

ICPA CONFERENCE SINGAPORE

Thursday, 15 September 16.00 hrs.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH PETER VAN DER SANDE

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues in the Singapore Prison Service,

I.

It is an absolute honour for me to be elected the new President of ICPA. The ICPA Board judged me worthy to be nominated. Last Tuesday, the Annual General Meeting has elected me. I can only express my genuine gratitude for the confidence they put in me. I think it will be extremely inspiring to manage an organisation like this. ICPA is blessed to have such dedicated members and affiliates. People involved and driven by the same goal: To contribute to safe, humane and effective corrections and prisons all over the world, and improve the Correctional and Prison Services. I will do my utmost to meet your expectations, and to take the organisation forward in the next four years. And I fully accept the responsibilities that go with this task.

II.

Firstly, I wish to extend a strong word of thanks to **TONY CAMERON**. Tony, there is absolutely no doubt that I speak on behalf of all the members of the ICPA when I express my gratitude for all the work you have done for the Association. During a long period of 7 years and more you have put a lot of effort, energy and a substantial part of your time in ICPA, exploring new frontiers, and extending the networks still further. You have been extremely active in networking and creating goodwill for ICPA all over the world. In the years of your presidency, we saw the considerable growth of the numbers of ICPA members and attendees to the Conferences – like last year in Ghent, and now in Singapore!

Dear Tony: The ICPA Board owes you a lot. I am proud to be taking over this job from a man like you. On behalf of the Board of ICPA I would like to offer you a present, a replica of a statue made by a Dutch artist. In The Netherlands it is placed in the yard of the prison of Ter Peel. It symbolizes a woman at the end of her detention. She is ready to return into society, and she is proud of that. She is telling us: I am able to take up a new life in society. She is also a symbol for reducing re-offending. In my view, she stands for the core ideas of ICPA. She also symbolizes: Unlocking the second prison.

In my country, this present is exclusively referred to people who made a significant contribution to the reduction of re-offending.

Tony: as we have heard in this Conference many times, the topic of reducing re-offending has always been of pre-eminent importance during your years of Presidency. And that is why you, in the view of the Board, deserve this present.

Now: present the sculpture to Tony

Tony, again: thank you very much. **(Applause)**

We also have a Board Member who leaves and that is Uju Agomoh. I would like to invite Orit Adato to the stage to say a few words about Uju as they were together on the Board for over eight years.

I would like to give you these flowers on behalf of ICPA as a token of our heartfelt appreciation for the dedication, commitment and support that you have given to the Association, and I'm sure that you will continue to do so in future.

III.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ICPA is now at an important point in its development. In a sense, we may speak of a Turning Point.

What are the new challenges?

We have come to the end of a highly interesting and intensive Conference. Everybody worked very hard, and you are all probably very tired now. Nevertheless, I would like to ask your attention for some brief words on the further development of ICPA. I will explain to you shortly some ideas on our plans and initiatives.

I would like to focus on the aims and objectives of ICPA. What do we stand for? Earlier this year, the Board had a Strategic Meeting where we reshaped our mission and vision. And on the basis of that we determined the aims and objectives of the Association. It is important to stress that while the Association has grown considerably and has developed in many regional ways, fundamentally very little has changed in these areas. Now we have to create a mechanism of translating each of our strategic objectives into practical initiatives.

In my view, the ICPA is faced with new challenges. I refer to the huge increase in new members and attendees in the organisation, the great diversity of member countries, the need for further regionalization,

and the political pressure to impose more and longer prison sentences in many countries, in an economically difficult situation. These are challenges, but perhaps they are also opportunities for promoting less expensive corrections than prison. We are always looking for efficiency! This week it has been an absolute privilege for me to meet colleagues from countries in different regions of the world. It will be extremely rewarding to cooperate with you to make ICPA stronger and promote safe, humane and effective correctional standards and practices worldwide.

Of significant importance for the Association is the fact of having people speaking from countries like Burundi, Rwanda, Congo – even Russia was here – and also such a huge presence from the Asian countries. This could be a major contribution to the further regional impact of the ICPA, which we are striving for. The same goes for the activity of the Latin American Chapter of the Association who will be our hosts when we meet again in Mexico next year.

ICPA has evolved in recent years to recognize that its foundation for the future is likely to be based on the organisation of regional Chapters – rather than being a singular monolithic world-wide organisation. The successes in the formation of ICPA-Latin America and ICPA North America have shown us substantial benefits in having more meaningful and sensible cross-cultural relationships and engagement.

IV.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I said before, ICPA is at an important point in its development. To be able to realize the sharpened aims and objectives of the Association, it would be helpful if there is more capacity available in the support and the internal structure of the Association. The Dutch Minister of Safety and Justice has allowed me to dedicate a substantial part of my professional time to the ICPA. I am happy to be able to do so. Besides, we will see more capacity to the Executive Directory of the Association. Belgium and The Netherlands together will support the Secretariat of the ICPA, in co-operation with the Executive Director Ed Wozniak. The people already involved are Tineke DeWaele, Cassandra Johnson, Fraser Bryans and Steven Van De Steene. Koert Swierstra will complement the Secretariat.

I hope you will agree with me that the future of the internal organization of the Association may be more certain with this more extended capacity. However, this is only a temporary situation. We cannot expect, in our dramatic economic times worldwide, that after the 4-years period we can still count on an continuation of these contributions and capacity. In the view of the Board it is absolutely necessary that the ICPA in the long run should be less dependent on individual Correctional and Prison Services and other members. We need a more independent administrative structure for our daily

management position. Therefore we will explore the possibilities for substantial fund-raising in the period to come.

V.

What we have covered so far concerns the President and Staff of ICPA. But how will we attack our strategic plans, aims and objectives, and ensure they will be realized in practice? How should we move forward? In the last Board meeting, we designed a new organisational structure including a number of STRATEGIC COMMITTEES to progress on this in a more active way.

To make this clear, I will show you some slides now.

The first three slides are about the Vision, the Objectives and Values of ICPA. Tony Cameron already mentioned them in his Opening Remarks to the Conference last Monday. They are also set out in the Conference Programme.

My intention to show them again is that I hope that they will stay with you, and that you may internalise them. Indeed, it is all about what ICPA stands for!

It would be great if you could keep them in mind.

Our Vision

To be the recognized leader for the advancement of professional and humane corrections and prisons worldwide

INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS AND PRISONS ASSOCIATION

Our Objectives

- 1 To maintain ICPA as an innovative, learning organization, promoting and disseminating good practice
- 2 To enhance co-operation between regions, countries, public, private and voluntary sectors involved in corrections and prisons
- 3 To develop and promote policies and standards for professional and humane corrections and prisons
- 4 To influence governments, policy makers and the public to adopt humane and effective correctional policies and practices and assist in their implementation

INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS AND PRISONS ASSOCIATION

Our Values

- 1 Effective community corrections and the use of imprisonment as the last resort
- 2 Integrity and professionalism
- 3 The sharing of ideas, knowledge, values and experience and working in partnership
- 4 The capacity of individuals to change for the better and the need to support them
- 5 The dignity of all individuals and the duty to protect their rights

Now we turn to **SLIDE 4**. It represents the new organizational structure of the Association. The Board has identified 4 Strategic Committees. They are:

Custodial Corrections:	Peter Severin
Community Corrections:	Dan Lombardo
Training and Development:	Gary Hill
Regional Development:	Diane Williams

Peter Severin, Dan Lombardo, Gary Hill and Diane Williams have now been appointed as Heads of their respective groups by the Board.

Organization Structure



INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS AND PRISONS ASSOCIATION

New Strategy and Organization



INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS AND PRISONS ASSOCIATION

In addition, we will also have Business Groups and Special Interest Groups. But these were already part of the existing organizational structure.

The Strategic Committees have the task to drive forward the objectives of ICPA, and determine the initiatives that have to be taken to achieve them.

Recently we appointed the Leaders of the Groups. I have asked them to compose their appropriate groups and communicate about it.

Now in the view of the Board it is extremely important to stimulate non-Board members to participate. If possible, they should come from the various regions within the Association. I want to open a dialogue with all of you. After all, ICPA is a membership organisation, and should as such be a membership-driven organisation.

The Executive Director of ICPA will support the Committees and Groups with their work, including the development of a monitoring and reporting instrument to the Board.

I am firmly of the view that ICPA can only benefit by engaging other members in the work of the organisation in a meaningful way. May I urge the members of ICPA amongst you to give this a moment of serious consideration? It can only be of benefit for ICPA, and to our

common aims and objectives. Already this week, I have noticed you have proven to be able to make great contributions to the work of ICPA. We hope you all will take back something from the Conference, and will practice something as the result of it. People who might be interested in making a contribution to one of the Groups, may send an e-mail to:

admin@icpa.ca



You can see the address on the **SLIDE** now.

The details will be also published on the [ICPA Website](#) in due course.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I will come to an end of my speech.

With the organizational structure I have shown you, and this form of co-operating with many of you, we think we will make ICPA operate in a more efficient and effective way to achieve its ideals and objectives.

This will lead to make ICPA the most influential organization in the field of Corrections and Prisons world-wide.