



NATIONAL TRUST

MEDIA RELEASE

National Trust expert plays vital role in new international body

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In an exceptional demonstration of international cooperation, the majority of the world's National Trusts and heritage organizations signed the Charter of the International National Trust Organisation (INTO) on Monday 3 December.

The new international heritage organisation was signed by sixty Trusts from around the world at an impressive ceremony in New Delhi, presided over by the Vice President of India.

The signing of the charter confirmed an international determination to work together to promote the conservation and enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage worldwide.

Among those Trusts that signed was the "mother" Trust from England, Wales and Northern Ireland, together with a diverse range from around the world including the USA, Scotland, Canada, Russia, India, the Netherlands, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malta, Ireland, Nepal, Slovakia, Taiwan, Korea, Transylvania, Bermuda, amongst many others.

Former Australian Council of National Trusts Chairman, Simon Molesworth, has been a central figure in the foundation of the new international organisation. Molesworth, who had led the INTO Steering Committee over the last 18 months, was reappointed Chairman of the INTO Committee at the close of the Conference.

ACNT Chairman Pat Comben, who was present in Delhi to sign on behalf of the Australian Council of National Trusts, said that the work Molesworth had contributed to the development of INTO was exceptional.

"Simon has continued on from the outstanding input he has made to Australia's National Trust movement to establish this global organisation", Comben said. "The potential of INTO to address world heritage issues is multi fold and great credit must go to Simon for his great vision and commitment."

The INTO Committee has already made arrangements for the INTO World Headquarters to be set up at St Anne's Gate in London, with a selection procedure in place to elect the INTO Secretary-General and secretariat staff.

Representatives from international agencies such as UNESCO, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Heritage Lottery Fund were present, demonstrating the international acceptance of this new organisation.

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