



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS (ICOM)
International Committee on Museum Security (ICMS)**

Workshop ICMS in St. Petersburg 9 – 14 June 2015 “Emergency procedures”

The event took place in the State Russian Museum with about 100 participants and via internet a video transmission to 25 Russian regions. The purpose of the workshop was to train museum staff in practical skills of action in emergency situations to reduce the damage and loss of museum valuables and to preserve the life and health of the visitors and staff.

Support was given by ICOM Russia, the State Russian Museum, the Hermitage and many other sponsors.

The first lessons/demonstrations were given by the Fire Department in the Hermitage on 10 June. The use of firefighters and high escape ladders was practised.

Irina Kusnetsova presented a lecture about “the Principles in the protection during a down economy” which gave us a good start of the presentations. She was followed by the deputy director of the Hermitage with a presentation about “fire suppression by the use of Oxyreduct”.

The next day was filled with presentations by ICMS presenters like Stephane Thefo, Michael John, Irina Kusnetsova, Sergiu Bercovici and Willem Hekman. Much emphasis was placed on terrorist activities and fire in museums. The director of the museum in Donetsk (Ukraine) took the floor and explained their problems with the protection of artifacts during the armed conflict. Also the “illicit trafficking of art” was addressed and it was stressed that museums should take care of inventories.

After the presentations of the ICMS handbook on Emergency procedures in Russian there was a presentation of the UNESCO book “Protection of Religious Heritage” by Stephane Thefo.

Friday was used for a practical exercise in the State Russian complexes where Risk Analysis was conducted and reports were made and presented to the director. He was very pleased with the comments.

The workshop was valued as very important and the discussions were appreciated very much. A lot of work lies ahead of the participants, but contacts with ICMS were strengthened and promises were made to assist each other.

Willem Hekman
Chairperson of ICMS