Dear members,

The last months have been hectic for the organizing committee of our annual conference in Nairobi, Kenya. It is always very difficult to set up a conference, but in this case is was even more difficult due to the fact that funding from local sources is failing.

The board of ICMS is happy to announce that the conference is going on. The conference is funded by ICMS and this has contributed to a good and informative program. Thanks to the Kenyan organizers we are looking forward to having an excellent conference. Participation from Kenya and other African country will assure the dissemination of our knowledge and experience in the field of museum security throughout many African museums.

After the conference a workshop will be held, sponsored by ICOM , ICMS and a great Chinese sponsor. Participants from 6 African countries will be there and ICMS presenters will share their knowledge.

Thanks to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam (Raymond de Jong and his assistant Hilda Tomasouw) the update of our Handbook on Emergency Procedures is almost done. After approval by the board the needed update of the translated copies can be fixed.

In Warsaw, Poland the work for the translation of our Emergency handbook is underway and possibly the Polish version will be ready by the end of 2018. The contract with Poland for this translation is finalized.

From ICOM Iran we have received a request for not only a workshop but also our approval for a translation of our Handbook into Farsi. With that translation the Handbook can be used in many Arabic countries. Unfortunately we have not received further notice from Iran, but are hopeful that it will come along.

The board urges all members to look around you and to check your contacts for a membership of ICMS. We would like to grow in numbers and in countries where ICMS could be represented, especially in countries in Africa, Asia en Australia. Please check your friends and try to bring them in our group.

The board is extremely happy that 2 new members from Japan have signed up for ICMS, which will help us in the organization of the annual conference next year in Japan in September 2019.

Our board member from the USA, Stephen St. Laurent has resigned as a board member of ICMS. The ICMS board has co-opted Trygve Lauritzen from Oslo, Norway, according to the ICMS rules Art.7/3. The board will ask the members in the next ICMS business meeting to approve this change.

Due to the workload and for reasons of geographic importance the board would like to find two (2) more board members. The chair is urging everyone who is interested in participating in “running” the
work of ICMS, please step forward and let the chair or the secretary know. Just join the board now, give it a try before the formal elections in Kyoto.

We would like to remind all members that the annual ICMS meeting will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 17 – 19 September 2018. On our website you can link to the Kenyan website and register for the participation. The venue will be in the National Museum of Kenya.

We hope that there will be a good turnout of members, to assist the Kenyan members and participants from African countries to share their and our experiences and to help each other to move forward in the field of museum security and the safeguarding of the cultural heritage.

It is still not too late to register for the conference in Kenya. The program is great and the weather will be good. It is informative and great fun to meet each other again and to make new friends with the African participants.

I hope to see many of you in Nairobi.

August 9, 2018       Lyons Brook, Canada

Willem Hekman       Secretary ICMS