (Cyprus) – director(at)ccoiti.org.cy

Indigenous & Migration Network (provisory title)

A Committee, Forum or Network that is focussing on the theme of indigenous people and migration has been decided during the 36th ITI World Congress as part of the discussion of the members of the Network for Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration.

Please contact Ova SAOPENG, USA for further information
ova(at)teada.org

PS. For more information about the activities of N-HIM and the two new entities, please read the text that are published in the Chapter Educational Part, Round Tables 3 – Part 1 Theatre of the Diaspora. (page 52)

9. Social Change Network SCN

Thursday, 23 February 2023, 14h00 – 15h00
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Fujairah City

A number of the membership that attended in Spain where not able to join Fujairah originally set for November but moved to February. However, membership grew with attendance at ITI Social Change events. There were five (5) of us, and four attendees were all new to social change. Present were; Cecile GUIDOTE-ALVAREZ (Philippines), Nongodo OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso), Esrah UGURLU (Switzerland/Kurdistan), Cadrick MSONGELWA (Zimbabwe), Ronald SIGECA (Zimbabwe)

I. Brief historical background/ and activities of the Social Change Network (SCN)

In 1971, at the ITI World Congress in London, the Philippine ITI proposal for holding of a Third World Festival/Conference, was approved with endorsement of La MaMa's Ellen Stewart who served as consultant to reach out to Africa. It successfully held in Manila merited the creation of a permanent committee from a study group. During Martial Law, the Committee Secretariat was allowed to be based at LaMaMa-Third World Institute of the Arts Studies (TWITAS) in New York City undertaking sustained Third World Theatre Festival and cross-cultural concerns inclusive of ethnic minorities. At the Congress in Finland, the TWC was renamed Cultural Identity and Development Committee (CIDC). While in Spain in 2017, CIDC was broken down into three (3) networks for social change; conflict zones, heritage and migration. Cecile Guidote-Alvarez was elected President with the Earthsavers honored as UNESCO Artist for Peace served as its local secretariat.

Activities regularly held since 2017 to 2023 were explained to observe World Theatre & Women's Month in March, International Earth & Dance Day in April, and International Arts Education Week in May.

UNESCO gave patronage to launch the "Peace & Climate Justice Global Movement: Not by Force of Arms but By the Power of Arts" held in 2018, to reduce tension in the conflicted West Philippine/ China Sea. The Manila declaration was endorsed at Cartagena, Colombia in the South South Cooperation Council (SSCC) meeting and at the COP-UN Climate Conference in Katowice, Poland in 2022 by the Arts Planet. Arts for empowerment, healing, and creative industries driver were profiles in her speeches at the Europe Union and in the United Nations Summit on Culture and Sustainable Development 2019 and in the creation of the Asian Cultural Council in Cambodia by parliamentarians in January 2020 hosted by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

In March, 2020 when the pandemic closed borders, the Global SDGs ResiliArt events hosted by Manila, supported by the Senate was rescheduled due to continuous new surges. All the components were held: workshops, forum, festival, outreach, presentation to partners from December 2021 to June 2023, which manifested passion perseverance and resilience of artists amidst the horrible restrictions. It was agreed the initiative of the SDGs ResiliArt events in Manila under UNESCO patronage should be continued annually hosted in various countries in different continents. Countries that already expressed great interest at the Congress were Brazil, Pakistan, Ghana, Columbia, Spain, South Korea and was providing a cultural input in COP29 at Abu Dhabi presented to ITI President Mohamed Saif Al-Alfkam and to the ITI General Secretariat that expressed interest and approval for the intended program. The isolation caused by the pandemic opened the blended use of technology with arts.

II. The discussion with participants, the concerns of Africa were raised:

Tolerance, relevance and care such as work in prison and rehabilitation of those afflicted by drugs and refugees of conflict & climate catastrophes were discussed including indigenous heritage preservation financial need to enable participation in international gatherings to promote peace understanding and joint climate action. Ezra in Europe is concerned about cultural services to ethnic minorities and we focused besides "Black Lives Matter" to link it with "Indigenous Lives Matter."

The Executive Board of Officers were affirmed to continue until an SCN meeting at the Congress in Belgium 2024. Cecilia GUIDOTE-ALVAREZ as President with the Regional Vice-President for Asia-DUK Hyung Yoo of Seoul Institute of the Arts (SIA), Getrude MUNHAMO of Zimbabwe for Africa and Viktor SEBEK of the Colombian ITI Centre for Latin America. However, Esrah UGURLU was selected as Secretary because of difficulty and non-communication from Parakrama NIRIELLA, Secretary from Sri Lanka.

A postscript good news: The SDG's report as undertaken by the ITI-SCN with the Earthsavers was received with satisfaction at UNESCO Paris in the General Assembly of Goodwill Ambassador presided by UNESCO Director General Audrey AZOULAY, June 16, 2023.

Contact:
Esrah UGURLU – esrahugurlu(at)gmail.com

12. ITI Publications Committee IPC

Thursday, 23 February 2023, 14h00 – 15h00,
Concorde Hotel, Fujairah

In view of the absence of IPC President Alfira ARSLANOVA, Honorary President Ramendu MAJUMDAR presided over the meeting. The Secretary of the Committee, Babul BISWAS gave an overview of the Committee's activities since the last Congress.

It was unanimously decided that:

- The Committee should continue the publication of The World of Theatre, the flagship publication of ITI. The next edition should be published before the 37th ITI Congress to be held in September, 2024 in Antwerp, Belgium.
  The theatre seasons to be covered in that volume are 2021-22, 2022-23 and part of 2023-24 as far as possible.
  The Editorial Board with announce the article submission dates etc.
  Bangladesh ITI expressed its willingness to take the responsibility of the publication as before.
- The Social Theatre Book project which was taken in hand by the Russian Centre during the years of pandemic should be completed and published.
- Some online activity connecting the centres would be planned by the Board during 2023-24.

The New Board

- Ramendu MAJUMDAR, Bangladesh, Honorary President
- Alfira ARSLANOVA, Russia, President
- Babul BISWAS, Bangladesh, Secretary

Members
Mofidul HOQUE, Bangladesh
sD.M.S. DISSANAYAKE, Sri Lanka
Jessica KAAHWA, Uganda
Abhiram BHADKAMKAR, India
Anshuman BHOWMICK, India
Kira Claude GUINGANE, Burkina Faso
Tobias KOKKELMANS, Belgium
Vito MINOIA, Italy
Abdelkader GONEGAI, Morocco

Report submitted by Babul Biswas, Secretary

Contact:
Babul BISWAS, Bangladesh
bangladesh.theater.archives(at)gmail.com