

## **PRESIDENT REPORT ICA CONGRESS 2023**

As president of PARBICA, I had the opportunity to be funded by ICA & PARBICA to attend the congress which was held in Abu Dhabi from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023. Thanks so much to ICA and Parbica.

I would be focusing this brief report on the ICA governance meetings that I had attended and not so much on the overall program as there is a summary for each day that is available on the ICA website.

The first meeting I attended was the ICA Executive Board meeting. In this meeting all the activities and expenses and incomes relating to ICA and its branches were discussed. This includes ICA expenses and revenues which are discussed in details. During this meeting, time was taken to announce myself as our representative in the FAN (Forum of National Archivists) Steering committee. The new president for FAN was also announced and she is Rita Tjien Foooh. Further, two representatives from Spain did a brief presentation and announced that the next ICA congress will be held in Barcelona in 2025.

The next Meeting was that of the FAN steering committee. It was more of a transitional meeting where the outgoing chair did his remarks and handed over the Role to the new president. The committee farewelled the outgoing chair and welcomed the new one. During this meeting I was then nominated and agreed through consensus to be the FAN representative in the FIDA board.

The General assembly meeting was held and as usual went through its normal proceedings. I was there and voted on our behalf. Awards were given to four ICA fellows with one of ours who is David Fricker from Australia.

I would conclude to say that the congress is a good one where most topics were discussed. However, as we know that technological changes and advances is the current trend and so there were more interesting sessions on this area too. There was a new session introduced called the 'poster' session. There was an excellent exhibition too. Active new professionals were also announced for 2023 which were 6 in total. There were calls that as archivists we should encourage our new members to join the New professionals programme.

Finally, I wish to recommend that in the next ICA congress we should have our team attending as we had done in past congress as in Malaysia and Australia. This is because there were Branches meeting during the congress and we are the only Branch that did not have a meeting for its members. It is important that as a team we all will all learn from the various sessions and that would be beneficial for the improvement of our Pacific Archives.