

**CANDIDATE FOR THE BOARD OF ICOMOS
CANDIDAT AU CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE L'ICOMOS**

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MALAYSIA – MALAISIE



PLATFORM / PLATE-FORME / PLATAFORMA

Heritage connects generations. It carries memory, identity, and shared responsibility. Today, heritage faces unprecedented pressures: climate change, rapid urbanisation, tourism impacts, and evolving community expectations. ICOMOS must remain principled, relevant, and action-oriented, supporting communities, professionals, and policymakers worldwide.

I am seeking election to the ICOMOS Board, with the intention of standing for Vice President for the Asia-Pacific region. I confirm that, if elected to the Bureau as Vice President, I will serve in that office and attend all Board and Bureau meetings. If I am not elected to the Bureau, I will still serve as a Board member and attend all Board meetings. I am fully committed to dedicating the time and energy required to contribute actively in whichever capacity I am elected.

My vision for the Asia-Pacific region rests on three priorities: stronger regional cooperation, advocacy for living heritage, and more balanced global representation. Asia-Pacific is diverse — culturally, geographically, and socially — and its perspectives are vital to the Board's work. When National Committees collaborate

and share knowledge, ICOMOS becomes stronger and more responsive to emerging heritage challenges.

ICOMOS Malaysia is a young National Committee. I have focused my efforts on orienting and inducting ICOMOS Malaysia members, ensuring they understand the organisation's mission, scope, and opportunities, and empowering them to contribute actively to heritage initiatives and harnessing their expertise to build visibility within the national heritage ecosystem. These efforts strengthened engagement with government agencies, academic institutions, heritage professionals, and community organisations. They enabled Malaysia to contribute meaningfully to regional initiatives. I also connected committees across Asia-Pacific for knowledge-sharing, joint projects, and mentorship programs, encouraging younger professionals to engage with ICOMOS and fostering a culture of collaboration. These initiatives laid the groundwork for Malaysia to play a pivotal role in GA2026, demonstrating the impact of strong regional cooperation in action.

Advocacy for living heritage, the second priority, drives all my work. Living heritage is alive — it exists in the language people speak, the skills they practise, the rituals they observe, and the stories they pass down. It constantly evolves, connecting tangible and intangible, past and contemporary, culture and nature. Heritage survives not because it is frozen in time, but because people continue to value it, adapt it, and sustain its relevance. Effective stewardship requires respect for what communities inherit, efforts to enhance it thoughtfully, acceptance of its transformation, and partnerships that ensure continuity across generations.

Through my work as a Bureau member of ICTC, operationalising the Cultural Tourism Charter, conducting cultural mapping, and developing conservation management plans and heritage interpretation strategies, I translate this philosophy into practical action. I have worked closely with communities and professionals to identify heritage values that can be sustained while supporting tourism, education, and local livelihoods. These initiatives show that living heritage thrives when policy, practice, and community engagement align.

The third priority — balanced global representation — is essential for ICOMOS to remain credible, relevant, and inclusive. Asia-Pacific has growing heritage needs and perspectives that deserve visibility and influence in decision-making. As Vice President, I will ensure our region's voice is heard in Board discussions and that governance remains strategic, transparent, and inclusive. I will also support National Committees with mentorship, training, and resources to enhance their effectiveness and ensure emerging voices from the region are represented.

Together, these priorities — connecting our region, championing living heritage, and ensuring fair representation — define my vision for Asia-Pacific. Strengthening collaboration across committees, integrating living heritage into policy and practice, and advocating for our region at the global level are practical ways to make ICOMOS stronger, more relevant, and inclusive. By building partnerships, sharing expertise, and supporting committees to realise local initiatives, I aim to foster a region that contributes meaningfully

to the global heritage agenda.

While we breathe, we serve heritage — together.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Faisal Abd Rahman (Malaysia) is President of ICOMOS Malaysia (2024–2026), an educator and heritage practitioner specializing in sustainable tourism and heritage management. With degrees in Materials Science and Physics and Values Education and Humanities, he brings an interdisciplinary perspective to conserving and interpreting cultural heritage.

Throughout his career, Faisal has worked to empower communities, build local capacity, and promote tourism that strengthens cultural significance while enhancing community resilience. He bridges heritage conservation with sustainable development, ensuring that initiatives respect local traditions and support the long-term vitality of heritage sites and practices.

Within ICOMOS, Faisal leads the Asia-Pacific Cultural Tourism Task Team and serves on the Bureau of the International Cultural Tourism Committee (ICTC), facilitating dialogue among National Committees, fostering professional exchange, and encouraging cross-regional collaboration. He champions the practical application of the 2022 ICOMOS International Cultural Tourism Charter, helping translate its principles into action across diverse contexts.

As Chair of the Steering Committee for the 22nd ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (GA2026) in Kuching, Sarawak, Faisal plays a central role in coordinating international partnerships and ensuring the event advances heritage practice globally.

Through his work at national, regional, and international levels, Faisal continues to strengthen ICOMOS networks and champion inclusive, practice-oriented, and forward-looking heritage conservation that safeguards living heritage, supports communities in times of conflict and disaster, and ensures cultural and social resilience in a rapidly changing world.