

## Summary 1999 Session of the International Olympic Academy Participants Association

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It started with evening discussions and a call for a new Olympic Movement was very quickly the unofficial topic of the 1985 session. The new IOAPA was certainly an important factor in forming close friendships. At the end of the 1985 session there was an understanding that the end of the session would not be the end. The 1986 group also showed their interest to make a conference reunion in Olympia. Both Mr. Nissiotis and Mr. Filaretos supported this idea and from an idea, a reality was born. "The Olympic flame inside each one of us will only continue to burn hard enough if there will be regular-flair ups. Also this flame needs fuel and this conference will take care of a glow for years to come." (Van Haute)

For this reason and amongst many others we have again met in Olympia for the sixth working session of the IOAPA, which also coincides with the tenth anniversary of the birth of the IOAPA. This conference like all the previous ones was fruitful and cross-fertilization between members, coming from different countries evolved into new ideas. In maintaining the tradition with previous conferences, visits to the Statue of Pierre de Coubertain and to the Hans Van Haute tree were made.

At the start of the conference, each Executive Board member gave a report of their activities of the past two years. Two very interesting discussions were held with the IOA President, Mr. Filaretos, and IOA Dean, Dr. Giorgiadis. A presentation about the history of the IOAPA was also given, and the new members of the IOAPA present were introduced by the old members. Presentations by various participants on this year's theme, "Olympic Education" were delivered and were very well received. The elections were held and the new Executive Board was elected for the coming two years. This consists of:

- President Mrs. Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)
- Vice President Mr. Carlo Farrugia (Malta)
- Secretary Mr. Igor Lanzoni (Italy)
- Treasurer Mr. Paul Baldacchino (Malta)
- Liaison Officer Mrs. Youla Pipilis (Greece)
- Website Officer Mr. Jorg Brokamp (Germany)
- Newsletter Editor Mr. Rusty Wilson (USA)

Three new proposals were also approved by the members present at the conference as amendments to the bylaws. Brainstorming sessions on various different topics were held. These were: - Sydney 2000, Torch Relay, Country and Regional Representatives, Internet web page and Athens 2004.

A special session for the website for the IOAPA was delivered and ideas for the set up and improvement of our own website are now under way. This will connect the IOAPA to the rest of the world. A small memento was also presented to the founding members of the IOAPA who were present at the conference. The commitments taken in 1997 were read out, and members of each country were asked to confirm their progress and the plans for the next two years leading us into 2001 were taken, as a commitment from each country.

Finally the plans of the Executive Board, for the coming years were explained to the

members and the closing speeches by the President of the IOAPA and Dean of the IOA were delivered, which brought this year's conference to its end. As in previous conferences this year's special anniversary conference was fruitful and has confirmed the growth of the IOAPA in the past ten years. However the road ahead is still very long and we must continue to work together to grow, both in quality and in quantity.



1999 IOAPA Executive Board