

# ARETE NEWSLETTER



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
ACADEMY  
PARTICIPANTS  
ASSOCIATION



## HIGHLIGHTS



### HANS VAN HAUTE SCHOLARS 2023 Edition

Chloé ABOU CHABAKE (LBN), Fako MASUPHA (LES), Jorge Rafael Rodriguez Herrera (GUA), and Samantha Matavata (ZIM) share the projects they are working in their countries and also write about their unique experience of attending the 2023 IOAPA Session with a financial aid provided by the Hans van Haute scholarship... (p. 4)

[READ MORE](#)



### VOLUNTEERING AT THE 2023 PAN AMERICAN GAMES

Ennio Cornejo talks about his volunteer opportunities at the Pan American Games of Santiago 2023, relating to his previous experience at the Krakow-Malopolska 2023 European Games. He now gets ready to also contribute to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris and also details his current job in Lima, host city for the Pan American Games 2027... (p.11)

[READ MORE](#)



### NEWLY CROWNED WORLD CHAMPION ON HER COMEBACK

Two-time Olympian with four Pan American Games gold medals, Jacqueline Simoneau had a great career and was already on a great post-sports career when she felt she still had something to give to artistic swimming. A few days after she was crowned World Champion and punched a ticket for Canada at Paris 2024 she spoke to us... (p. 18)

[READ MORE](#)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** Editorial  
**Mateus Nagime (BRA)**
- 4** Message from the President  
**Eleni Marina Soukera (GRE)**
- 5** IOAPA Session Experience and Trust  
**Jorge Rafael Rodriguez Herrera (GUA)**
- 6** 18th IOAPA Session – June 2023  
**Chloé ABOU CHABAKE (LBN)**
- 8** My Experience in IOAPA Session  
**Fako MASUPHA (LES)**
- 10** IOAPA 18th Session through my lens as an HvH Scholar  
**Samantha Matavata (ZIM)**
- 11** Santiago 2023 Pan American Games  
**Ennio Cornejo (PER)**
- 13** Meet our IOAPA Country Coordinators 2023-2025  
**Samantha Matavata (ZIM)**
- 18** A World Champion shares her comeback story  
**Jacqueline Simoneau, OLY (CAN)**
- 19** News & Opportunities  
**ARETE Editorial Board**
- 20** IOAPA News & Opportunities  
**ARETE Editorial Board**
- 21** Share with us your answer!  
**ARETE Editorial Board**

# EDITORIAL

Mateus Nagime (BRA)



PAGE 3

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Winter 2020 issue of the Arete Newsletter!

I was one of the coordinators of the Young Olympic Ambassadors (YOA) in 2022. As for many people, this was a very transformative experience for me. We usually talk about how we “learn” about Olympism, but although an avid historian and researcher, I’ve come to realize that true Olympism is in the people and their stories of inspiration.

One of them comes from **Jacqueline Simoneau**, from Canada. She was already an accomplished athlete with four Pan American gold medals and two Olympic Games for her record, in Rio de Janeiro 2016 and Tokyo 2020. But then she showed us all the best was yet to come.

She came back to retirement to become **World Champion** last February in Doha and is now getting ready for her third Olympic Games! She spoke to **ARETE** about what made her go back to the pool and how her time in the International Olympic Academy (IOA) influenced her decision.

**Ennio Conejo**, from Peru, was another remarkable Young Olympic Ambassador from 2022 who shares with us his experience volunteering at the European Games and the Pan-American Games last year. Also, we have articles by the **Hans van Haute** scholarship recipients **Chloé Abou Chabake**, **Fako Masupha**, **Jorge Rafael Rodriguez Herrera**, and **Samantha Matavata** about their projects back home and also their experiences in Olympia at the IOAPA Session in 2023. Samantha, as our Head of **Country Coordinators**, also introduced us to our 59 coordinators representing 57 countries.

And to finish I couldn’t help but honor two amazing and energetic souls we’ve met at YOA 22. **Belal Abu Samaan**, from Palestine, and **Keegan Archibald**, from Trinidad & Tobago, tragically passed away these last few months. They were so young and full of passion and I still can’t believe they’re gone. This edition is dedicated to them and all lives lost.

As we approach **Paris 2024** we are already organizing an **IOAPA reunion**. We will inform you on our next edition and on our social media about our reunion. Please reach out if you will be there!

Please note that the next edition is expected to be released in June, and I invite all of you to share with us your important actions in promoting Olympic ideals worldwide. The submission deadline is May 25. Before you start to read those amazing articles, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the production of this newsletter. We encourage every IOAPA member to contribute. Remember, ARETE is your space to share your projects, your ideas, and your events!

Yours in Olympism,

**Mateus Nagime, Arete Newsletter Editor**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Eleni Marina Soukera (GRE)



PAGE 4

Dear IOAPA readers and readers of ARETE:

It is sometimes difficult to find words adequate to convey the enormity of the times we live in. The breakout of war in the Middle East was the reason for a big loss for the IOAPA family.

Last December, we lost Belal Abu Saman in Gaza. Belal was a very good friend, a good teacher, and an excellent ambassador of Olympism and the Olympic ideas. He was a young participant in 2021, a young ambassador in 2022, representing Palestine, and an IOAPA member.

I never met him in person, but he became a very good friend of mine and I realized from the first time I met him his kind feelings, his passion for life, and his optimism. I would like to express again my condolences to his family! May he rest in peace!

For all those currently displaced by war and aggression, please know that our Olympic family keeps you in our hearts every day. Through our love of sport and the friendships we have developed, we continue to demonstrate how people can come together in all our diversity with the Olympic Games and the values of Olympism.

Despite the challenges of the ongoing wars in the Middle East, Ukraine and other parts of the globe, the world will reunite again this year due to the Olympic Games. We ensured spots for the Torch Relay, which will take place in Ancient Olympia in April. Three members of IOAPA will be the torchbearers.

Last, but not least, the IOAPA family will gather again, as we are planning a reunion for Paris 2024. It would be a great opportunity for us to meet each other again, especially at this special occasion.

Yours in Olympism,

Eleni Marina (Marilena) Soukera

IOAPA President

# IOAPA SESSION EXPERIENCE AND TRUST

Jorge Rafael Rodriguez Herrera (GUA)

My name is Jorge Rodriguez, I am 31 years old and I live and was born in Guatemala. I am a former Pentathlete and Member of the Executive Committee of Guatemala's Modern Pentathlon Association. I attended the 53rd International Olympic Academy Youth Ambassador Session in 2013. After Attending the IOA Youth Session I started to get more involved in Sports Volunteering, motivating me to participate in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and 2019 Lima Pan-American Games as a volunteer.

My participation in the IOAPA (International Olympic Academy Participants Association) session held in Olympia, Greece was an enriching and unforgettable experience. After 10 years I had the chance to come back to Olympia thanks to the Hans Van Haute Scholarship which gave me the opportunity to attend as a Full Scholar and present my project "Biathlete School Program". It consists of a Swimming and Running Training and Competition Program for kids from 8 to 19 years old as a way to introduce two disciplines of the Modern Pentathlon in Morales, Izabal, my hometown at Guatemala.

The project is supported by the Guatemala Modern Pentathlon Association and Morales Municipality School of Sports. This project has opened the opportunity for around fifty kids to practice sports outside of Guatemala's City boundaries for the first time. The project's purpose also is to use sport as a way of bringing youth out of a possible life of crime. One of the ways I can Give Back to my hometown community. During my presentation, we had feedback from Anfisa Kasyanova, who shared how the UIPM (Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne) has developed the School Biathlete Program throughout many other countries. The IOAPA Session brought together talented professionals in sports education, sports administration, and other professions influenced by sports. It was very enriching to receive good feedback from the attendants and also learn from the other lectures throughout the whole session. Also attending and supporting the Olympic Day Activity with the kids of a school taught me how to present Olympic values through sports activities.

It was very interesting for me as a Food Science Engineer to get the opportunity to visit Magna Grecia Olive Oil Farm. During the visit, we learned how the olives are processed from the beginning up to the final product. It was very nice to taste the different olive oil flavors and varieties and share a Greek Dinner with a Greek traditional dance show.

I also had the opportunity to meet so many new friends and learn from them and their projects in their communities. This IOAPA Session has given me so many reasons to come back and one of them is the friendship and passion for Olympism we all share. The feedback from my Project lectures and other activities taught me that sports and education must work together to make communities a better place to live.

# 18th IOAPA Session June 2023

Chloé ABOU CHABAKE (LBN)

Last year, I left the International Olympic Academy with a heavy heart, not expecting an imminent return. However, one year later, I was selected among the four Hans Van Haute scholarship candidates for the 18th IOAPA in-person session. I was overjoyed when I received the email, and as the time of the session approached, I could hardly contain my enthusiasm.

Upon my arrival, I was very happy reuniting with my colleagues and friends from previous sessions. It was also a great opportunity for me to meet new people from around the world.

I am an ongoing master's degree student at the IOA (2021-2023) and was a coordinator for the 62nd Young Olympic Ambassadors' session in 2022; however, the IOAPA session was different from both experiences. This session reunites former members of past IOA sessions; a unique platform for passionate people from different ages, and various backgrounds to come together in the place that unites them all – the International Olympic Academy.

One of the aspects that made my experience particularly memorable was being the youngest member among all the participants of the session. Being surrounded by experienced people who had achieved so much in their careers was inspiring for me, as I am freshly involved in the Olympic Movement and the job market. I received invaluable encouragement and support from each and every person, as they saw potential in me and in the project I presented.

Concerning the project that I had to present, I decided to talk about an initiative that I would really like to implement in Lebanon. The project was part of my master's thesis that I've been working on for months now and it's entitled "Implementation of Olympic Education Program in the Lebanese School System for the Development of Social Cohesion".

I want to shed light on the importance of Olympic Education and the incorporation of Olympic values among the young generation. To my surprise, I received positive feedback from experts in this field. Their pieces of advice and insights encouraged me to keep on working on my project and push forward to achieve my goal of improving education in my country.

The session covered much more than just presentations and discussions. Indeed, we visited the archeological site of Nemea, we enjoyed engaging in a variety of sporting activities, dance, and arts workshops. We had a fantastic day at the beach, explored the wonders of Magna Grecia Olive Agritourism, and embraced the fun ambiance of Zorbas nights.



Fako MASUPHA (LES), Samantha Matavata (ZIM), Jorge Rafael Rodriguez Herrera (GUA), and Chloé ABOU CHABAKE (LBN), with Elizabeth Hanley (USA), Hans van Haute Chairwoman



We had an energetic pool party-themed event in the cafeteria, engaged in conversations on the marble stairs under the starry sky of Olympia, and also experienced the excitement of Olympic Day with elementary students of a school in Olympia

As the session came to an end, we were all filled with a sense of sadness, not knowing when we would get the chance to meet again. But, the connections we built and the memories we made will always be cherished.

The IOAPA session forged in me a feeling of belonging to a community of like-minded people and helped me build lifetime friendships from around the world. Eventually, leaving Olympia was again very difficult, but I left with a renewed sense of purpose, eager to continue my work and the hope of meeting everyone very soon.



Image on the right: Chloé ABOU CHABAKE (LBN) presents her project during the IOAPA Session 2023



Image on the left: Jorge Rafael Rodriguez Herrera (GUA) presents his project during the IOAPA Session 2023

# My Experience in IOAPA Session

Fako MASUPHA (LES)

My journey to Olympia and participation in the International Olympic Academy's session (IOAPA) was nothing short of transformative. Immersed in the birthplace of Olympism, I had the privilege of not only getting essential skills but also connecting with remarkable individuals whose stories and experiences have left an indelible mark on my understanding of Olympism and my role in its promotion.

At the heart of my experience was the cultivation of effective communication and collaboration skills. Engaging with a diverse array of athletes, educators, and Olympic officials provided me with a rich tapestry of perspectives and insights into the multifaceted nature of promoting Olympism. Through meaningful dialogue and exchanges, I learned how to tailor my communication to resonate with different audiences and effectively collaborate with stakeholders to drive positive change.

Moreover, my involvement in various projects and initiatives allowed me to hone my leadership abilities. Serving as a physical activity facilitator for the "Giving Back" project was a highlight of my time in Olympia. Leading teams in organizing impactful events that helped the local community underscored the power of collective action and inspired me to further develop my leadership skills. Additionally, spearheading the Olympia for High Schools initiative in Lesotho was a testament to my commitment to fostering a culture of Olympism within my country.

Central to my efforts in Lesotho was the anchoring of the Olympic Values Education Program (OVEP) Phase 1 and Phase 2 for high schools. This ambitious initiative aimed to integrate Olympic values-based education into the curriculum and extracurricular activities of secondary schools across the country. By instilling values such as respect, excellence, and friendship, we looked to empower students with essential life skills and cultivate a culture of sportsmanship and social cohesion. Witnessing the transformative impact of OVEP Phase 1 and Phase 2 reaffirmed my belief in the power of Olympism to shape the lives of young people and create positive societal change.

Reflecting on my experience, I am deeply grateful for the invaluable lessons learned and the inspiring individuals met along the way. From athletes who overcame immense challenges to educators dedicated to instilling Olympic values in the next generation, each encounter left an indelible impression on me.

Looking ahead, I am committed to continuing my journey as a champion of Olympism in Lesotho and beyond. My time at Olympia and participation in IOAPA have equipped me with the skills, knowledge, and inspiration necessary to make a meaningful impact in my community. As I embark on this next chapter, I am filled with a renewed sense of purpose and determination to uphold the ideals of Olympism and

Chloé ABOU  
CHABAKE (LBN) by  
the Pierre de Coubertin  
statue at the IOAPA  
grounds in Olympia  
(GRE)



create a brighter future for generations to come.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the International Olympic Academy for this life-changing opportunity. I am honoured to have been a part of this transformative experience and look forward to continuing my journey as an ambassador for Olympism in the years to come.

*Image on the left: Fako MASUPHA (LES) presents his project during the IOAPA Session 2023*

*Image on the right: Samantha Matavata (ZIM) presents her project during the IOAPA Session 2023*



# IOAPA 18th Session through my lens as an HvH Scholar

Samantha Matavata (ZIM)

PAGE 10

It was a great honor to be selected as the winning recipient full scholarship award. My gratitude goes towards the organizing committee as well as the Hans Van Haute Committee members. I'm immensely grateful for being allowed to showcase my outreach work within my country in the spirit of the Olympic Movement and demonstrate the Olympic Values and Olympism that our IOAPA organization embodies.

Being selected was an honor as it allowed me to return to the wonderful place that we all call our Olympic Home, the International Olympic Academy. Without the scholarship, I personally would not have been able to fund the entire trip on my own as it is very costly to travel from the bottom of the globe to anywhere in the world.

This opportunity gave us the chance to showcase the projects that we are running within our respective countries. My Olympic journey as a Young (participant) Ambassador unlocked a door that led to partnering with the US Embassy in Zimbabwe for a female youth program called Girls Lead Camp.

This was an idea birthed by my partner and with my skills help sought to inspire the female youth in my country through basketball and Olympic education. Furthermore, the goal is to groom young women, educate them, and bring awareness on gender-based violence, sexual harassment, drug abuse, and child marriages, health awareness as well as check-ups, which is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Initiative of sustainable living within 3rd world countries.

I hope my presentation along with my fellow recipients served as a tool of motivation to all members to continue to carry the IOAPA flag. A special heart-warm congratulations goes to the Hans Van Haute committee for soaring through the difficulties faced during the pandemic. During this uncertain period, they managed to forge a partnership with the Magna Grecia Agritourism group which played a major role in acquiring the funds for the scholarships awarded, this in turn saw the Committee awarding 4 recipients for the first time in the IOAPA.

I, myself, am proud to have been part of that historic moment. However, all good steps always bring a tearjerker as I was saddened by the retirement of the pioneer to the program. Elizabeth Hanley has been the chair of this lovely great program and has made great strides to meet its growth. We as the recipients are very grateful for the work she has done with the help of Laurel Iversen. We would not have made it to Olympia if it weren't for their sacrifices and their visions of what came to manifest in 2023. We wish Betz nothing but the best in her retirement and hope to continue to make her proud with the spirit she's instilled within all of us.

# Santiago 2023 Pan American Games

Ennio Cornejo (PER)



PAGE 11

“Volunteers are the heart of the Games, without them, this celebration could not take place,” said Neven Ilic, Panam Sports President. I participated as a volunteer assigned to the role of Relations and Services to the Olympic Committees at the XIX Pan American Games Santiago 2023.

6,916 athletes participated in the Games and 33 sports qualified for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Peru participated with 216 athletes in 32 sports disciplines, winning 32 medals (10 gold, 6 silver, and 16 bronze) and finishing in 9th position out of 41 countries in the general medal table.

In total, 28,702 people from America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and Oceania registered in the volunteer program. 26% of them were foreigners. Peru was the country with the most registered (1888 people), followed by Argentina and Brazil as the countries with the most presence.

My operations center was the international zone of the Pan American Village located in Cerrillos, where I had the opportunity to work directly with Clarence Rolle, Chief of Mission of the Bahamas delegation. I remembered what I experienced in Lima 2019.

Currently, I am a student of the Sports Administration Certificate organized by Panam Sports Academy and supported by the Olympic Solidarity of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), a training course of the highest level that seeks to improve the sports development of professionals and technicians on the American continent.

Now I'm back in Peru to continue with his work at the Touring y Automovil Club del Peru and the Kart Slalom Project supported by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) aimed at schoolchildren from 6 to 16 years of age.

This is part of the Special Legacy Project of the Pan American and Parapan American Games, a public institution attached to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Peruvian Government. Their main goal is to bring young people the opportunity to access sports and recreational practices of kart slalom, promoting integration, healthy coexistence, respect, and inclusion through motorsports.





Considering my previous experience, at the 2023 Krakow-Malopolska European Games supporting Team Belgium in the same volunteer role, now I feel prepared to achieve my ultimate goal as a volunteer and be part of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.



Image on the top of the page : volunteers at the 2023 Santiago Pan American Games

Image on the top left: Clarence Rolle Bahamas Chief of Mission with Bahamas volunteers Francisco Perez (Colombia) and Karina Guedes (Brasil)

Image on the top right: Team Belgium Delegation

Image on the bottom right: With the Peruvian Flag at the 2023 Krakow Malopolska European Games

Image on the bottom left: Team Belgium volunteers Sam Muylaert (Belgium) and Tomasz Ciesielski (Poland)

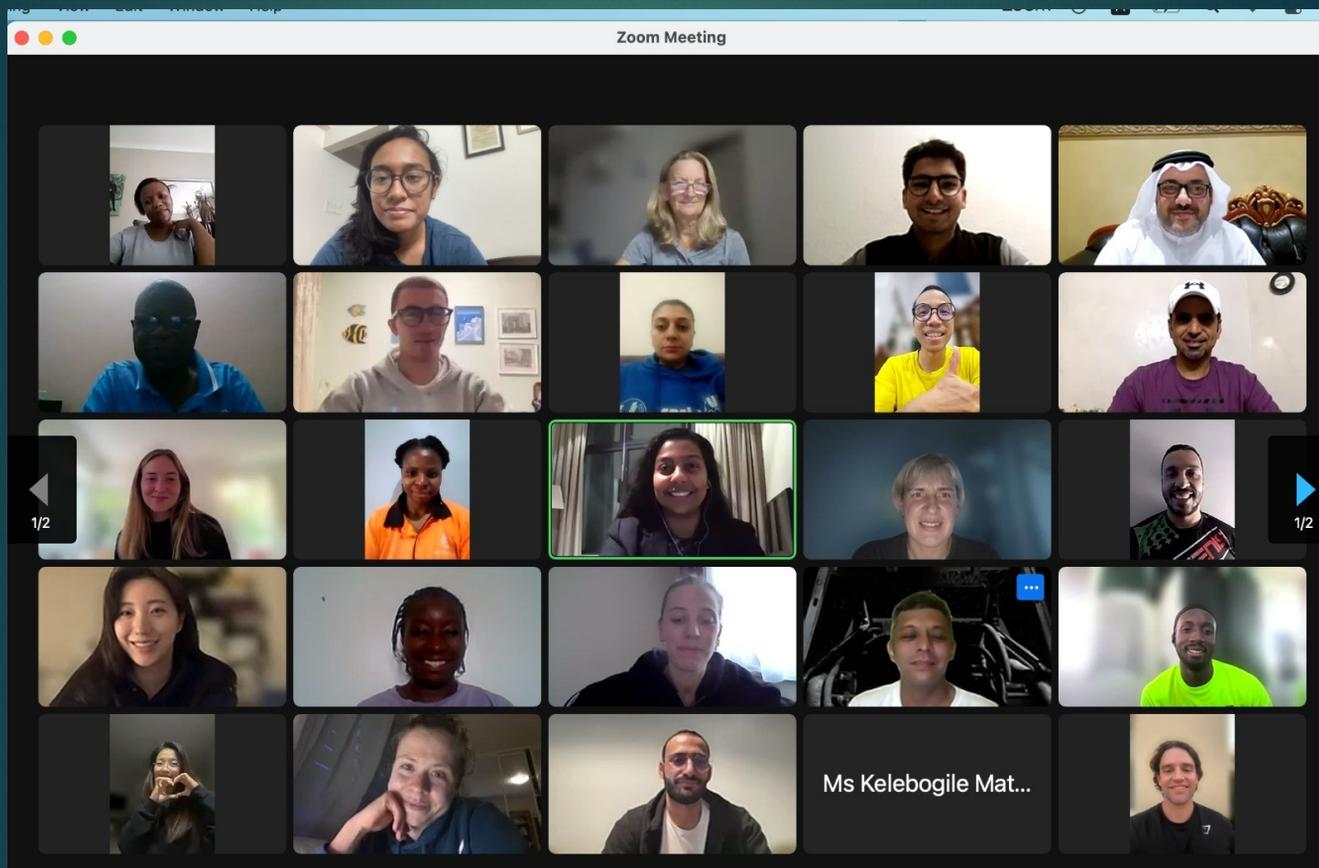


# Meet our IOAPA Country Coordinators 2023-2025

Head of Country Coordinators:  
Ms Samantha Matavata (ZIM)



PAGE 13



Dear IOAPA members,

Thank you for your unwavering support thus far within your capacity to ensure the IOAPA legacy stays thriving within the Olympic Movement.

This term poses challenges on the clock due to it being an Olympic year filled with so many qualifiers to make the big event a success. However, this also gives us an opportunity to showcase our Olympism within our nations and on the Olympic stage.

The work does not only start with the Country Coordinators, but solely with us, as IOAPA members in our disciplines. May the Olympic flame ignite the courage within your hearts to be the voice of the Olympic Movement wherever in the world you are. For it is this flame that continues to give us purpose and unity.

Thank you.

Yours in olympism.

Ms Samantha Matavata

Head of Country Coordinators

# Meet our IOAPA Country Coordinators 2023-2025



**PAGE 14**

**Head of Country Coordinators:  
Ms Samantha Matavata (ZIM)**

## SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ms Elena Iñiguez de Heredia (ARG)

Ms Leyla Sonko (SEN)

Ms Marisleysis Cedeño (GUA)

Mr Muharram Mchume (TAN)

Ms Asiani Vagi (PNG)

Mr Preeda Muongmee (THA)

## Argentina (ARG)



Ms Elena Iñiguez de Heredia

## Armenia (ARM)



Mr Arman Avetisyan



Ms Anna Martirosyan

## Australia (AUS)



Ms Suzanne Grayson OLY

## Austria (AUT)



Mr Robert Kaspar

## Bangladesh (BAN)



Ms Monika Gulnahr Mahbub

## Barbados (BAR)



Mr Solomon West

## Botswana (BOT)



Ms Kelebogile Matolela

AZERBAIJAN (AZE) - Ms Fatima Ahmadova  
CHINESE TAIPEI (TPE) - Dr Leo Hsu  
CYPRUS (CYP) - Mr Christopher Papamichalopoulos  
ESTONIA (EST) - Ms Eleri Etverk  
FRANCE (FRA) - Mr Julien Buhajezuk  
GREECE (GRE) - Mr Iasson Lagos  
ITALY (ITA) - Ms Antonella DiCesare

JORDAN (JOR) - Mr Zaid Sami  
LESOTHO (LES) - Mr Fako Masupha  
MALAYSIA (MAS) - Mr Nazroff Tunku  
NORWAY (NOR) - Ms Gyda Winther  
PAKISTAN (PAK) - Mr Shoaib Shafiq  
SINGAPORE (SGP) - Mr Fred Quek  
SWITZERLAND (SUI) - Mr Ruben Hauschild

Canada (CAN)

# Meet our IOAPA Country Coordinators 2023-2025

PAGE 15

Head of Country Coordinators:  
Samantha Matavata (ZIM)

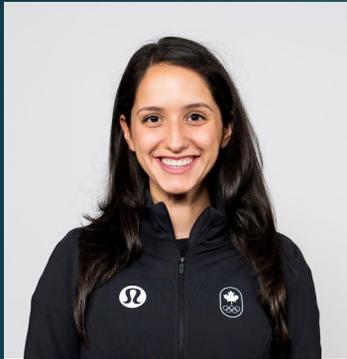


Ms Katrina Galas

Finland (FIN)

Georgia (GEO)

Germany (GER)



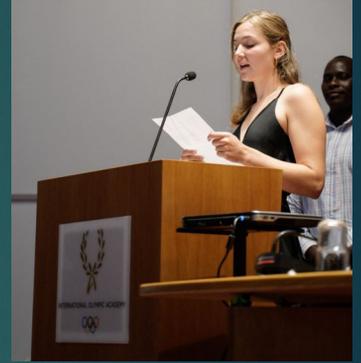
Ms Lisa Muzzo



Mr Kimmo Niemistö



Mr Giorgi Sulaberidze



Ms Monika Zachau

Ghana (GHA)

Great Britain  
(GBR)

Guatemala (GUA)

Hungary (HUN)



Ms Christiana Ashley



Ms Gillian Bartle (GBR)



Mr Juan Diego Blas Fernandez



Ms Ildikó Páska

India (IND)

Islamic Republic  
of Iran (IRI)

Israel (ISR)

Japan (JPN)



Mr Atharva Maid



Ms Helia Asghari



Ms Yarden Har Lev



Mr Yogo Suzuki



# Meet our IOAPA Country Coordinators 2023-2025

Head of Country Coordinators:  
Ms Samantha Matavata (ZIM)



Mr Christian Hajj

Luxembourg (LUX)

Lithuania (LTU)



Ms Ramune Motiejunaite

Oman (OMA)



Dr Sandra Heck

Papua New Guinea (PNG)



Mr Gerardo Levi  
López Mendez

People's Republic of China (CHN)



Ms Britt Van der Vegt

Peru (PER)



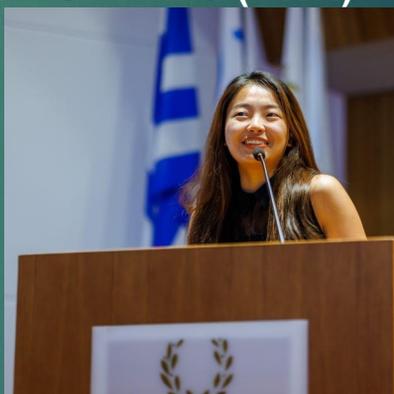
Mr Hisham Al Adwani

Poland (POL)



Ms Asiani Vagi

Portugal (POR)



Ms Zehua Zhang

Puerto Rico (PUR)



Mr Ennio Javier  
Cornejo Ramírez

Qatar (QAT)



Ms Karolina Pietraszek



Mr Sandro Manuel  
Nazario Lúcio



Ms Marelisa Jimenez Luciano



Dr Ali Alabakri Alyafei



CONGRATULATIONS !!!!

May you do an amazing work on IOAPA !

Please, keep us posted on your activities, sending us reports and news to be published on ARETE!

# Meet our IOAPA Country Coordinators 2023-2025

PAGE 17

Head of Country Coordinators:  
Ms Samantha Matavata (ZIM)

Republic of Korea (KOR)



Ms Kyung Eun Lee

Senegal (SEN) Slovenia (SLO) Republic of South Africa (RSA)



Mr Amadou Diaw



Mr Marko Levovnik



Mr Gert Potgieter OLY

Sri Lanka (SRI)

Sudan (SUD)

Togo (TOG)

Türkiye (TUR)



Ms Dinkey Bandara



Mr Amjed Mustafa



Mr Madji Jacques Ayassou



Ms Derya Sakalli

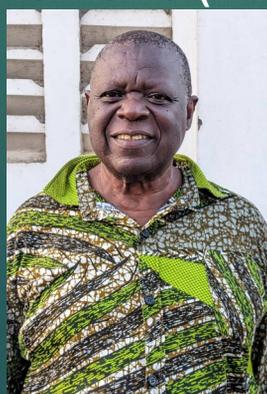
Tunisia (TUN)

United Republic of Tanzania (TAN)

Zimbabwe (ZIM)



Mr Ahmed Allouch



Mr Muharam Mchume



Ms Eugenia Melissa Mandeya

Country Coordinators without pictures, please send one to Ms Samantha Matavata and we will publish on the next edition

# A World Champion shares her comeback story

Jacqueline Simoneau, OLY (CAN)



PAGE 18

“After Tokyo, I decided to retire from the sport and go to medical school. I did about 3 years at podiatric medical school and this year I decided to come back, hopefully for the Paris Olympics”.

“I have been doing a lot of consulting work with other countries, like South Africa, Egypt, and Mexico. I realized I was still able to do the sport, and I still loved the sport.

There is a new judging system which makes it a little bit more objective. So those were all reasons why I decided to come back”.

“I finished one of my orthopedic rotations in September, and from there I had about two months of progressive coming back. I was consulting on the Czechia coaching there, and doing some choreography there.

I had the chance to go to the IOC headquarters in Switzerland for an event, then coach at the Argentina Open, as well as going to the Pan American Games. After that, I returned to full-time training about mid-November, so I’ve had about two months now.

It’s been incredible, all the support I had, from coaches, physiotherapists, massage therapists, etc. It’s just been phenomenal to help me come back”

“Last summer at IOA just really enhanced my passion for Olympism and my love for sports. There are many different ways you can contribute to sports and being an athlete is such a pivotal, central piece. Yeah, there are a lot of attaché roles, but it reminded me of why I started to swim and why I did high-performance sports.

I’ve been enjoying all of these other roles attached to the sport, but I figured it’s really such a short period of time and a window, where you can be an athlete at the center of the Olympic movement, so a why-not.

That’s what the IOA and connecting to everyone there, which is absolutely wonderful seeing all the phenomenal work that they do, it gives me an appreciation of these major Games”.

*Quotes collected and transcribed by Mateus Nagime on February 7h, 2024.*

# IOAPA NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

ARETE Editorial Board

## BENEFITS OF IOAPA MEMBERSHIP?

Besides having the opportunity to keep in touch with other members, attend our Reunion at the Olympics and take part in our bi-annual Session in Olympia, as a member you also get exclusive access to the following (to get access, login our website):

- ✓ [List of members](#)
- ✓ Monthly emails with news on sport related opportunities
- ✓ Helpful links for [jobs](#) and [research](#)

## KNOW A PAST PARTICIPANT WISHING TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Please refer them to [IOAPA MEMBERSHIP](#) and they will be able to register and pay online directly!

## DO YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IOAPA MEMBERS?

You have access to great perks and you are able to share: sporting event tickets, cultural event tickets, sport promotions, special museum exhibits, etc.?

Send us the details at [info@ioapa.org](mailto:info@ioapa.org) or post the information on our [Facebook group](#) (members only).

## FEEL FREE TO JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

You can find us on

[Facebook](#) , [Twitter](#) , [Instagram](#) & [LinkedIn](#)

## PROMOTE YOUR IOAPA ACTIVITY

We are continuously looking for news from our members. Are you working on a sport or Olympic education project that could be of interest to others? Does your country have a National Academy and you're taking part? Are you travelling and meeting IOAPA members or want to host IOA friends in your city? Do you have a great Olympic/Paralympic story? Did you meet the love of your life in Olympia? You're hosting a mini IOAPA reunion? **WE WANT TO KNOW!** Send us the details with a couple pictures/videos at [info@ioapa.org](mailto:info@ioapa.org) and we may just publish them.



# CONTRIBUTE TO ARETE NEWSLETTER!

Did you participate in an interesting Conference in the field of sport? Did you organize a sport-related event in your country?  
Are you working on a sport-related dissertation or paper?  
SHARE with us your experiences and contribute to the ARETE NEWSLETTER!  
Or can you help us with design and technical issues ?  
For any ideas, do not hesitate to contact the Newsletter Editor, Mateus Nagime at [mateusnagime@gmail.com](mailto:mateusnagime@gmail.com)

PAGE 21

## More on the IOAPA Country Coordinators



”

*Failure I can live with;  
not trying is what I can't  
handle*

“

- Sanya Richards-Ross,  
USA, 5 Olympic medals in athletics  
Including gold on 400m London 2012

Read the [full interview here](#)

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE  
SPORTS MOMENT FROM 2024?

This Olympic year has already  
started with a bang, both in the  
field of play and outside! Send us  
your favorite moment, and we will  
share it!

Please **SEND YOUR ANSWER** to  
the newsletter editor at:  
[nagime.mateus@gmail.com](mailto:nagime.mateus@gmail.com)