

ICPIC 2009 - 2011 President's Report

I should like to begin this report with a sincere and heartfelt memory of two people who left us last year. Ann and Mat, key people in the birth and growth of the ICPIC are no longer with us. We will miss them in the Conference and dedicate them a special homage. Over the past 20 months the ICPIC Executive Board has copy with some challenges and has engaged in certain activities.

Of course, one of the most difficult challenges was working together when we are living in very distant countries and all of us are people who operate on a voluntary commitment and have to work in our free time, always a very scarce asset. As president, I couldn't start working at a good level till July 2010. The suggestion of having a vice person appointed has been very fruitful, especially when the vice are members of the previous executive. Jen Glaser's contribution to my presidency has been essential and I want to expressly thank her support. It was also very fruitful the appointment of Jin-Whan Park as Vicepresident: that decision allowed us working together in the preparation of the International Conference in Seoul.

I would like to briefly highlight the most important achievements during these 20 months:

Introducing Paypal payment on the ICPIC website

It was not as easy as expected and Ann and Emmanuel had to work hard to get it. Of course it will make things easier for collecting money from IPIC members.

Improvements to the ICPIC Website

Apart from including the system of payment we have not advanced much in the improvement of the page. We only have a well-designed project presented by Jen and one person in Spain who offered to help us. I hope that after the approval of the project in the Conference, will be able to make some significant improvements before the end of my presidency (October 2011).

Functioning of the Executive Committee

We have set up a discussion group that helps us in sharing ideas and problems. Much more important is the regular holding of board meetings using Skype video-conference system. Every four to six weeks we met together two hours and talk about the different problems and tasks we should solve. We have growth as a team and that made a difference. It was crucial, for example, in order to work together in the preparation of the ICPIC Conference.

Functioning of ICPIC

We also set up an ICPIC member's discussion group. 98 people are members of that list and he has been helpful as an open forum to share information and to discuss subjects that are relevant for ICPIC. Although there is another very important mailing list (p4c_list@yahoogroups.com), our specific list allow us to build a sense of community as ICPIC members, an organization with people working in very different places and educational settings, with also diverse approach to the practice of philosophical dialogue. We need this forum to the practice of a philosophical dialogue that help us to be sensitive to the differences and to work on the basic ideas that all of us share. ICPIC identity, in the sense of open and flexible family resemblances, is very important in order to transform our classrooms and other educational settings into communities of philosophical inquiry.

There is a discrepancy between the number of member in the group list (98) and the number of members in the Excel file that we have (167). And we also need to check how many members are in good standing. I hope to solve that problem in the near future, before October 2010.

UNESCO meeting in Milano

A positive consequence of this way of working was the possibility to actively participate in the meeting of UNESCO held in Milan, on February 2011. Daniela Cahmy and me attended that meeting; I presented ICPIC, using a document that the members of the Executive Board had worked together, and Daniela presented Sophia, the European network of PwC. I also signed a "Proposal to create an International Network of Philosophy with Children Practices", together with other institutions. Although I'm not very sure about the concrete results of that proposal (nothing has been done since then), from my point of view it was very valuable that the report about ICPIC and the proposal was a product of the discussion we had in our group list.

I want to thanks all the members of the Executive Committee. We have move toward a true community of philosophical inquiry, aimed at ICPIC growth.

Félix García Moriyón
ICPIC President 2009-2011

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Félix García Moriyón

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