

Sochi 2014 IOAPA Reunion

By: Anfisa Kasyanova (Belarus)



IOAPA could not be absent from the Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games and of course could not miss the chance to have a reunion there as organising a reunion during all editions of the Olympics has already become an important tradition of almost 20 years!

Preparations

In December 2013 I got a job at the project related to Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games and at the first onset I thought whether IOAPA Reunion was going to take place in Sochi. Being Russian-speaking, with Sochi city experience and enthusiastic, I took the responsibility to organize this meeting. As it was my 1st Olympics I have started very optimistically in terms of numbers of reunion's participants although Winter Games reunions are traditionally smaller compared to the Summer Olympics ones.

HOT.COOL. YOURS – 15th Feb 2014 has proved it!



After lots of preparations on a sunny day – 15th of February – old and new IOAPA members met at a comfy restaurant near the Adler Hub of Olympic Sochi. In total fifteen people joined to celebrate the get-together. Here they are, heroes who changed working shifts, skipped existing competitions tickets, missed sport events and sacrificed hours to come and just simply hang out, keeping IOAPA movement alive by active attitude: Ansen Siglar, Denis Kruzhkov, Kamil Khoury, Natasa Jankovic, Bryan Fautley, William Lindsay, Elia

Morgulev, Maria Koreneva, Hanna Sarkeala and myself, Anfisa Kasyanova. In addition, in our company we had some Olympic- oriented guests: a Panos Trikaliotis' friend, a Virgin Island NOC assistant (assistant of Ansen Siglar) and Denis Kruzhkov's wife and son.

The place was actually an old train station building – very easy to reach by train 'Lastochka' or by accredited bus from any Olympic venue (Olympic Park, Mountain Cluster, Olympic Village, Volunteer Village) as well as from other Sochi districts. By entering old building and seeing new innovative Adler train station on the right hand everyone can understand well how much Sochi has been improved thanks to the Games and how many enormous projects and things have been done so far in the Olympic city and wider area.



Unfortunately, there were no IOAPA board members but we felt their full support throughout the organizing process. Indeed a friend of Panos Trikaliotis (IOAPA ExCommittee Member), Wade Jordan – Canadian journalist, who is covering social and cultural areas, including the Olympics was present. We were lucky to be interviewed and appear in his blog as well.

Those that attended were treated by special Caucasian food and wine as well as by welcoming atmosphere with watching a significant ice hockey match USA–RUS on the TV screen. People were exchanging stories as well as their Olympic and Sochi impressions. Indeed, the participants were involved in the Sochi Olympic Games in many different ways, so they had lots of experiences, ideas and plans to share. The major discussion themes included: unforgettable days in the Academy, the successful IOA Master Programme which is already in its 5th edition, the famous Canadian House in the Olympic Park and the unexpectedly positive Sochi Games image.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank IOAPA President Akhry Ameer and Vice-President Vagelis Alexandrakis for their consulting on Reunion organizational tasks. My best regards to every participant who came and contributed to the IOAPA alumni spirit and development. I believe all participants of traditional IOAPA Reunion can prove that the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi 2014 has been definitely HOT.COOL.YOURS!



IOAPA Executive Committee would like to warmly thank Anfisa for having organised this wonderful reunion. We would also like to thank all participants who attended the reunion and all those who even though did not make it, wished that they could have made it and hope that will make it to join the IOAPA reunion in the next edition of the Olympics!!