

## Summary 1997 Session of the International Olympic Academy Participants Association

### SUMMARY OF THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SESSION

AUGUST 1997

#### ANCIENT OLYMPIA

The Fifth Session of the IOAAA proved to be the most productive in our history. This session highlighted by the presence of the new IOA President, Mr. Nikos Filaretos, signals a bright future of cooperation between the IOA and the IOAAA. It was the first time that the president of the IOA attended one of our sessions, and we felt honored and privileged to have the opportunity to speak with him in an open forum. The ensuing discussion was fruitful. Mr. Filaretos proposed many exciting challenges for the organization. Although he could not remain throughout the session he motivated the group into action.

48 participants attended this session from 21 countries. As in the past, most members paid their own way to come back to Olympia. Only a few received any subsidy from their NOAs or from other private sources. The ones who are willing to work find a way to return.

It was agreed upon after a short discussion that the name of this organization should henceforth be called the International Olympic Academy Participants Association (IOAPA).

As in our previous sessions, the structure of our meetings closely mirrored the IOA. General reporting sessions were held in the mornings and the afternoons were filled with discussion topics and small group workshops. The themes of these workshops were: Internet, Olympic Education, Sponsorship/Tax Incentives, Topics for the IOA sessions, and of course there was an art and poetry workshop directed by Kevin Whitney (GBR), which produced some fine paintings, and a number of poems. The dance workshop offered by Elizabeth Hanley (USA) culminated in a performance during the social evening.

Ten participants reported on the activities of their National Olympic Academies, and ten short papers were also presented. Some of the tasks that we had embarked upon two years ago were concluded. The brochure promoting the association has been produced and disseminated, especially during the IOA Session for Young Participants, both in 1996 and 1997. This year was especially rewarding as 62 new members joined the association. The brochure is a great tool for our organization. We continue to look for ways to produce mass quantities of them.

A small group chaired by Ms. Wafaa Hassan (SUD) met to discuss Olympic Education. Some proposals for the IOA resulted from these meetings.

The topics committee proposed some new themes for the sessions of the IOA and also proposed that the theme for the Sixth IOAPA session be Olympic Education. The group unanimously accepted this proposal.

Hilde Andressen (NOR), who unfortunately could not attend the session, developed an Internet Web Site. The IOA will be on line soon and there is a possibility to join into cooperation to have our site located within the Academy's.

The possibility of incorporating our association as a non-profit educational organization in order for donors to obtain a tax incentive was discussed. Jorg Brokamp(GER) will contact Mr. Luc Silance (BEL) to research all of the necessary information.

The elections resulted in the continuation of the current president, Mrs. Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA) who can now begin to see results of the past two years of struggling to keep communications between the IOA and the IOAPA alive. A proposal was made during the session to consider retaining the same president for four years in order to allow them to continue their work. It will be voted upon at the next session. Mr. Paul Baldacchino (Mal remains as Treasurer. He assumed this position last November when the Secretary/Treasurer position was divided due to an overload of work. The bylaws were changed during the session to reflect such a change.

New people filled the rest of the Executive Board positions. Mr. Carlo Farrugia (MAL) was elected to the position of Vice President/IOAPA Session Chairman. Ms. Lone Jakobsen (DEN) was elected as Secretary. Mrs. Youla Pipilis (GRE) was elected as IOA Liaison. Mr. Rusty Wilson (USA) was reelected to serve as Newsletter Editor, a position that is not part of the Executive Board.

We wish to thank Mr. Yiannis Zoumpoulis (GRE) for his devoted work during the past two years especially for his efforts to make our participation in the Olympic Torch Relay of 1996 a reality. Also we must than Ms. Katerina Protekdikou (GRE) for her tireless work to organize many aspect of our work in Greece. It is important to point out the key people who organized the session. Mr. Lone Jakobsen was chairman and the other members of the committee were Philip Barker (GBR), Gloria Castilla Lattke (ESP), Katerina Protekdikou (GRE), and Hilde Andressen (NOR). The conference was well organized despite some last minute changes.

This report was produced by the efforts of a small group of people led by Ms. Gloria Castilla Lattke. Mr. Bjorn Krog (DEN) assisted her. Many others did not wish to be recognized for their help. Thanks to all of you!

Will we find ourselves here again in two years? In her closing words, our president said,

*"Remember this place, remember this feeling,*

*Remember our faces, our voices.*

*Remember our dancing, our singing,*

*Remember our work and our play.*

*Remember the smiles, our laughter and our tears,*

*But most of all, remember our love.*

*Love is what brought us back to Olympia.*

*And love is what will bring us back again."*



1997 IOAPA Executive Board