

ARETE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
ACADEMY
PARTICIPANTS
ASSOCIATION



HIGHLIGHTS



SUMMARY OF THE 15TH IOAPA SESSION

Ancient Olympia and the IOA was once again the setting for the 15th IOAPA Session that took place from 15-22 July 2017. In total, 21 past participants from 14 countries attended the session, reaffirming the commitment of all members to share the values of Olympism around the world... (p.5)

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NORTH KOREA & THE UN

IOC President Bach met at the United Nations with South Korean President Moon at the UN in September. Together they were confident that the Pyeongchang 2018 Games will go on, having agreed that the Games would be "a great opportunity to bring all Korean people together." Since then this has remained... (p.11)

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57TH IOA YOUNG PARTICIPANTS SESSION

Describing such a unique experience as the participation in the Young Participants Session of the IOA will cover the feelings, thoughts and impact of which each one of us felt during those two weeks in Ancient Olympia. The gathering of 188 individuals from 88 nations with different cultures, languages, backgrounds... (p.17)

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EDITORIAL

Yarden Har Lev (ISR)



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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the winter edition of the Arete Newsletter which was especially redesigned in the spirit of the holiday season and includes a good selection of articles from many of you. It is a great honor for me to join the new IOAPA Executive Committee as the Newsletter Editor and continue the professional work of Vagelis Alexandrakis over the past six years. His contribution to Arete Newsletter has been significant and I take this opportunity to thank him for all his dedicated work.

Innovation and adaptation are important in order to keep up with the times therefore we are adapting of our newsletter as well in order to better deliver information and sharing knowledge among IOAPA members worldwide. As always, if you have any ideas for improving this format, please let us know. Your involvement will enrich the reading experience of all the readers.

In this edition you will find what happened in Olympia during the summer at the 57th Young Participants Session as well as at the 15th IOAPA Session and to get to know the newly elected Executive Committee members. For those who missed the last IOAPA Session, in this as well as upcoming newsletters in 2018 you can read interesting articles which were presented by the participants in Olympia. In addition, Hugh T. Dugan brings us information about the political tensions on the Korean peninsula where the Olympic Winter Games takes place in February. Finally, follow up on recent IOAPA news. We aim to keep you updated!

Please note that the first edition for 2018 is expected to be released after the Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, and a substantial part of it will be dedicated to topics related to the games. Hence, I invite you to send us your contribution in every aspect where you take part in promoting the Olympic ideals through this important event.

Lastly, I would like to use this platform to congratulate Elizabeth A. Hanley for receiving the Vikelas Award from the president of the International Society of Olympic Historians.

Have a successful new year and enjoy your reading!

With Olympic regards,

Yarden Har Lev, Arete Newsletter Editor

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Richard Koo (CAN)



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Dear IOAPA Members and Readers of Arete,

On behalf of the IOAPA Executive Committee, greetings during this festive holiday season! After another successful gathering at the biannual IOAPA Session in Olympia this past July, our new Executive Committee for 2017-2019 is already hard at work on some exciting initiatives for the next two years.

You may have noticed our new format for the Arete newsletter. While the look may be different, the mission still remains the same – to share the stories and experiences of Olympism to all our members around the world. We hope you like it, and we welcome any feedback you may have on our new format.

One of our main strategic initiatives over the next two years will be to develop an even closer working relationship between the IOA and IOAPA, in order to better connect members to the ongoing activities of the Academy. With the cooperation of the IOA and the Hellenic Olympic Committee we were able to secure accreditations for members to attend the Pyeongchang Torch Lighting Ceremony in Olympia and we hope to be able to offer this special experience again in future years. For 2018, we are planning to expand and strengthen our country coordinators network to better engage with you, our members, at the local level. We are also continuing to work with the IOA to identify more opportunities for involvement and hope to be able to announce those new initiatives very soon.

One last note - it gives me great pleasure to announce that in association with the Canadian Olympic Committee, the traditional reunion for IOAPA members at the Olympic Games will be held on 20 February 2018 at Canada Olympic House, located next to Gangneung Olympic Park. We invite all IOA past participants to join us for an evening of celebration and fun as we reconnect and make new friends.

It is shaping up to be another exciting year ahead, and we hope that we will be able to connect with you at some point along the journey.

Happy holidays and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2018!

Yours in Olympism,

Richard Koo, IOAPA President

SUMMARY OF THE 15TH IOAPA SESSION 2017

IOAPA Executive Committee

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Ancient Olympia and the IOA was once again the setting for the 15th IOAPA Session that took place from 15-22 July 2017. In total, 21 past participants from 14 countries attended the session, reaffirming the commitment of all members to share the values of Olympism around the world. As always, we wish to acknowledge the continued support by the staff and administration of the IOA for hosting us and facilitating another successful reunion.

During a panel discussion at the opening of the Session with IOA Honorary Dean Dr. Konstantinos Georgiadis, IOAPA President Richard Koo and former IOAPA President Laurel Iversen, the panelists discussed the need to develop stronger cooperative ties between IOA and IOAPA, and to increase the level of engagement with our members at the national and local levels.

Keeping in line with IOA's main topic for 2017, the theme for our session was "Governance in Sport and the Olympic Movement". Alberto Aragon-Perez presented a case study on the Municipal Governance of Barcelona '92 on the first working day of the session, followed by a wide ranging forum on the topic of Sport and Governance which generated much discussion. Participants also delivered a wide range of general presentations highlighting the diversity of knowledge and experience which included topics related to the Ancient Olympics, Olympic Legacy, Olympic education, and sport ethics.

As part of the IOAPA General Assembly (the main deliberative and policy body of the organization) the participants discussed the future of IOAPA and the global Olympic family. Various factors were considered to ensure a sustainable strategy, such as location of future events, financial security, how to attract members, strategies to increase member engagement through our extensive country co-ordinator network, and improved collaboration between countries at the academic level.



Traditional photo of the IOA past participants on the marble stairs from the 15th IOAPA session 2017



Naturally, the experience of Ancient Olympia and the Academy would not be complete without the extracurricular activities that are a key part of the session. These included various organized sports, a guided tour to Ancient Elis, a beach excursion, a stimulating Olympic Quiz featuring Olympic and Paralympic knowledge, a special dinner at a local agroturismo restaurant, and of course evening excursions to Zorba's.

The election of the officers for the IOAPA Executive Committee occurred on 21 July 2017 and will serve a term of two years until the next IOAPA Session in 2019. Those elected to the Executive Committee are as follows:

PRESIDENT	Richard Koo (CAN)
VICE-PRESIDENT	Kostas Vasileiou (GRE)
SECRETARY	Daniele Nati (ITA)
TREASURER	Sandy Stathopoulou (GRE)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Yarden Har Lev (ISR)
COUNTRY COORDINATOR	Alberto Aragon Perez (ESP)
MARKETING COORDINATOR	Anfisa Kasayanova (BLR)
RESEARCH COORDINATOR	Helen Curtis (GBR)
IOA LIASON	Panagiotis Trikaliotis (GRE)
INTERNET COORDINATOR	Caroline Bujold (CAN)

For a complete summary of the 15th IOAPA, please go to our website and download the session report [HERE!](#)



The participants started every morning with a tai-chi session



A group photo at the guided tour to Ancient Elis



Panel discussion at the opening of the Session

OLYMPISM AND DANCE

The international connection

Elizabeth A. Hanley (USA)


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“... Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy in effort...” (Olympic Charter).

When one considers the international appeal of all genres of dance, it becomes apparent that dance, like sport, is an area where close relationships are often made, nurtured, and maintained. Dance, like sport, involves physical contact and interaction with another person or persons; hence, the resulting connection that often lasts a lifetime. The same is true of Olympism. Olympism espouses friendship, equality, tolerance, and understanding among other attributes. I have enjoyed these qualities of Olympism for more than 40 years of teaching dance, coaching the Penn State women's gymnastics team, directing a dance company for 20 years (1978-1998), and being involved with national and international organizations, some of which are dance related and some Olympic related.

Dance Organizations and Personal Experiences

Each dance organization of which I was a member contributed to my knowledge of various countries' culture and their dance, affording me a network of the best teachers and choreographers in the USA and abroad. I was fortunate to engage several of these for my dance company, the Penn State International Dance Ensemble. As a past president of the National Folk Organization (NFO) of the United States, I was invited to attend, in 1988, the Drummondville Folk Festival in Quebec, Canada. This is one of the largest folklore festivals in the world, and is under the umbrella of another dance-related organization, the International Council of Organizations of Folk Festivals (CIOFF). In 1997, the CIOFF conference was held in Thessaloniki, Greece, another excellent educational experience. The International Dance Council (CID), based in Athens, Greece, also hosts conferences each year, many of which I attended. A unique opportunity was afforded me in 1987 when I was invited by the Matica Slovenska, to attend a choreographers' workshop. I was thrilled to be invited back in 1989 to bring 3 members of my ensemble. After meeting two young choreographers who wanted to visit



*Dance Workshop by
Elizabeth Hanley;
IOAPA members learn
the steps of the
traditional Greek dance
HASSAPOSERVIKO*



the US, I invited them to Penn State to create a Slovak choreography for my ensemble, and they came with the help of our Penn State International Program Office. The major highlight of this Slovak story was the invitation for my dancers to perform in July 1993 at folklore festivals in Slovakia. This trip truly ‘internationalized’ my dancers in terms of international friendship, tolerance, and understanding. The 14 young women and eight men, some of whom had graduated by then and were in the work force, and some who were still students, made a commitment to two weeks of performances in various towns, living in modest to spartan accommodations, eating “pork and potatoes” for days on end, traveling by bus, and dancing in the open air, often in less than ideal conditions. In the end, it was an experience that my dancers continue to cherish to this day.

Olympic Organizations and Personal Experiences

With regard to my Olympic-related organizations, it was the United States Olympic Academy (USOA) and the International Olympic Academy (IOA) that brought my passion for dance to blend with that of Olympism. From its inception in 1977, attendance at the USOA became a part of my yearly schedule. That same year I was one of six USA participants invited to attend the IOA and, after that, I was hooked!

But when did I first experience the draw of Olympism? It began in 1976 when I joined a Sport in Antiquity tour to Greece, led by one of my Penn State colleagues. Near the end of our two-week tour, we visited the village of Ancient Olympia, watched the lighting of the Olympic flame for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games, and attended the closing ceremony of the Main Session at the International Olympic Academy (IOA). That evening we enjoyed the festive atmosphere in the village of Olympia with IOA participants, locals, and tourists. Zorba’s was one of the tavernas where everyone danced and it was my first experience with Greek dance. I resolved to return to Greece and to the IOA. After returning home, I decided it was imperative for me to know more about this



Dance Workshop by Elizabeth Hanley; IOAPA members learn the steps of the traditional Greek dance KALAMATIANO



educational and philosophical arm of the Olympic Movement based in the heart of Ancient Olympia. I learned that the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) was the body through which one applied to attend the IOA. My dream was fulfilled when I was accepted for the 1977 IOA Main Session. During those two weeks, I was inspired by the lectures, discussion groups, library research, and the spiritual ambience of the IOA. Social Evenings were an integral part of the IOA experience, and as one of our USA group, the dance responsibility fell to me -- I taught American dances. During afternoons at the pool, IOA Assistants from Cyprus engaged me in learning Greek dances, and to my surprise, we ended up performing together at Social Evenings. These experiences and IOA friendships were what led to my returning the following years, and eventually to directing the Dance Workshop in the 1990s.

IOA Friendships and Networking

How did IOA friendships evolve into other opportunities? In 1979 I was invited by an IOA lecturer from Liechtenstein to be his guest at the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid. I accepted! In 1983 I was invited by an Australian IOC member to be his guest at the 1984 Olympic Winter Games in Sarajevo. I accepted! I was also invited, by a Polish professor/IOA lecturer, to teach American folk dance at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Having been awarded a sabbatical for 1984, the two invitations meshed perfectly -- another connection between Olympism and dance. In the 1990s, after our USOA changed dramatically and was eventually eliminated, I was invited to participate in the British Olympic Academy (BOA) sessions. The BOA was discontinued after 2007, since funding needed to be available for the 2012 London Olympic Games. An invitation to speak at the Singapore Olympic Academy (SOA) was afforded me in 2004 and I accepted this unique opportunity. The SOA has since been discontinued. That same year I was invited to teach Greek dance for the opening of the Estonian Sport Museum in Tartu, Estonia, another unique opportunity to combine Olympism and Dance.



Elizabeth A. Hanley received the Vikelas Award from the president of the International Society of Olympic Historians, David Wallechinsky (on the right). On the left is Dr. Nancy Williams, Penn State Dept. of Kinesiology Dept. Chair



Final Thoughts

A connection exists between Olympism and dance. One complements the other and, for me, it is mainly through the folklore genre of dance that makes the connection. Olympism truly changed my life, and it remains an integral part of my life. When IOAPA held its 1995 session, an invitation was extended by the Hellenic Olympic Committee to run in the Olympic Torch Relay prior to the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. Forty IOAPA members met in Athens in March 1996, traveled to the IOA, ate breakfast with the 'Vestal Virgins' prior to the lighting of the Olympic Flame in the Ancient Stadium, and then ran in small groups with the flame over the infamous Mt. Taigetos. We were later privileged to watch the passing of the Olympic Flame to the Atlanta contingent in the 1896 Panathenaic Stadium in Athens. This week-long event remains a truly spiritual and memorable experience that I will always treasure. When I returned to my classes at Penn State later that March, every class was exposed to my Olympic Torch and to the meaning of Olympism. The connection between Olympism and Dance is a viable one that offers a unique opportunity to blend together as one ~ much the same as Olympism and Sport.



NEW "ON THE SHELF"



Mega Events Footprints: Past, Present and Future

The book was organized by Dr. Leonardo Mataruna-Dos-Santos & Bianca Gama Pena, and it has 82 chapters, 124 authors, 70 universities, 18 institutions supporting (Ministry of Sport of Brazil), 25 countries and 1599 pages in Portuguese, English and Spanish (abstracts), and Full texts in English and Portuguese. [CLICK HERE](#) to receive a free copy of the online book.



Diagoras: International Academic Journal on Olympic Studies

The aim of this journal is to foster a critical and multi-disciplinary understanding of Olympism, the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games, and to publish content that places an emphasis on the educative, pedagogical, historical, socio-cultural, communicative and sports and exercise science aspects of Olympic Studies. If you are interested in submitting an article, you will find all the related information on the website. The journal can be accessed at www.diagorasjournal.com.

NORTH KOREA AND THE UN

What about the Olympic Games in February?

Hugh T. Dugan (USA)

Dear Advocates of the Olympic Truce,

Could the South Korean Olympic Winter Games in February help ease political tensions on the Korean peninsula?

IOC President Bach met at the United Nations with [South Korean President Moon at the UN in September](#). Together they were confident that the Pyeongchang 2018 Games will go on, having agreed that the Games would be "[a great opportunity to bring all Korean people together](#)."


Since then this has remained the oft-stated hope of the IOC and its Korean hosts, regardless of continuing political tensions surrounding the Korean Peninsula.

Adding to this hope has been the adoption of the [UN Olympic Truce resolution](#) for 2018 several weeks ago. It enjoyed overwhelming support. North Korea's delegation to the United Nations participated in the consensus adoption of the resolution by the 193-member General Assembly. Although it did not speak upon its adoption as did about ten other delegations, nor did North Korea say anything disparaging or contrary to the proclamation of the Truce. Likewise, North Korea has remained silent as to whether it will allow its qualified athletes to participate in the Games, leaving open that door up until the very final deadline of late January extended by the Games' hosts.

The Olympic Truce is a creative diplomatic measure to [keep us on the playing field](#) instead of the battle field.

The Truce's track record has been impressive on the peninsula. [Overcoming steep hurdles](#), North Korea participated at the Seoul 1988 Games. One is moved by the video of the [two Koreas joined under one flag at the Sydney 2000 Games](#) Opening Ceremonies.

The Truce Foundation of the USA is planning its award ceremony for PyeongChang recognizing the host country and other advocates of the Olympic Truce during this Olympiad.



*United States First Lady Melania
Trump was presented with the
Winter Olympic and Paralympic
Games mascots Bandabi and
Sohorang by Pyeongchang 2018
President Lee Hee-beom*



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Governor Choi Moon-Soon of the Gangwon Province, host of the Games' venues, has agreed to be honored, as has Miroslav Lajcak, President of the United Nations General Assembly and Foreign Minister of Slovakia. Details are forthcoming for the ceremony to take place within the inaugural PyeongChang Forum including foreign political and sport leaders to occur in Seoul 8-9 February.

Please follow the media attention to this via www.twitter.com/olympictruce and through Truce Foundation of the USA website www.trucefoundation.us.

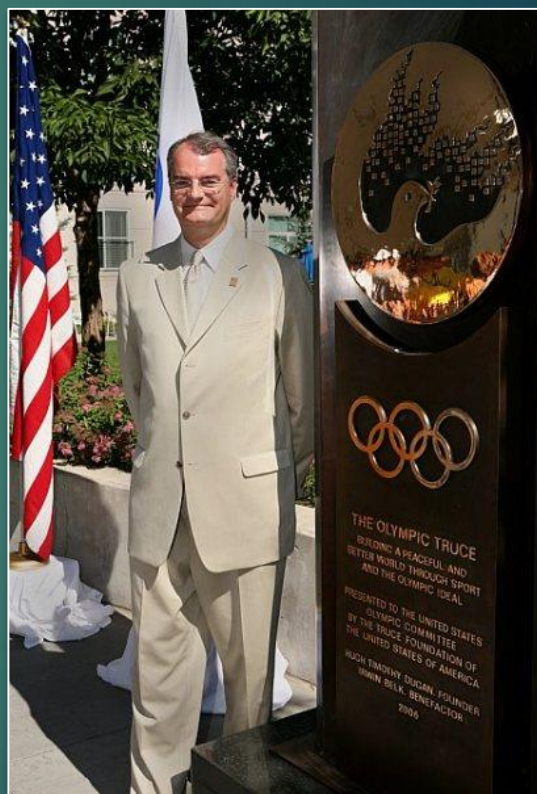
Sincerely,
Hugh

Dear Olympians,

Register now to use your OLY letters. This is an exclusive benefit for Olympians only. Just like PhD or other post-nominal designations, you, as an Olympian can now use the letters OLY after your name to recognize the years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance it took to become an Olympian. OLY is an ongoing and very public reminder of your achievements and of your responsibility to embody the values of Olympism in everyday life. After you register and we have verified your details with the IOC you will be issued with your OLY certificate (as a pdf) which you can print out and hang on your wall and which entitles you to use the post-nominal letters OLY after your name. You can use OLY on official documents, business cards, CVs, letters etc and on your social media. In fact, anywhere you use your name. You will also be registered for a free @olympian.org email address.



REGISTER HERE
and start gaining
the benefits of OLY!



*Hugh T. Dugan, Founder of the
Truce Foundation of the USA,
promotes the ancient Olympic
Truce in the South Korean
Olympic Winter Games*



THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE OF BARCELONA '92

In pursuit of a more sustainable city

Alberto Aragón-Pérez (ESP)

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The achievements of Barcelona'92 in the realm of sustainability were implicit but not explicit. They did not directly stick to ecological guidelines or specific standards, but were based on sustainable ideas: to manage the Games in order to have an urban legacy and a better quality of life the next day. However, the environmental control program was planned according to ecological criteria, which basically meant European environmental policies and standards. This article summarizes the main features of management of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games, focusing on both sustainable elements and their governance, though without going into detail.

Nowadays, the IOC gives clear guidelines about sustainable policies that every host Olympic cities should apply. The IOC states today that sustainability, legacy and governance are interrelated concepts that must be in the core of each OCOG. The Agenda 2020, approved under the IOC Presidency of Thomas Bach, says: "Include sustainability in all aspects of the Olympic Games" (Agenda 2020, 2014: recommendation 4). On behalf of this Agenda 2020, the IOC indicates that the experience of previous Olympics and the own needs must guide local authorities for planning proper sustainable legacies through the organization of this multi-sports event. Therefore, the Olympic Movement energetically encourages this aspect as one of the essential aspects of the governance of hosting the Olympic Games.

However, these guidelines did not exist when Barcelona was elected by the IOC in 1986. This institution only asked the City Council of Barcelona and the Spanish NOC for signing a contract detailing all the rules and conditions related to the organization of the multi-sports event itself. There were no mentions about legacy or sustainable objectives. However, the OCOG for the 1992 Summer Olympics (COOB'92) was created according to local needs. The COOB'92 was an institutional puzzle formed by four Spanish organizations: the Barcelona City Council, the governments of Spain and Catalonia and the Spanish NOC.



The governance of the 1992 Summer Olympics was lead by Pasqual Maragall, Mayor of Barcelona and COOB'92 President. He had previously stayed at the IOA (in the image, playing table tennis in the Academy's cafeteria)



It was an unequal balance because the City Council had a clear supremacy, which reflected the municipal strategy of using the Games for a long-term vision. A clear example is that Mayor Pasqual Maragall was appointed as COOB'92 President. Therefore, the 1992 Olympics were conceived by the city's government since the bidding process as a tool to develop its vision of a new Barcelona. In other words, the governance of Barcelona'92 was at the service of an urban legacy thanks to the Olympics, not at the service of the Games themselves.

The term 'Barcelona model' is very often mentioned to refer the positive planned legacies of Barcelona'92, as a role model for next Olympic Games. These Games were managed aiming a long-term vision further than the Olympics themselves, a vision that responded to a plan established by the municipal authorities. This plan aimed tangible and intangible legacies, but mostly tangible physical changes through an urban regeneration that could implement the quality of life of the citizens and promote the economic attractiveness of the Barcelona's city brand. The municipal government aimed to change the city altering its urban structure, opening it up to the Mediterranean Sea, building new transport infrastructures and introducing policies of environmental control. The urban plan included the regeneration of four vast areas (the four main Olympic clusters): Montjuïc, Poblenou-Seafront, South Diagonal and Vall d'Hebron. Especially important were Poblenou-Olympic Village and Vall d'Hebron, two new neighbourhoods that are fully integrated today in the city. The construction of an Olympic Village over 0.5 km² brought Poblenou, a decaying industrial area, back to life. There were intangible objectives too, as modifying the attitude of the people in Barcelona and Spain in order to open them to the World.

Barcelona sought to yield benefits such as a strategically planned legacy to market its city brand through urban regeneration. The COOB'92 worked together with fundamental stakeholders like municipal authorities to achieve these goals.



The Barcelona Olympic Village was built on a polluted industrial area. After the 1992 Olympics and Paralympics, the houses were sold and it's now a sustainable neighborhood next to the city's shoreline and near the city center



The Games were organized with certain ideas in mind, regeneration and new green spaces. This sustainable principle was applied to the sports facilities and when considering the urban impact of the Games.

In 1982, Barcelona's Olympic candidature planned to use facilities mostly based on existing sport infrastructure. There were three primary goals: to meet real needs and post-event use, to regenerate neighborhoods with shortcomings and to integrate the Olympics into a general urban strategy. The 1992 Olympic Games were held in 43 venues in Barcelona and the surrounding metropolitan area: 15 venues were new constructions (eight in Barcelona and seven in other municipalities), ten were upgraded or renovated and 18 had already existed. Altogether, this involved a moderate size for the facilities and their integration into a municipal urban strategy:

- Restraint without 'white elephants'. The COOB'92 moved audience sizes towards a smaller scale and away from gigantic ones. Not all venues were permanent in order to ensure proper use after the event. Consideration of temporary versus permanent usage had already been agreed at the earliest stage of the city's candidacy. Rented stands and special expansions to seating amounted to a total of 89,560 seats at the venues during the Games, one sixth of the total capacity (545,280 seats). If we exclude the 270,000 seats in the five football stadia, this amounts to one third of the total. Seating for spectators at the Picornell Swimming Pools had to be expanded from 3,000 to more than 10,000, by means of temporary stands. Another example is the Palau de la Metal·lúrgia, normally used for exhibitions and shows organized by the Barcelona Trade Fair. Hence, its transformation into the fencing venue consisted entirely of temporary modifications, as though it were simply another trade show. Barcelona'92 did not aim to build colossal facilities because this was against its vision: the Games were a tool to improve the city.



The sports venues of Barcelona'92 were planned thinking of a long-term use.

From image 1: the Olympic Pool during the Olympics 1992.

From image 2: the same facility in summer 2017



– Four Olympic areas. When Barcelona presented its bid for the 1992 Olympics, it argued that it would be a perfect occasion to renovate old-fashioned areas in the city. That is why the authorities proposed establishing the sports venues in four abandoned neighborhoods (Montjuïc, Poblenou-Seafront, Vall d'Hebron and South Diagonal). Some of the greatest challenges facing Olympic heritage include sport facilities management. Barcelona sought to integrate them into those urban areas. The sustainable conservation of Olympic venues required due consideration of both the heritage values of these buildings and the requirements for their continued interaction with the urban environment.

– The Segre River at La Seu d'Urgell and Banyoles Lake were valued ecosystems in northern Catalonia that were respectively planned to be the venues for the canoe slalom and rowing events. Their natural value triggered protests by ecologist groups, so the COOB'92's Infrastructure Department decided to negotiate with them. Consequently, both facilities were prepared to comply with very strict ecological standards. The authorities started programs to enhance their unique environmental character and biodiversity. Also, all the stands were temporary in both venues.

Aiming to achieve a positive legacy for itself, Barcelona encouraged a premeditated urban impact. It embarked on a massive improvement program under the dynamic impetus of Mayor Pasqual Maragall. The construction of a ring road nearly eliminated rush-hour traffic jams, with a corresponding drop in air pollution and noise levels. This was accompanied by the creation of an additional 3.5 km² of green areas. A whole section next to the coast was thereby regenerated. In conclusion, Barcelona'92 only responded to the needs of the city and its inhabitants. The municipal governance and planning of the Games pursued a primary goal: better urban quality of life and positive urban legacy.



IOA YOUNG PARTICIPANTS SESSION 2017 Personal experience


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Rebecca Kopilovitch, Eran Sela,
Omri Shwartz (ISR)

Describing such a unique experience as the participation in the Young Participants Session of the IOA will undoubtedly cover the feelings, thoughts and impact of which each one of us felt during those two weeks in Ancient Olympia. The gathering of 188 individuals from 88 nations, with different cultures, languages, backgrounds and experiences, came together in pure harmony due to the common ground of believing in sport as a way of life. Whether it be through studies, a career, recreational activity, educational platform, or competition, using sport as our base for growth and achievement, this experience made us feel like something big can emerge and a societal change in the significance of sport is possible. Throughout the session we took part in sport and social activities, which diminished almost every possible difference we felt in this immense mixture of people, while also confining any language barriers that existed. All the while, the main topic of the academic content of this year's session was focused on 'Ethics and Good Governance in Sport'. This topic led and guided the lectures and discussion groups throughout the entire session. While the lectures were carefully planned ahead of time and minded towards specific topics, the discussion groups were more flexible and allowed us to create an environment of open conversation. The combination of lectures and discussion groups ignited fruitful communication among participants during the day and into the night, way beyond any schedule.

Statements, facts and insights presented by the lecturers about the current situation of worldwide sport organizations made an immediate impact on us. Our view became wider in many ways, one of which we are much more aware of the somewhat masked, yet vital, goals we aim to achieve through sport education and sport competition.

The courage to admit that there are some unacceptable, bad things going on inside major sport organizations, beside the glamor and fame of events like the Olympic Games, IAAF World Championships or FIFA World Cup, is an important step in the right direction.



In the left
image (from
left to
right):
Rebecca
Kopilovitch,
Eran Sela,
Omri
Shwartz



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In our opinion, in order to fix and develop these systems for higher performance and service athletes, participants and fans, we need to start from the inside to the out. Change can be done by people like us; transparency and good conduct can be practiced by each one of us in our own setting.

This experience led us to a much clear view of our willingness and desire to take part in sport-managing organizations in Israel, to create activities and educational platforms for children and adolescence, through sport. Now, more than ever, sport seems less as a personal activity or goal, and more as an exceptional tool to connect people and create a culture of worthy values like friendship, respect, excellence, generosity and integrity.

The connections and friendships we developed throughout the session will last a lifetime with no doubt. The intense setting of the session allowed us to come together and create a secure, supporting and encouraging setting for future cooperation and sharing of knowledge and ideas. On a personal level, every one of us feels like a new little seed was planted into our self-identity and life objectives. On a practical level we are excited to see where each and every one of us will make their mark because we had the honor to meet some incredible, influential, outgoing people. In other words, IOA 2017 Young Participants Session is just getting started...



We're looking for you!

An active network of IOAPA members depends on the work and motivation of Country Coordinators. Coordinators are required to organize events, seminars, workshops related to Olympic Education, cooperate with National Olympic Academies and National Olympic Committees, and in general maintain an active network of past IOA participants in their countries. With the motivation, ambition and valuable experience of your fellow IOAPA members, you can take big steps forward in your country.

Did you sign up yet? Be engaged!

Contact us:

alberto@ioapa.org



Caroline Bujold (CAN)

[Click here to RSVP](#)

REUNION

2018 IOAPA REUNION IN PYEONGCHANG

We are happy to announce that Canada Olympic House (COH) will be our host venue for the IOAPA Reunion at the Olympic Games. The event will be held on **20 February 2018** between 5pm and 8pm (17:00 to 20:00). COH will be located next to the coastal cluster of venues for the Pyeongchang Olympic Games , a couple hundred meters away from the entrance to the Olympic Park. You **MUST** RSVP before February 14th and be an IOAPA member to attend. Invitations are sent via email, so please check your inbox. For further information about the reunion, please go to our website at www.ioapa.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

We need your help in keeping our database up to date and we would be grateful if you took a couple minutes to update your personal profile. All you need to do is log on our website and add your information, specifically your year of attendance and IOA session, as well as your country of origin. This way, it will be easier for country coordinators to contact you with information and opportunities. Simply go to the IOAPA LOGIN at <https://ioapa.org> on the right side of the page, fill in the details and Voilà! If you can't login, please contact info@ioapa.org.

Know a past participant wishing to become a member? Please refer them to <http://ioapa.org/organization/membership/>. They will be able to register and pay online directly. You can also find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/IOAPA.org) and Twitter [@IOAPA_Official](https://twitter.com/IOAPA_Official). **FEEL FREE TO JOIN US!**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Is anything interesting related to sport happening in your country?
Has something exciting happened in your life that you would like to share with your IOAPA friends?

If you are interested in contributing to the IOAPA newsletter, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact the newsletter editor, Yarden Har Lev, at yarden@ioapa.org.

Soohorang and Bandabi would like
to wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year on behalf of everyone
at **PyeongChang 2018**



*The Olympic Movement gives the world an ideal which reckons
with the reality of life, and includes a possibility to guide this
reality toward the great Olympic Idea*

Pierre de Coubertin

