

HOM's letter, we received assurances that the ROM/Thorsell and Rahimi that ROM is willing to allow a six-month extension of the loan --- that is, six months of exhibition time, not counting possible storage in the interim. We proposed to all parties to convene a phone conference, which took place on September 28 between ROM, Shung Ye and ourselves, in order to review ROM's concerns with KSTM and brainstorm other scenarios by which the collection will remain here.

5. ROM/Rahimi began the meeting by telling Shung Ye that KSTM was definitely out of the question chiefly as a result of its untested (new) humidity control systems. By the end of the meeting we had clarified ROM's concerns, and backed ROM off this position for now, buying KSTM and Shung Ye a little more time. Outcomes of the conference call:

- ROM and Shung Ye accepted our proposal that if KSTM wanted to change ROM's decision regarding inadequate humidity controls, they would have to be prepared to take some further risks, such as sponsoring a conservator/preparator specialist in the region (e.g. Hong Kong?) whom ROM has worked with before to undertake a site visit to verify humidity controls. This would allow us to bridge the confidence gap. Neither ROM nor CTOT made financial commitments to proposed expert site visit, but we noted that if the ROM could identify such a person we would facilitate KSTM making this decision and would consider whether CTOT could assist in other ways. We noted that if the expert were also able to offer some professional training on conservation to Shung Ye/KSTM (and others in the business) while in Taiwan, then CTOT could sponsor the possibility of partial sponsorship for this. However we made it clear that the decision would have to be taken by KSTM.
- Shung Ye will find an appropriate site for storing the collection until the next venue is sorted out.
- If an expert is brought in to examine KSTM, we may be able to use the visit to boost ROM's confidence in the other proposed facility, in Taichung, which is currently undergoing renovations.

Note that CTOT is currently examining the possibility of organising co-ordination in providing Canadian training - in the form of a seminar/seminars on conservation, international museum standards, facility reports and other areas - to Taiwan professionals. This could be a pilot project for a more formal series of training seminars, workshops or conference on conservation and other curatorial subjects for Taiwan's museum and academic community. Our proposal jumps the gun, but might also allow Mackay to move forward beyond Taipei.

6. The ball is now in the immediate hands of the KSTM, to signal its willingness to go the extra mile in convincing the ROM to have some faith. Failing this, we continue to work with Shung Ye on the other important aspects of the tour, such as Taichung. There is only so much we can do without taking ownership of the project, so we will continue to rely on the responsiveness of our local partners to determine its future.

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