

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS ASSOCIATION

19TH SESSION FINAL REPORT

Virtual Session April 10 - 13, 2025



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SUMMARY OF THE 16TH OFFICIAL IOAPA SESSION - VIRTUAL

Theme of the Session was Paris Reflections: Lessons for a Brighter Olympic Future

4 days
110 Registrants
63 countries

6 Guest Speakers
Online Election
Torch Relay Draw

Art Workshop
Social Meetings
Pool Party

The third on-line session of the IOAPA was conducted April 10-13, 2025. The Session Planning subcommittee organized both an online business meeting and the traditional session in Olympia for those who could attend within two months of each other.

The main topic for the session was “Paris Reflections: Lessons for a Brighter Olympic Future”. Our finest member guest speakers shared their unique experiences from the Paris Games. The business meeting comprised mostly of executive committee reports was held on day 2.

Virtual elections were attended by 90 voters and went smoothly after a slow start due to some individual technical challenges. The software program was very secure and easy to follow. 25 people put their names forward for positions in the Executive Committee. The resulting election saw a very diverse EC emerge comprised of men and women from all parts of the world and maintained some experienced members joined by an equal number of new enthusiasts.

After a welcome message by IOAPA President Marilena Soukera (GRE) we were honored to have the new IOA President, Charilaos Tsolakis, address the members. Not only was he in attendance at the start of the program and chatted with people, but after his address to the participants, he remained in the meeting to hear the next presentations.

An historical and current relevant structure of the IOAPA including challenges facing the Association by Vice President, Laurel Brassey Iversen and the proposal for a new Alumni structure by Makis Asimakopoulos, IOA Director. It is the first time the IOA President and Director have attended the Online Session. Their presence and messaging were quite positive, and we are encouraged by the content and interaction, as we look forward to a new era of cooperation with the IOA.

Guest speakers for the session were:

- Christian Kern (BRA)
- Hsin Wei Chen (TPE)
- Samantha Matavata (ZIM)
- Marie Lou Noirot (FRA)
- Makis Asimakopoulos (GRE)

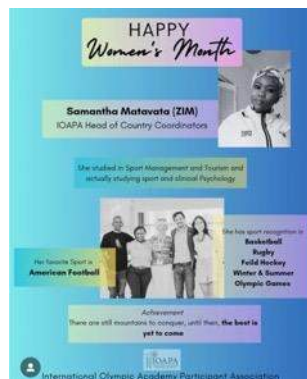
In addition to these fine speakers, we added some fun activities such as art workshop and social gatherings. Feedback from the session was very positive however some people felt that four days was a bit too long.

There were many people involved in orchestrating such a session as it's like a live-television production. Every minute must be planned and executed in a timely manner with so many people online for the "show". You will find a list of people who had a hand in planning and delivering the session. It was a pleasure working with all of them and we offer our deepest thanks to all of them and to those that made it a priority to attend the session. We are continually amazed by the comradery that can be felt in an on-line setting with so many participants.

Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)
IOAPA Vice President and Session Chair
2019-2025

SOCIAL MEDIA BLASTS

N° publication	Date	Content
43	11-03-2025	Women's month - n°2 - Marilena
44	13-03-2025	Women's month - n°3 - Laurel
45	14-03-2025	Closing of Nomination
46	15-03-2025	Final list of nomination
	16-03-2025	March Newsletter
48	19-03-2025	Women's month - n°4 - Sam
49	20-03-2025	Women's month - n°5 - Lou
51	26-03-2025	General Assembly Documents to all members Convocation / Reports/ Nomination
52	03-04-2025	1 week to the session
53	10/04 - 13/04	Online session
54	14-04-2025	Introducing new EC - Photos & positions
55	20-04-2025	1 week after the session Data, participants, speakers
56	08-05-2025	Meet the speakers (in person)
57	16-05-2025	Introducing new EC - Wish from the president & working strategy / line from new EC
58	24-05-2025	M-1 before in person session
59	31-05-2025	Members of IOAPA at YOA session
60	07.06 / 20.06	Content about YOA Session
61	14-06-2025	1 week before in person Social media: Exciting to meet the members / nbr of participants / highlight of the activities. Email to participants: All information about the meeting point, activities, what to bring etc...





IOAPA Session 2025 Programme

General Assembly and Online Elections

10th to 13th April 2025

SPECIAL TOPIC - Paris Reflections: Lessons for a Brighter Olympic Future

PROGRAMME

Important Notes:

- All programme timings are according to CEST (Central European Summer Time)
- You must be a registered participant in this session to vote in the election of the Executive Committee.

Day 1: Thursday 10th April, 2025

Time	Information	Speaker
14:00	Introduction by the IOAPA President Presentation of the Keynote Speaker and other guests	Marilena Soukera (GRE) IOAPA President
	Olympic Anthem	
	Welcome Address by the IOAPA President	
14:15	Address by IOA President	Mr Charilaos Tsolakis (GRE) IOA President
14:25	Historical Background	Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA) IOAPA Vice President
14:45	Address by IOA Director	Makis Asimakopoulos (GRE) IOA Director
15:00	More information by Makis from the Questions provided by the EC	
15:30	Official Photo on the platform	Alexander Eriksson (NOR)
15:35	Break	
15:45	Presentation by an IOAPA Member	Christian Kern (BRA)
16:00	Q & A with Christian	Moderator - Richard Koo (CAN) IOAPA Immediate Past President
16:15	Hans van Haute Scholarship Program	Anidev Singh (IND) Chair of HvH Committee
16:25	Magna Grecia Fundraising Project	Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA)
16:35	Introduction of HvH Scholarship Awardees	Anidev Singh - (IND) HvH Committee Chair
16:45	Social Meeting <i>for those who would like to get more acquainted.</i>	Alexander Eriksson (NOR) and Chloé Abou Chabake (LBN)
19:00	End of Daily Programme	

Day 2: Friday 11th April 2025

Time	Information	Speaker
14:00	Welcome Announcements	
14:15	Introduction of the General Assembly	Marilena Soukera (GRE) IOAPA President
	<u>IOAPA General Assembly:</u> Reports to be provided before the meeting Approval of the agenda of the General Assembly Reports of the Executive Committee Members Term 2023 - 2025 Introduction of IOAPA's election procedures Description of IOAPA Executive Committee Members' roles IOAPA Session Election Commission	
15:30	Video Presentation - Past Sessions	Alexander Eriksson (NOR)
16:00	Break	
16:15	Presentation by IOAPA Member	HsinWei Chen (TPE)
16:30	Q&A Session with HsinWei	Moderator - Mateus Nagime (BRA) IOAPA Newsletter Editor
16:45	Reminder for a Pool party	Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA) IOAPA Vice President
17:00	Arts Workshop	Xavier Jeannin (FRA) IOAPA Marketing Officer
18:15	Social Meeting.	Megan Ritch (USA)
19:00	End of Daily Programme	

Day 3: Saturday 12th April 2025

Time	Information	Speaker
14:00	Welcome Announcements	
14:10	Presentations by IOAPA Member	Samantha Matavata (ZIM) IOAPA Head of Country Coordinators
14:25	Q&A Session with Samantha	Moderator : Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA) IOAPA Vice President
14:40	Presentations by IOAPA Member	Marie Lou Noirot (FRA) IOAPA Internet Coordinator
14:55	Q&A Session with Marie Lou	Moderator : Chloé Abou Chabake (LBN)
15:10	Projects of Country Coordinators	Samantha Matavata (ZIM) IOAPA Head of Country Coordinators
15:25	Break	
15:40	<u>Introduction of candidates for Executive Committee.</u> Questions to candidates (2 min each).	Moderator - Megan Ritch (USA) Election Committee Chair
17:00	<u>Election Procedures Reminders</u>	Election Committee
17:10	Arts Workshop	Xavier Jeannin (FRA) IOAPA Marketing Officer
18:15	Social Meeting	Anfisa Kasyanova (GRE)
20:00	End of Daily Programme	

Day 4: Sunday 13th April 2025

Time	Information	Speaker
14:00	Welcome Announcements	Moderator - Megan Ritch (USA) Election Committee Chair
14:15	<u>Executive Committee Elections</u>	
16:00	Draw for 2026 Olympic Torch Relay Participation	Richard Koo (CAN) IOAPA Immediate Past President
16:15	Break <i>(photo of the new Executive Committee)</i>	
16:30	Video Presentation - YOA	Marilena Soukera (GRE) IOAPA President & Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA) IOAPA Vice President
16:45	Final Remarks and Closing Ceremony	
17:00	Social Meeting	Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA) IOAPA Vice President Xavier Jeannin (FRA) IOAPA Marketing Officer
19:00	End of the Session	

- ➔ New Executive Committee to meet at a later scheduled time
- ➔ This is a draft programme and may be subject to changes until the last moment. Registered participants will be informed of any modifications.
- ➔ Registration for the online and in-person session are open ! Link on our website.

IOAPA ONLINE SESSION PROCEDURES

Dear Participants,

We are very excited for this Online Session, and we want things to run smoothly. So here are a few guidelines to follow:

1. You do not have to attend every presentation or workshop, but if you decide to attend some sections, please be on time by logging in 5 minutes before the presentation.
 - a. The Session hours are in Central European Summer Time (Zurich/Berlin).
 - b. If you are uncertain of the time zone conversion, use this tool.
2. **Business Meeting - GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**
 - a. **Day 2 - 11 April @ 15:00: General Assembly Instructions & IOAPA Report**
 - b. **Day 3 - 12 April @ 15:25: Election Procedures & Presentation of Candidates**
 - c. **Day 4 - 13 April @ 14:15: Executive Committee Elections**
3. You will receive your voting credentials 24 hours before the election.
 - a. REMINDER that you need to be present to vote.
 - b. You can find the list of candidates up for elections here; and
 - c. Read the candidates' statements here.
4. You can always access the programme here and all documentation here. It will be updated as needed.
5. Evaluation - We value your opinions. **Please fill our evaluation form before next Sunday after the session (20th of April).** Your Certificate of Participation will be sent when the evaluation is received.

Technology

6. If you have any technical difficulties during the **Executive Committee Elections**, please contact Richard Koo richard@ioapa.org
7. If you have any technical difficulty during the Session, please send us a note in the WhatsApp Group or write to session.ioapa@gmail.com.
8. The entire session will be conducted on Zoom:
 - a. Please download and install the Zoom application on your computer prior to the session (if you are using it for the first time, please get familiar and test your camera and microphone);
 - b. ZOOM Link will be send few days before the session.

- c. **Please rename your Zoom Avatar** with your full name and country (go to your name, press MORE, press RENAME and enter your information);
 - d. Keep your microphone **MUTED** during presentations;
 - e. Please use the **RAISE YOUR HAND** function if you want to speak;
 - f. Or use the **CHAT** to ask a question;
 - g. For more Zoom Help, please check this document.
9. Please join our WhatsApp Group to be able to reach us during the Session.
10. Please ensure you have provided your correct PERSONAL email address. This will be required for Executive Committee elections. If we have an incorrect or invalid email address, you will not be able to vote.

Zoom how-to for desktop.

How to join a meeting

1. Click the invite link provided by the host, for example in a calendar or email invitation, and follow the on-screen instructions.
2. Alternatively, open the Zoom desktop client.
3. Click the **Home** tab. 
4. Click the **Join** icon. 
5. Enter the meeting ID provided by the meeting host.
6. If prompted, enter the meeting passcode.
7. Click **Join**.

You will then join the meeting or waiting room, if enabled by the host.

How to connect to audio

Upon joining the meeting, you will be prompted to connect to audio.

1. Click **Join with Computer Audio**.
Other options may appear, such as calling in to the meeting or being called into the meeting, but this depends on which audio options the host has provided.
2. Click **Mute / Unmute** in the bottom-left corner of the meeting controls toolbar as needed to control your microphone.
3. (Optional) Next to **Mute / Unmute**, click the up arrow icon  to change any of your audio settings, such as your microphone or speaker selection.

How to turn on your video and add a virtual background

1. If the host has requested video be on by default, you will be prompted with a video preview. This allows you to see your current video and decide to join the meeting with or without video. Click **Join with Video**.
2. While you're in a meeting, click **Start Video / Stop Video** in the bottom-left corner of the meeting controls toolbar as needed to control your video. 3. (Optional) Next to **Start Video / Stop Video**, click the up arrow icon  to change any of your video settings, such as picking a different camera or choosing a virtual background. If you select a new background, it will automatically change in the meeting.

How to share your screen

1. In the meeting controls toolbar, click the **Share Screen** icon .
2. Select an entire desktop or screen, a specific opened program, or the classic Whiteboard. You can also switch to the **Advanced** tab for other sharing options, such as slides as a Virtual Background, computer audio only, a local video file, or content from a 2nd camera.
3. (Optional) Select the check boxes next to **Share sound** and/or **Optimize for video clip** to enable either immediately at the start of your sharing. These options can also be enabled/disabled during the share.
4. Click **Share** to begin sharing your screen or content.
5. To stop sharing, click **Stop Share**.

How to chat with others

1. In the meeting controls toolbar, click the **Chat** icon . The Chat panel will open.
2. Click in the text input box and enter your message.
3. Click the **To:** drop-down menu to select who you want to send your message to.
Note: Your available options may be restricted by the host.
4. Press **Enter** or click the send icon  to send your message.

Zoom how-to for mobile

How to join a meeting (mobile)

1. Tap the invite link provided by the host, for example in a calendar or email invitation, and follow the on-screen instructions.
2. Alternatively, open the Zoom mobile app.
3. Tap the **Meetings** tab .

4. Tap the **Join** icon .
5. Enter the meeting ID provided by the meeting host.
6. If prompted, enter the meeting passcode.
7. You will then join the meeting or waiting room, if enabled by the host.

How to connect to audio

Upon joining the meeting, you will be prompted to connect to audio.

1. Tap **WIFI** or **Cellular Data**.
2. Other options may appear, such **Dial in** or **Call Me**, but this depends on which audio options the host has provided.
3. Tap **Mute / Unmute** in the bottom-left corner of the meeting controls toolbar as needed to control your microphone.

How to turn on your video and add a virtual background

1. If the host has requested video be on by default, you will be prompted with a video preview. This allows you to see your current video and decide to join the meeting with or without video. Tap **Join with Video**.
2. While you're in a meeting, tap **Start Video / Stop Video** in the bottom-left corner of the meeting controls toolbar as needed to control your video. 3. (Optional) In the meeting controls toolbar, tap the **More** icon , then tap **Backgrounds & Effects** to select a virtual background. Once you select a background, it will automatically change in the meeting.

How to share your screen

1. In the meeting controls toolbar, tap the **Share** icon .
2. Select what you want to share, such as a document or photo, your screen, or a website URL.
3. If prompted, tap **Start Broadcast** to begin sharing your screen or content.
4. To stop sharing, in the meeting controls toolbar, tap the **Stop Share** icon .

How to chat with others

1. In the meeting controls toolbar, tap the **Chat** icon . The Chat panel will open.
2. Tap in the text input box and enter your message.
3. (Optional) Tap the **Send to:** drop-down menu to select who you want to send your message to.
Note: Your available options may be restricted by the host.
4. Tap the send icon  to send your message.

SPECIAL ADDRESS

IOA PRESIDENT CHARILAOS TSOLAKIS (GRE)



Introduction of Dr. Tsolakis. He is currently Professor at the School of Physical Education and Sport Science at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Sports Director of Sport Excellence at the 1st Orthopaedic Clinic at Attikon General University Hospital.

He holds a Bachelor and a PhD in Sports Science from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and has also conducted a Post-Doctoral Thesis with a scholarship from the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY).

His academic experience, which spans over 30 years, encompasses teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, supervision of multiple master and doctoral dissertations, numerous presentations at Seminars and publications in national and international research journals as well as the co-writing of two books on fencing.

A former athlete, 5 times national champion in fencing and 6 times national champion in modern pentathlon, with 35 participations with the national team, Dr Tsolakis has also over thirty years of work experience with children, cadets, junior and elite athletes in the Greek national team of fencing and has participated as a fencing coach in the Olympic Games of Athens 2004, Beijing 2008 and London 2012.

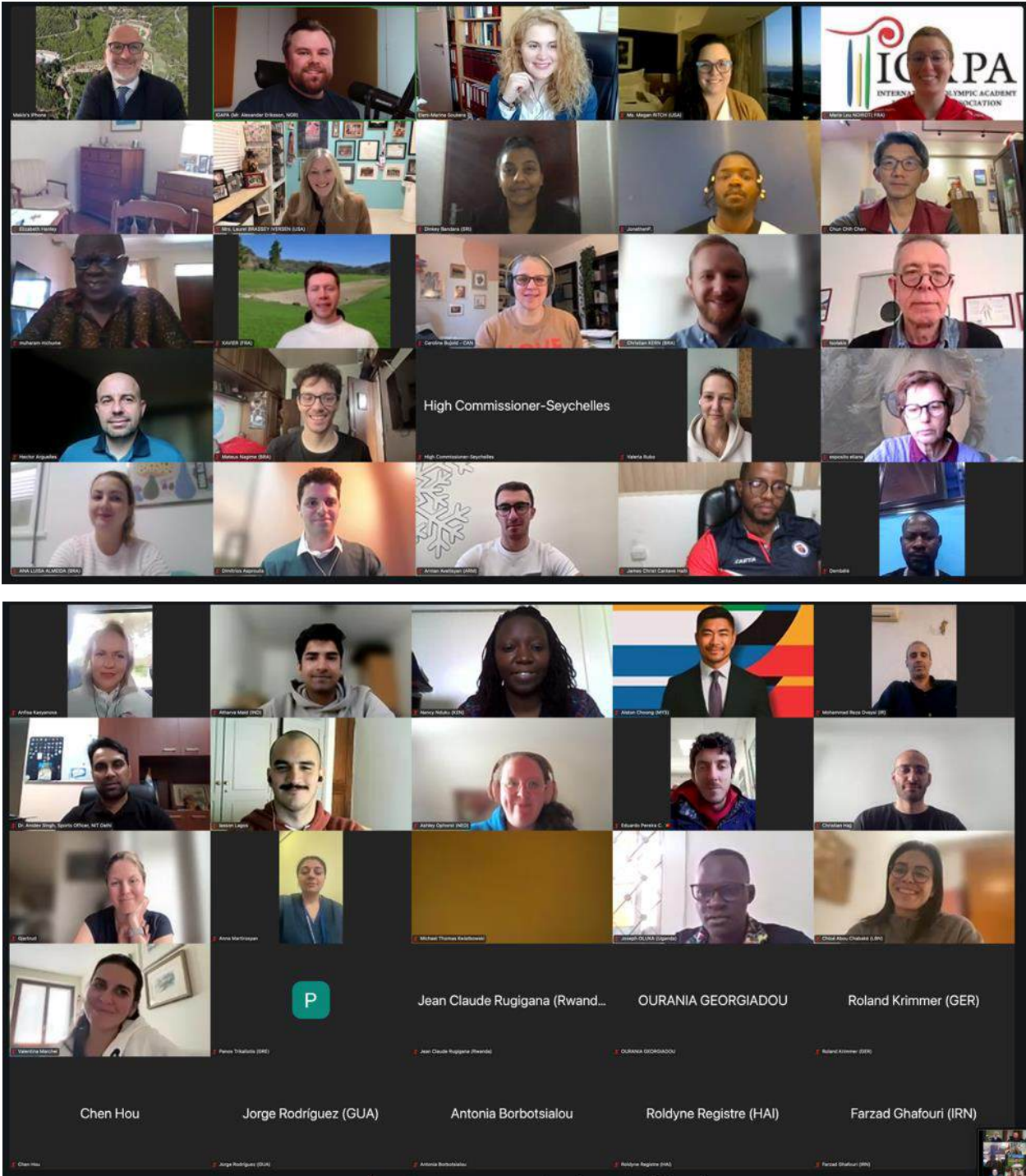
PRESIDENT TSOLAKIS ADDRESS TO THE IOAPA MEMBERS

Dear IOAPA Members,

First of all, allow me to wholeheartedly thank you for your kind invitation to address you on such a significant event, since apart from the on-line session the next days you will carry out your election procedures, a fundamental step in shaping the future leadership of your association. As the new President, I reassure you that I will give my best to lead the IOA with dedication and a vision that will inspire the Youth to truly appreciate the importance of Olympic Education. IOA's former President, Mr. Isidoros Kouvelos, has left behind a significant legacy and with your support and encouragement we will continue to flourish making a strong impact in the Olympic Family.

IOAPA, an association shaped from past participants who were motivated by their deep feeling of loyalty for the International Olympic Academy, enhance IOA's role in the Olympic Movement by motivating people to scale the experience and knowledge gained from their visit to the IOA in an effort to promote the Olympic Ideals back in their respected countries, in a spirit of solidarity, mutual respect and friendship. In cooperation with the IOA, IOAPA may thrive and contribute to the dissemination of the Olympic Values worldwide and I am more than confident that together we will build a future defined by excellence, innovation, and unity. I encourage you all to take an active role, contribute to discussions, and uphold the principles that will make this cooperation strong.

OFFICIAL SESSION PHOTOS



IOAPA HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS

LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN OLY (USA)



Laurel shared fascinating insights into the history of IOAPA, from its beginnings to its evolution today. The pictures she presented truly captivated everyone, offering a vivid glimpse into the journey. She beautifully explained how Olympism laid the foundation for the development of the IOAPA, emphasizing the spirit and friendship and global connection that continues to thrive within the community. See the full presentation below and PowerPoint in the appendices.

Many of you have heard this presentation before but I'd like you to pay close attention today considering the proposal you are going to hear from the IOA Director after I finish.

I'd like you all to think back on your time in Olympia. Think about your favorite place to sit and take it all in. What dreams did you have there?

Who could resist thoughts of peace, and unity, of what could be, as world events raged around us? Especially, in the protection of that unique place, it is impossible to turn away from meeting a new friend, try a new sport, a dance, or a language. Any session at the IOA can be a life-changing experience. Those who grasp this opportunity to utilize sport to teach respect for other ways of life, tolerance of things we have limited understanding of, fair play and inclusion, surely find great satisfaction.

At the IOA sessions during the mid-eighties, there were many such dreamers. Individuals from the 1985, and 1986 sessions, with the encouragement of the President of the Academy, Professor Nikolaos Nissiotis, had an idea for the formation of an organization that would celebrate what they were all living at the Academy, "Real Olympism". At the close of the '86 session, Professor Nissiotis offered the free use of the Academy premises for a "reunion" of the IOA participants.

The single, biggest question that all participants asked following the sessions, was, "Now what happens?"

With Professor Nissiotis' encouragement, the idea was born for a way to keep everyone connected, to continue the New Olympic Movement upon returning home. We wanted a way to support one another as we strived to implement Olympism as a philosophy of life in our own countries. We also wanted to ensure a way back to Olympia, to find the profound joy we had experienced and rekindle those friendships and bonds that were made there.

Upon the untimely death of Professor Nissiotis that same summer of 1986, the plans stalled. The '85 group organized by Hans van Haute (BEL), a selfless guy with enormous energy and a contagious spirit, and the '86 group organized by Ingolfur Hannesson (ISL), Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA) and Yiannis Zouboulis (GRE) were sharing information through newsletters. Before FAX, email, SMS and social media, regular post was the best means of communication as it was simply too expensive to telephone.

All preparations were made by letter and fax and in the summer of 1989, 61 past participants from 20 countries met again in Olympia to form the International Olympic Academy Alumni Association. Everyone paid their own way to Greece. The principles of democracy and the Roberts Rules of Order were implemented to run the meetings and the elections. Many of the members from the former Eastern Bloc countries were not accustomed to voting and told us to just make the decisions for them. There were small groups all over the lecture hall with someone translating into a common language, Italian, German, Russian, or Spanish.

Not only were officers elected, but the mission statement and each of the by-laws of the association was discussed at length and voted upon. This was a tedious and incredibly painstaking process, which was undertaken without the benefit of simultaneous translation. Fortunately, there were numerous lawyers in attendance to make sure we did everything correctly. The full report of the session was typed and copied during the session and handed over prior to leaving. When I look back on this session, I am very proud that this organization was born out of such an incredible process and very proud to have been a part of it.

We were off and running, or so we thought. We soon found out that printing, folding, addressing and mailing newsletters, our only form of communication to the new members and other past participants we were trying to reach, was a very slow, and expensive way to communicate. For the first 10 years of the association, most of the budget (received through dues-\$30 for two years) was spent on this endeavor. Weeks and months were required for any decisions regarding the association to be made.

I have to mention that for a couple of years Elvira Ramini (ITA) -the current President of the International Coubertin Committee, printed and mailed the newsletter from the IOC!

Also, IOA President Filaretos and the Euphoria proved somewhat reluctant to wholly endorse us. We were economically tied to the IOA, mostly because of the offer for free room and board at the Academy for our sessions. We only had to get ourselves there, which is no small financial undertaking. We also met resistance on many initiatives we wanted to implement, such as proposing coordinators for the IOA session and being allowed a few minutes to present the IOAAA during the official program. I'm not convinced they took us very seriously and thought maybe we wouldn't survive. Realistically, we probably shouldn't have when you consider that we were a global association without any sponsorship, funded solely by \$30 subscription fees of the members. One mailing of the newsletter could wipe out an entire year's budget.

In all successful organizations, there are always some stubborn, persistent individuals who keep the train on the track. Fortunately, we had a few of those as well as some dedicated folks behind the scenes who were always willing to step up. Along the way, we nurtured our relationships with the IOA leadership and gained the trust and confidence that we desired while remaining an independent, self-sustaining entity. Slowly, we won over many of the Greek officials as they could see we were serious people, dedicated to Olympism and willing to work. Mr. Filaretos, became one of our most ardent supporters until his death in 2007.

Almost from our inception we were defended and counseled by our dear friend, Dean Kostas Georgiadis. He has been the single most constant influence in the association. He first attended our session in 1991. We thought his real mission was to spy on us, as he did not engage us in any conversations. (We learned it was because he didn't speak much English). But we quickly saw that he was the best thing that could have ever happened to us. He remains today the Dean of the IOA and has been supporting us through the many different government and IOA leadership changes. We can never thank him enough for his support and friendship which continues to this day. We have also had wonderful support from IOA staff over the years: Christos Skaliarakis, Stella Tachtara, Vagelis Friggis, Panos Gianaras, Kostas Karadimas to name a few.

Let's never forget that the reason behind our existence in the Olympic Games and Olympism. Olympic traditions are powerful, and they draw us in. They are what hooked many of us.

IOA traditions are close to our heart because we were part of them. Opening Ceremonies on the Hill of Pnyx in Athens, visit to the Coubertin Grove and the Ancient Site of Olympia, Sunrise on Kronion Hill, and Nighttime ancient stadium runs, are some of those.

IOAPA traditions began at the 2nd session in 1991 after the death of one of our founders. We planted the Hans van Haute memorial tree, and we pay tribute to this fine man every session by laying a wreath at his tree. In 2023 we installed a plaque commemorating the tree in Han's memory.

A big boost came for us in 1996 when we were invited by the Hellenic Olympic Committee to take part in the Centennial Olympic Games Flame Relay in Greece. Mr. Anastasios Kritsinelis played a key role to make this a reality and Yiannis Zoumboulis worked tirelessly to organize the entire affair. 42 members made the trip and attended the Lighting Ceremony in the Ancient Stadium in Olympia and ran with the torch over the rugged Mt. Taigetos south of Olympia. Since then, we have been able to run in 2000, and 2004 and are invited for Milano 2026.

In 1997, President Filaretos attended our session. It was then, at the request of the Ephoria that the participants voted to change the name to IOAPA. Between 1997 and 2007, things remained rather status quo and sessions were generally organized around Olympic Education. The Association was still operating on the dues of the membership and really had no sponsorship or means to take on any large projects.

Eventually, the IOAPA President was invited to be a coordinator at the YOA sessions, and we were allowed to make a presentation to the participants about IOAPA and recruit members during the session. We were passionate about it and talked about it constantly in our working groups. It was normal for us to get 40-50 new members at the session. That is not the case anymore.

The old guard gave way to the new generation in 2005 as technology was enabling us to communicate worldwide in real time. The new wave of members, many of whom came from the Post Graduate seminar, were very well immersed in every aspect of Olympism, eager to get involved and experienced in all the latest means of social media and technology. Hector Arguelles (ESP) led this "Newest" Olympic Movement. 2013, the members present voted to make the initial membership fee a lifetime membership.

Between 2015 and 2023 IOAPA witnessed the exceptional leadership, vision and innovation of our past President, Richard Koo (CAN). Membership jumped and partnerships resulted from Richard's expert diplomacy and foresight. At many of the sessions a large amount of time was spent, re-hashing what the aims of the association should be. Because there are always many new participants, this had to be explained to bring everyone up to speed.

In the last 6 years, members attending the IOAPA session have begun to understand that its primary function is to provide a network of contacts and support in many different areas of sport to individuals who have attended an official session of the IOA and who chose to join the IOAPA.

In 2021 the Executive Committee decided to split our session into two parts: Online Business Meeting and Virtual Elections enabling more members to participate and vote. And- The traditional in-person session in Ancient

Olympia which without the business portion of the session allows more time for interactive workshops and guest speakers and more free time to enjoy the IOA and Olympia.

The IOA itself has been reborn out of the scorched trees of the fires of 2007 modernizing itself with new programs, initiatives, and collaborations. Since the election of IOA Immediate Past President Isidoros Kouvelos in 2009 the IOAPA has enjoyed a new level of cooperation and encouragement. Dean Georgiadis continues to be our mentor and the new facilities at the IOA beckon us all to return.

IOAPA members continue to make impacts in their countries as members of their respective NOA, and in some cases, being the driving force in their creation. They help in preparing the Young Olympic Ambassadors for each year's IOA session. (Our Orientation Manual can be downloaded and used in any country). They are respected professors of Olympic Studies, NOC officers, and IOC members and Olympians. The future promises to bring us closer together as globalization shrinks our world. Technology will enable us to do more than ever before as we have seen when Covid forced us indoors. The values of Olympism always shine brightly in troubled times, and we will always play a part in spreading these values.

Over the past 36 years our traditions have evolved. Every session we host an IOAPA Pool Party to enjoy each other's company and since 2011 we have made a visit to the Agrotourism Farm Magna Grecia to enjoy an evening of good food, dancing and comradery.

Today in this 19th session of the IOAPA with over 110 participants present, we are reminded once again of the inspirational words of Professor Nissiotis at the Closing Ceremony of the 1985 Young Participant's session. He said, "...make a miniature replica of this universal family, a family which you will form beyond and over the level of any religious, political and racial discrimination". We did it! It is something we can all be very proud of.

I want to add just a few points on the current structure of IOAPA before we transition into a presentation on the future of IOAPA.

We have 10 elected EC members plus the Immediate past president to provide continuity and expertise. Each EC member is encouraged to form a subcommittee when possible. This ensures that there is someone who can help if the elected member is unable to perform their duties. Many EC member experience periods of time when work, family, health problems arise.

3 main sources of income:

- Membership Inscriptions paid during official sessions 40€ or online after the sessions 45€
- Magna Grecia Agritourism sponsorship
- Hans van Haute Auction in Olympia

Hans van Haute scholarship money comes to us mainly from the Magna Grecia Olive Oil sales and the donations that members give when registering for our online and Olympia Official Sessions.

Our operating budget comes solely from the Lifetime Membership that each member pays when joining. We never ask for dues or yearly contributions. The money in the account is used for:

- Zoom Platform
- Google Storage
- Official IOAPA Reunions
- IOAPA Sessions

- Marketing & Promotional Materials

Current IOAPA Structure:

- 10 Elected Executive Committee Members
 - + Past President
 - Expert Communication is critical
- EC Meetings are every 5-6 weeks online
- EC Members form Sub-Committees
- Newsletter 3-4 Times per year
- IOAPA Sessions held every 2 years online & in Olympia
- Official Reunions at Olympic Games
- Support of Members in their countries
- HvH Scholarships provided for Olympia Session

Challenges Facing IOAPA Today:

- Free dormitory no longer offered to us.
- Reduced interest by past participants to join
- Difficulty to find committed individuals to serve in various roles
- Up until last year, the IOA always shared the YOA and other sessions' participant's lists with us so that we could contact them after their respective sessions and encourage them to join IOAPA. Due to GDPR Regulations, they are no longer able to share this information. We have no way to contact the participants other than in-person recruiting during the sessions. We have found that this is increasingly more and more difficult to do.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IOA ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT OFFICE INSIDE THE IOA MAKIS ASIMAKOPOULOS (GRE)



Introduction of Makis Asimakopoulos. Makis Asimakopoulos is a distinguished scientist and professional in sports management with over 30 years of experience. He has a master's degree and Ph.D. in Sport Management. In addition to his extensive articles on sports issues in domestic newspapers, he has published articles in international scientific journals, has made presentations at many sports conferences and scientific bodies, and has co-authored books on sports management and the Marathon.

He held leading administrative positions of the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, and the Special Olympics International. He served as Sports General Director for the Olympic and Paralympic Games "ATHENS 2004".

1993 to 1999, when as General Director of the "Athens Marathon. The Authentic" he participated in its emergence as the largest annual international mass sport event in Greece and one of the largest and most important ones worldwide.

Makis Asimakopoulos was an IOA participant and a Discussion Group Coordinator. He has also lectured at the IOA at various sessions.

Presentation by the Director

"Given our shared goals and commitment to Olympism, we believe that a collaboration with certain parameters would be mutually beneficial and contribute significantly to our respective missions. I am looking forward to working with the new board and I wish each and every one of you a fruitful and productive session."

In April, all IOAPA members received by email the Proposal for the IOA Alumni Engagement Office IOA-AEO to further strengthen ties with the IOA Alumni community. A few points are highlighted here.

There will be financial and staff support from the office in Athens. The timing of this information was quite important because of the election of the next Executive Committee would take place in three days' time. The new IOAPA EC would be making decisions regarding the proposal.

The IOAPA EC would act as an advisory board to the AEO. The AOE will be committed to inform, engage and partner with all IOA alumni, securing financial support from a diverse spectrum of stakeholders (whenever possible) while at the same time, with strategically aligned communications, engagement programs and social responsibility events will promote the mission and goals of the IOA.

The Director laid out many points and reiterated many times that the IOA is open to discussion on the structure and how the new AOE will incorporate the IOAPA EC. He expects that everything will be in place by the end of 2025 and looks forward to more dialogue and discussion during the upcoming IOAPA Official Session in Olympia June 21-27, 2025.

The EC had prepared a list of questions for the Director which he addressed, but many points had not yet been developed. Makis invites any IOAPA member to contact him directly. (director@ioa.org.gr)

Notes on the presentation:

Over the past 25 years, significant changes in Olympic education were highlighted, showcasing its evolution and broader impact. The strong link between Olympic education and sports education was emphasized, with a call to educate not only athletes but also individuals across various professions such as doctors, coaches, and teachers, underscoring that Olympic education is essential regardless of one's career path.

From a philosophical perspective, it was noted that Olympic education brings deeper meaning and joy to life. Several key IOA initiatives were discussed, including the IOC Library, Olympic Museum, Olympic Studies Centre, Pierre de Coubertin Committee, and the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP), all of which play a vital role in promoting Olympic values.

Looking ahead, plans include launching two bachelor's degrees in Olympism and continuing the renovation of the library with improved virtual access. There was a strong emphasis on spreading Olympic values further, along with an open invitation to visit the IOA premises to encourage greater public engagement.

Prior to the Online session, the Director's proposal was sent by email to all IOAPA members. They were asked to submit any questions to the Executive Committee. The EC then consolidated the questions and proposed the following seven questions.

1. What is the long-term vision and structure of the new IOA Alumni Engagement Office (AEO)? Including its mission, funding sustainability, governance model, and whether it will be a hybrid with IOAPA or a separate entity.
2. How will alumni voices be represented and integrated in decision-making processes? Will the Alumni Advisory Board be elected or appointed? What will be its role and composition? How will alumni feedback be gathered and used?
3. How can IOAPA members practically contribute to the AEO's success? Including ideas for collaborative projects, local activation, internship/job opportunities for alumni, and co-creation of a strategic plan.
4. What is the vision for communication, transparency, and inclusivity in the new structure? Will freedom of speech be respected? What will happen to the IOAPA newsletter, social media, and archive? How will all alumni (past and future) be included?
5. What is the profile of the team leading this initiative, and how will collaboration with the current IOAPA EC be ensured? Who will head the AEO? How many staff members will there be? What kind of collaboration is envisioned with IOAPA's current and future executive committee?
6. How will the legacy of the IOAPA be preserved? What will happen to the IOAPA archive, its identity, and its accumulated contributions over the years?
7. In your opinion, what is the expected timeframe for the new AEO to be established and become operational?

WHATSAPP MESSAGES DURING THE SESSION



IOA Alumni in Toronto! Tuula from YPS2007, Carole from YPS 2019 and a fan



Anfisa Kasyanova says Morning Hi from Ancient Olympia

I was about to write see you soon in Olympia. But not yet 😊.

First see you all soon online and I will show you a bit of Olympia. The road from the town to Academy is finally fixed but now it is only for walking

🚶 no cars 🚗

Marilou Noirot: Not finished, if you still want to join us for social activities, to get to know more each other, leading by the amazing duo @Alexander Eriksson and @~Chloé Abou Chabake!

Thank you so much everyone for this first day of the session! 😊 For the ones who participated today, please feel free to fulfill this form: <https://forms.gle/ML2wvfehBWFaT4F8A> about your feedback and questions of the day 😊

If you have any for the speakers of the day, please highlight their names and we will forward to them 😊

Let's go for next days!

Farzad: It was a pleasure to meet all of you today during the session. I would like to thank the EC for programming, managing, and hosting such a well-organized event. It was wonderful to see my Olympic friends.

HANS VAN HAUTE AND THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ANIDEV SINGH (IND) HVH SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

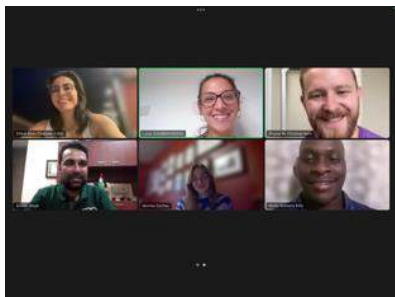


"Dr. Anidev Singh is a distinguished sports administrator, academic, and martial artist from New Delhi, India. He holds a Ph.D. in Physical Education & Sports Sciences from the University of Delhi and a master's in Olympic education from the University of Peloponnese, Greece. He currently serves as the Students Activity & Sports Officer (Senior Scale) at the National Institute of Technology Delhi, India. He has presented research articles in various National & International conferences and has published numerous research papers.

Dr. Singh has represented India in various international sports and academic forums, including the International Olympic Academy and the World Taekwondo Championships. He served as the Coordinator of the International session for Young Olympic Participants in 2022, 2023, and 2024. A black belt in Taekwondo, he has won multiple state and national martial arts titles. His expertise extends to Olympic sports management, having contributed to the Paris Olympics in fencing and taekwondo administration. His academic contributions and leadership in sports development continue to inspire athletes and scholars alike.

Dr. Singh thanked the members of the committee for their diligent work selecting the recipients of the scholarship. He presented some background information about the scholarship's namesake.

Sub-Committee: Lucia Giamberardino (ARG), Christian Kern (BRA), Monica Zachau (GER), Motto Williams (KEN), Chloe Abu Chabake (LBN), Dr. Ali Albakri (QAT), Anidev Singh (IND) EC Liaison-Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA)



The Hans van Haute Scholarship Fund, established during the 2001 IOAPA session, was named in honor of the main force behind the creation of our Association. Hans was an IOA participant from Belgium in 1985; however, he died in 1991. He did have the opportunity to attend the inaugural IOAPA session in 1989 despite his illness (cancer).

During the 1985 Young Participants Session, Hans was inspired and encouraged by the President of the Academy, Professor Nissiotis, to organize an alumni association of the IOA. On his own initiative, Hans wrote and mailed a newsletter to all the 1985 participants to keep the spirit alive.

Upon the urging of Yiannis Zoumpoulis (GRE), Professor Nissiotis also put the same thought into the heads of the 1986 IOA participants Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA), Ingolfur Hannesson (ISL), and others during a meeting in his office. He promised the IOA facilities free of charge for an IOA alumni meeting.

Shortly after the 1986 session, Hannesson also began publishing a newsletter for the participants. Eventually, van Haute and Hannesson were connected, and they coordinated their efforts. Almost immediately following the 1987 session, Paul Baldacchino (MLT) joined forces with Ingolfur and Hans and the three became the driving force behind a reunion in Olympia.

In March 1988 Hannesson and Zoumpoulis met in Athens with IOC member, Mr. Nikos Filaretos, the new IOA President following the death of Professor Nissiotis. With Zoumpoulis leading the way in Athens, the final plans for a reunion in 1989 rapidly took shape. Invaluable support came when Mr. Filaretos sent a formal letter on 27 March 1989, informing all NOCs and NOAs around the world about the upcoming meeting and value of such an endeavor for the Olympic Movement.

Recognizing Hans van Haute's dedication to the birth of IOAPA, there was a strong movement at that first conference to make him the organization's first president. But Hans refused all these attempts. Not long after the conference everyone learned that Hans was suffering from cancer. On 13 June 1991, just weeks before the second alumni conference, crushing news came that Hans had lost his battle with cancer.

In 1993 during the IOAPA session, a tree was planted in memory of Hans van Haute behind the Old Lecture Hall. The first tree survived only a few years, and a second tree was planted which thrives there today. IOAPA also developed the Hans van Haute Scholarship to help participants in need to attend the session. The report of each session is sent to Han's wife, Lieve Bague-De-Keersmaecker.

Just prior to this Online Session, two additional HvH Partial Scholarships to attend the session in Olympia were awarded to Ana Luisa Dos Reis De Almeida (BRA) and Gerardo Levi Lopez Mendez (MEX).

During its short existence, the fund has been able to aid several participants over the past decade. (2013: Croatia, Serbia; 2015: Slovenia 2017: Switzerland and Russia 2019: Puerto Rico and Germany 2023: Guatemala, Lebanon, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe 2025: Brazil, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

THE MAGNA GRECIA OLIVE OIL PROJECT

LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN OLY (USA)

I have been very fortunate to attend many sessions of the IOA and IOAPA. Over 20 years ago I became friends with Franca Magrini and Dimitris Karabalas, owners of L'Argalo shop in Olympia. In 2010 the family opened an [Agritourism Farm and Restaurant in Floka](#), just above Olympia. The farm has been very successful, catering to land tours as well as groups from cruise ships (Katakalo Port). Their business was essentially dead for all of 2020 and well into 2021. They were still shipping orders of the products they produce on the farm all over the world. I was thinking how to help my friends in their difficult situation. I thought about organizing my friends on Kauai, Hawaii to bring the Extra Virgin Organic Olive Oil to the islands.

The Magna Grecia Olive Oil Project was born. I wrote a letter describing my idea and emailed it to everyone I knew. By joining together, we were able to fill the shipping boxes with 18 -750 ml cans and lower the shipping cost down to about 8 Euros per tin. The total cost per tin including shipping was about 25 to 27 Euros depending on exchange rates between the Euro and Dollar. Within 72 hours I had sold 90 tins. People were very touched by the story of the family and wanted to help these people in their struggle during the pandemic.

I shared the idea with Elizabeth Hanley (USA) and she began her own campaign, eventually filling 10 boxes of 18 tins. We feel like the project was successful for two reasons. First: Our deep connection to the Karabalas family and our willingness to jump to action! Second: Elizabeth lives in a small college town in Pennsylvania and I, on a small island in the Pacific Ocean. Both places are a bit isolated, and it is difficult to find delicious gourmet products for a good price. People were delighted with the olive oil and many reordered entire boxes to give as Christmas gifts.

Franca and her family were overwhelmed by our Aloha and happily prepared the boxes for shipping. The family was happy that they had some business and very grateful that so many folks on the other side of the world would make this effort for them. Nothing like the tours they were doing but to see some of their life's blood- olive oil - leaving the shelves, was so meaningful to them.

We made a special photo tag to thank each person and Franca included a special gift for each person who purchased. Even the local post office was excited because they had business income shipping the boxes. My local postal girl was not so excited to deliver 40 kilo boxes. I was able to deliver many of the tins since I was only working part-time due to the pandemic.

After 1 week and the first five orders, Franca said she wanted to pay a commission which I declined, but then got an idea. I explained how we raise money to fund the IOAPA Hans van Haute Scholarship to Franca. Over the years we have never been able to bring an alumni member from a lesser represented country at IOAPA sessions because they needed a Full scholarship. IOAPA's goal for 2021 was to have enough money in the scholarship fund to provide a FULL Scholarship to one person. For many people, their only possibility rests with an all-expense paid trip.

So many wonderful people enjoyed the Magna Grecia Olive Oil. These are just a few of them. We have continued to operate the project every year with some of our best customers. Richard Koo joined in the project. In 2023 we provided 2 full scholarships and 2 partial scholarships and this year in 2025 we will do the same. In 2024 and 2025 Richard, Elizabeth and myself raised 2175€

Franca has been hosting our IOAPA dinner and tour at Magna Grecia every year since 2011 and knows many of our members. She agreed to the idea and the 15% commission funded the scholarship. With the help of our amazing family of friends in Hawaii and, also from folks around the US in Pennsylvania, Colorado, California, Indiana and Idaho we raised money for the HvH scholarship.

One of my greatest pleasures is introducing the HvH scholarship recipients to Franca and her two business partner sons, Alexis, and Francesco at the Magna Grecia Farm in Olympia.



The Magna Grecia Project

Hans van Haute Scholarship Fundraiser

Laurel Brassey Iversen & Elizabeth Hanley

The Request for Help

Aloha,

I hope this finds you well. A few weeks ago, I started a little COVID Project: Olive Oil. Strange times bring strange requests. One of my dear friends in Ancient Olympia, Greece owns a family Agrotourism farm and restaurant, which has been operating successfully, catering to tour groups from cruise ships (Katakalo Port) and land tours. Their business is essentially dead for all of 2020. They are still shipping orders of the products they produce on the farm all over the world. We have been visiting their farm every two years with an Olympic-related group when we visit Olympia and I have personally known the family for over 20 years. They have delicious olive oil and I always bring home 3-4 liters of it. If you love olive oil, you would enjoy their highest quality organic products. (I know....I could be their salesperson). It is expensive to ship so if we can gather some friends the cost goes down. I doubt if you could buy a similar product for much less even with the cost of shipping. We use the Koroneiko variety for dipping bread or for salads. I cook with it also, but they have a "Local Varieties" for cooking which costs a bit less.

If you would like to buy some, it would be a great help to them. I am organizing shipments of 18 -750 ml cans to Kauai. That's the max for one box. If we buy 18 the cost per can with shipping will be \$28 for Koroneiko and \$25 for Local Varieties. You can order as many or as few as you like. I started this a week ago and we are up to 200 cans for Kauai. Franca and her family are overwhelmed by our Aloha and have been happily preparing the boxes for shipping. Folks can pay by check and cash. I have a Venmo account also. When I receive enough funds for 18 tins, I order a box. You won't be disappointed. You can Google Magna Grecia Farm and find the website. I didn't want any links or attachments with this. Please call me if you have questions. My Pay Pal is Laurel Iversen and Venmo is @Laurel-Iversen. Make sure you spell Iversen with 2 e's...no "o" There is a profile picture also.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Laurel

Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY





Preparing for delivery in Hawaii



**Commission = Scholarship
to attend an IOAPA Session
in Ancient Olympia**



Magna Grecia Olive Oil was shipped to Kauai, Maui, Oahu and the Big Island of Hawaii, as well as California, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Colorado. We sold 49 cases, over 800 tins of olive oil. We raised \$3000 for the Hans van Haute Scholarship and helped our friends at Magna Grecia survive the pandemic.



INTRODUCTION OF 2025 HANS VAN HAUTE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - ANIDEV SINGH (IND)

Due to the continued olive oil sales fundraising and other IOAPA opportunities to donate such as the Paris Reunion and online registration, we were once again able to offer four scholarships for the recipients to attend the IOAPA Official Session in Olympia. Two full scholarships including registration, airfare, and room and board were awarded as well as two partial scholarships (registration and Athens accommodation – two-nights). They are required to present their projects in Olympia.

Our two full scholarship awardees are Dinkey Bandara from Sri Lanka and Joseph Oluka from Uganda.



Dinkey Bandara (SRI) is a dedicated professional at the intersection of academic expertise, sports administration, and a deep-rooted passion for promoting Olympism. Since 2018, she has worked with national and international sports organizations, contributing her knowledge and skills to elevate the global sports community. Dinkey holds a master's degree in Olympic studies from the International Olympic Academy, a Master of Sports Administration from the Russian International Olympic University, and a PGCert in International Sport Management from the University of London.

Beyond her academic and professional pursuits, Dinkey is a committed advocate for youth and educational empowerment, leading workshops and educational programs for university and school students. Her goal is to foster the next generation of sports professionals, nurturing talent and sharing her knowledge.

Dreaming of a career with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), she is passionate about traveling, exploring different cultures, and leveraging her expertise to spread the values of Olympism across the globe.

With a strong desire to make a lasting impact in the world of sport, Dinkey draws inspiration from Pierre de Coubertin, whose legacy she believes guides her journey and helps her navigate challenges and achieve her goals in the sporting world.



Joseph Oluka (UGA) is a sports administrator and is currently working with the Uganda Olympic Committee as an Assistant Administrator (Technical). Joseph has implemented, managed, and coordinated several projects using the Sports for Development approach, while addressing global issues such as poverty, violence, and quality education, among others, through collaborations with various organizations, including Youth Sport Uganda, Uganda Olympic Committee, and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) - Uganda.

Ana Luisa Almeida (BRA) is a sports management professional who serves as the General Manager of the Brazilian Federation of Modern Pentathlon, a role she has held since 2009. Ana Luisa has extensive experience in organizing and managing national and international sporting events, including Modern Pentathlon World Cups and the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.



She just obtained her master's degree in Olympic studies through the International Olympic Academy and the University of Peloponnese. Ana Luisa holds degrees in Business Administration and Physical Education.

Her international credentials include serving as a member of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) Business Affairs Committee and as an arbitrator for the UIPM Arbitration Court. She has led Brazilian Modern Pentathlon delegations at major sporting events such as the Lima 2019 Pan American Games, the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games and some Youth and Junior World Championships.



Gerardo Levi Lopez (MEX) was born in Mexico in 1989, and is a former national swimming champion, a committed marathon runner, and a lifelong advocate for sport as a vehicle of human development. His professional journey began in February 2017, when he founded a movement dedicated to organizing endurance races in remote Mexican communities to foster social transformation and raise funds for children facing cancer and extreme poverty.

After earning a postgraduate degree in Sports Training in Spain, he pursued a Master's in Sports Management in Germany, where he encountered the United Nations' initiatives on "Sport for Development and Peace." This experience reshaped his perspective: sport was not only discipline or spectacle—it was diplomacy, education, and healing. Since then, he has implemented inclusive, sustainable event models empowering young people and communities through physical activity. He also designs sports programs in underserved areas, combining logistics, ethics, and storytelling.

"My deepest inspiration comes from ancient Greece, where sport was a sacred act—performed to honor the gods, to cultivate the self, and to forge a civil society. I carry that legacy in everything I do. To stand in Olympia, where ideals became action, is not only a destination—but a return to the origin of my purpose."

GUEST SPEAKER CHRISTIAN KERN (BRA)



Christian holds a bachelor's degree in physical education, with a specialization in Psychomotricity. Young researcher at the Olympic Studies Research Group of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, with projects in the fields of Olympic Education and Olympism. Director of Communications and Member of the Brazilian Pierre de Coubertin Committee and the Latin American Center for Coubertinian Studies.

He is also part of the communications team of the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee. He participated for the first time in the International Session for Young Olympic Ambassadors in 2023 and returned in 2024 as a group coordinator. Most recently, he took part in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games as an assistant to the athletes of Team Brazil.



Presentation in Annexe A: Beyond the Olympic Games: What surrounded the mega event.

Question and Answer moderated by Richard Koo (CAN)

Richard Koo asked, "What is your future research focus?"

- Investigating psychological aspects in sport
- Fear before competitions
- Mental health of athletes

Laurel Brassey Iversen highlighted the opportunity for athletes to eat food from their own country during competitions, which positively impacts performance and comfort.

Discussion on Olympic Education and Athlete Preparation

Issue raised: How National Olympic Committees (NOCs) prepare athletes for Olympic education.

Currently, most NOCs only focus on preparing athletes for competition, not broader educational or post-competition aspects.

Key question posed:

How can athletes be better prepared both before and after competitions?

GUEST SPEAKER HSIN-WEI CHEN (TPE)



Hsin-Wei Chen is an interdisciplinary scholar specializing in sports, tourism, and event management. Baseball is her biggest passion. Her passion for sports events and the Olympic Games inspired her transition from working in the travel industry to pursuing sport-related research. She is currently pursuing a dual PhD program between National Taiwan Normal University and the University of South Carolina, focusing on the role of events, particularly sports events, as mediators for community development.

Presentation in Annexe B: Hsin-Wei shares her journey as a Paris 2024 Olympic Torchbearer.

Question and Answer moderated by Mateus Nagime (BRA)

She mentioned that she was not originally selected, she was an alternate. She mentioned the importance of the IOAPA Team with her, as a support group, making sure everything will be ok. She also discussed the importance of the memories created with the IOA(PA) community.

Emilio, HsinWei and Caroline were the last three people on the Olympia Run. She reminded to run, not walk, but also to run slow and enjoy the moment. HsinWei, together with Emilio, Yarden, Xavier, Caroline and Richard, went to a torch display and felt a deeper connection to the history. Even she already saw torches before, now she feels a bigger connection. And she keeps giving back, both at her university.

Andrew Shields wrote: "Thanks for your presentation HsinWei Chen! I'm pleased that you found the Torch Relay such a profound experience. Although it didn't become part of the Games until 1936, the concept of the relay has such ancient roots and powerful meaning" and spoke about the importance and symbolic meanings of the torch relay.

Marie Lou brought back the importance of the torch relay and that non only people from the host country, but also from other places connected to Olympism.

Xavier also spoke about the experience of participating in the lightening of the flame.



Laurel mentioned the first time she run on the Olympia mountains, people taking turns on the bus, raining... with Elizabeth and other IOA(PA) colleagues.

HsinWei replied reminding everyone that this provided a shared experience between Laurel, Elizabeth, and others.

Caroline Bujold mentioned that the time goes by so fast during the relay, and Laurel warned her before to enjoy a lot while it was lasting. She also mentioned that they did not keep the torch.

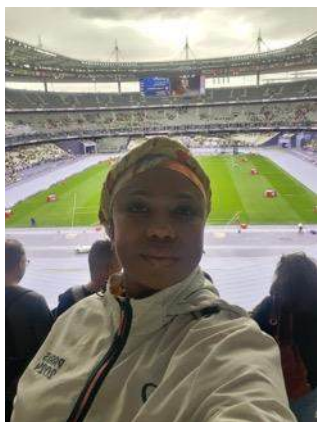
Laurel revealed some more stories related to the difficulty to be chosen as a torch bearer, and Mateus told the history of Zico, one of the main history of Zico, one of the main Brazilian football players, who was upset that he was not chosen to carry in his hometown of Rio, but had the opportunity to be the only Brazilian to carry the torch in the Tokyo 2020, as he was also an idol in Japan.

Mateus asked HsinWei if she had run with something on her hand as a preparation. She replied that did not, but the IOAPA team ran a little bit to warm-up on the day, before the Light

As the meeting was 1 hour ahead of schedule, the discussion was very long and interesting. Eliana Esposito mentioned about a project she led in Italy. And finally, the Members who had a torch (Marie Lou, Richard, Laurel and Elizabeth) took a picture together.



GUEST SPEAKER SAMANTHA MATAVATA (ZIM)



THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT IN PARIS2024 THROUGH THE IOAPA LENS

Being part of Paris2024 as an IOAPA member was a learning journey. We have heard that all Olympic games are different and always leave one memorable piece with you. In my journey I can say Lausanne2020 left a memory of how safe it was in Switzerland, being able to go anywhere at odd hours.

Paris2024 left a memory of how friendly people were, though half the time I always referred to myself as a walking monument that everyone was so curious about. People were always excited and curious to see anyone in the Paris2024 uniform. This curiosity always came with questions whether it was random people or athletes, or workforce. One thing I learnt for sure is that it became an opportunity for outreach conversations. Letting athletes know about the wonderful place that IOAPA comes from called the IOA.

I remember mentioning to Christos that I have spoken so much about the IOA, the master's program, the young Ambassadors and journalists session that I feel I should just be called the IOA Brand Ambassador. People were so curious to know of this one place that does not get much recognition for its big role in the Olympic Movement. The place we all have gone to debate and share conversations on sustainability, Olympic education, gender equality etc., the one place where we are all one no matter the differences and turmoil s our nations are facing.

I got to share it all with great pride and joy in my everyday schedule. These games for the first time highlighted the reason for the modern Olympics all because of one man that had a great vision: Pierre de Coubertin.

It was an honor having Alexandra visit us and make a presentation to a curious group of people that were in awe and had never understood how the games began. As we all attempted to make time to meet with each other, I was grateful that Laurel Brassey Iversen and Richard Koo had designated dates specifically for our members. It took great effort to organise us being accommodated by the Canada house and WOA, on a regular day it would have been costly just get a ticket into these fancy places.

My biggest joy came from other countries accommodating me as an IOAPA Head of Country Coordinators because they want to learn and know who we are and what we stand for. The French Olympic Academy was the first to extend an invite, which unfortunately, I could not make because of my foot. The South African Olympic Committee and Team Serbia extended invites so I could share an evening through their cultures. This was a great honor to see that as an organization there are nations out there that are curious about us and I am most certain that as time goes, the great partnership we built with the Canadian Olympic Academy will saw some seeds for other nations too.

So apart from networking and outreaching we got to support our own IOAPA members that were participating, it was the most surreal moment. I remember the day Emma and I bumped into each other in the Olympic village and screamed with excitement like 2 teenage besties, everyone just stared at us. It was the funniest and cutest thing ever.

One thing I will take from my paris2024 experience as an IOAPA member is that the world is listening and watching so even on my worst days I had to be the best version of myself because people were paying attention. I became

the person that got referred to as the girl from the IOA and IOAPA, with that I had to represent these wonderful brands positively. So I hope one day you will get to experience the Games as an Olympic Movement Ambassador representing IOAPA and the IOA.

See presentation in Annexe C

Question and Answer moderated by Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA)

Question: What was your feeling when you entered as volunteer?

Answer: Working with adults is different from working with children, and you need to be grounded. I was always reminding myself that I am representing 3 brands, Paris 2024, IOAPA, IOA and I need to make sure that I am here to serve in overwhelming situations at the Olympic Village.

Question: What's your best memory of the experience?

Answer: The surprise tickets to go attend the games, because it was very pricey, and it was the best experience. Second best was to see the IOAPA family

Question: Tell us about the situation with the pillows and other cases at the Olympic Village.

Answer: Village management takes many forms, especially with bed adjustments. The mission of a hotel administrator, how to communicate with athletes and solve their issues with questions coming from all delegations. You need to know all the rules and how to answer these questions.

Question: Did you have the time to attend country presentations during your time at the Olympic Village? How was your schedule there?

Answer: Oceania team was doing the Haka every time a new athlete came into the village or won a medal. Also, for the times they went to spiritual moments, they invited us. Also, Great Britain, doing a welcome tunnel. Team Italy had a plasma screen with their medals and played their national anthem and had fireworks on the screen. Seeing how other countries celebrate. Kenya used to do a dance, where everyone was going in the center and dancing around them. A big family, which is heartwarming, and these are aspects that are not highlighted in the Olympic experience.



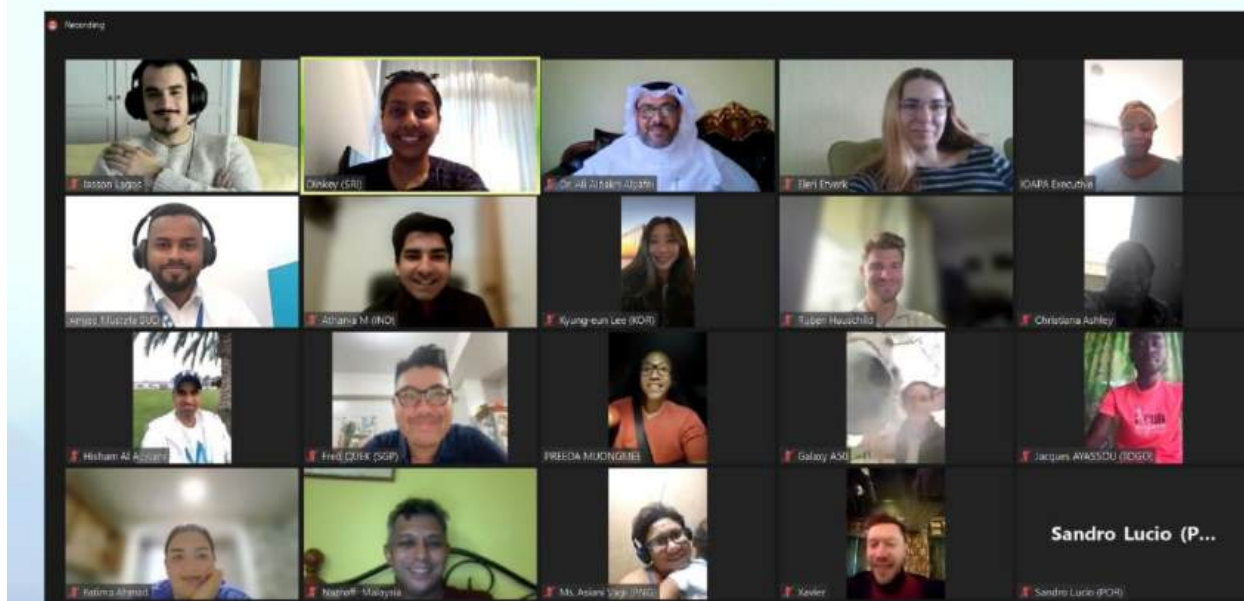
PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY COORDINATORS' REPORTS BY SAMANTHA MATAVATA (ZIM)

Fostering Outreach through Country Coordinators

Samantha Matavata (ZIM)
IOAPA Head of Country Coordinator

See presentation in Annexe D: Fostering Outreach through Country Coordinators.

Country Coordinators meeting in session



Regional Coordinators meeting in session



GUEST SPEAKER MARIE LOU NOIROT (FRA)



With many international experiences, Marie Lou believes that sport has the power to transform lives, connect cultures, and shape a more just world.

Learn about her recent experience as a Workforce Venue Manager within the Organizing Committee in Paris and integration of disabled volunteers.

Please see presentation in Annexe E.

PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

Staff member experience, 2022-2024



Question and Answer moderated by Chloe Abu Chabake (LBN)

Comment: Very different experience than volunteers, as this was a role more from Volunteer management and operations and had lots of months of work and long hours.

Question: How can someone reach such opportunities in Olympic Games and Sports Industry positions. People from other countries, for example people from underrepresented and faraway countries.

Answer: It's hard sometimes in regions that you cannot speak the language, or even for bureaucracy/visa/immigration. For example, Marie Lou had same difficulty when trying to work for Games in Asia. Also looking at position profile, to capitalize on roles that are 3 months before the Games, you require to have time and already involvement. It's good to have experience and being recognized in the industry. Advice is to start from local continental events and then go for international events.

Question: How do you combine the day-to-day work at the Paris 2024 and the volunteer work like IOAPA?

Answer: My friends are mostly international, so I had reduced the time of personal time and had the ability to make things fast. Finding a way to do things when I have the solution to make.

Question: Is there a resource question about budget of the OC, since you were sometimes feeling overwhelmed and like you were doing 2-3 jobs at the same time with 200%

Answer: For the position I had, London there were 15 people, in Paris Olympics were 3. Sometimes it was political decision, about budget between departments and not every staff had the same experience.

Question: How did you do thousands of interviews?

Answer: Mostly on Zoom, since they were from international environment, but some were in person for those with disabilities.

AGENDA OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



IOAPA Session 2025

Online Elections

IOAPA General Assembly 2025

11th April 2025

-
1. President's Opening Remarks
 2. Approval of the Agenda
 3. Activity Reports by IOAPA Executive Committee Members
 4. Update on the HVH Fund
 5. Transition of IOAPA Executive Committee Members
 6. Election Panel - Procedures/Roles of the EC Members
 7. Miscellaneous

REPORTS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2023 - 2025

Report of the President Eleni Marina (Marilena) Soukera (GRE)

In June 2023 I started my first term as a President. The first thing I thought I should achieve was to create a stronger communication between IOAPA and IOA. Last July I had a meeting in Athens with Mr. Makis Asimakopoulos, the New Director of IOA and we decided to work together for a closer cooperation.

Another thing I would like to mention is my initiative to ask for three positions for our members at Torch Relay. On the 16th of April three IOAPA members ran as torchbearers at Torch Relay in Olympia.

Last June during the Young Olympic Ambassadors' Session, I participated as a guest and talked about IOAPA to the Young Ambassadors.

During our Reunion in Paris for the Olympic Games I took part at Oly House with our Vice President, Laurel Brassey Iversen.

Due to my increased professional and academic obligations, I decided not to run again for the position of the President. These two years helped me to create stronger friendships!

I will continue to follow IOAPA as a member and I am sure that the new EC will continue to do the best!

Report of the Vice President Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA)

Following the templates from 2021, we organized a very successful online Session (Business Meeting and Executive Committee Elections) in 2023.

Our crowning achievement, and the one that I am most proud of was the delivery of the 2023 In Person Official IOAPA Session in Olympia after missing our session in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. We wanted to create a session with many new aspects. The Theme of "Giving Back" was exceptional and all guest speakers adhered to the topic. We included some new activities such as a visit to an archeological site (Nemea) on the way to Olympia as well as the first-ever coordinated Olympic Day Activity with school children in the village of Olympia. We also raised over 1000€ for the Hans van Haute Scholarship. Many members were instrumental in these two great sessions.

Below is a synopsis of my activities over the past two years:

- Represented IOAPA as an observer at the Young Ambassador's IOA Session in Ancient Olympia in 2023
- Facilitated the organisation of the program for the 2nd online IOAPA session in April of 2023, secured
- speakers, workshop coordinators and exercise leaders.
- Coordinated the production of the Final Reports for the 2023 Session (online and in Olympia)
- Served as the EC liaison for the Hans van Haute committee.
- Organized the Official IOAPA Reunion in Paris at the World Olympian's Association

- Formed and chaired the subcommittee for IOAPA Session Planning.
- Contributed to renewed cooperation between IOA and IOAPA through the new director Makis Asimakopoulos
- Continued to fundraise for the Hans van Haute scholarship through sales of Magna Grecia olive oil.
- Organized the 2025 Online Session with the help of many others
- Secured dates and pricing for the In Person Official IOAPA Session for 2025. Currently organizing the session with the subcommittee

I am continually amazed by individuals who contact me to say that I motivated them to pursue their dreams of contributing to Olympism. You never know how a few encouraging words can impact another person. It has been a sincere pleasure and honor to work for the Association.

Report of the Secretary Alston Choong (MAL)

No report submitted

Report of the Internet Coordinator Marie Lou Noirot (FRA)

Starting my term right after the election to be able to relieve the previous internet coordinator.

My objectives were:

- Create a strategy and a plan of communication
- Create a new identity for IOAPA on social media
- Increase our presence on social media
- Increase the impact of social media on members and other stakeholders
- Improve our website

Here are the achievements:

- **Create a strategy and a plan of communication**

I started by creating a document to follow up on the impact of our social media to understand what works or not with our followers.

I created a communication plan to be able to plan and anticipate all communication we could have depending on events and activities.

Nothing worked because of different factors:

- Involvement of the board into communication
- Not a lot of activities and involvement of members into actions
- Lack of interest of the internet coordinator at one moment
- Lack of time for the internet coordinator because of Work.

What to improve for next term:

1. I think that the tools were great, maybe we could simplify them. But it needs to be documents used by everyone in the board, to be able to work in collaboration on the communication.
2. It works also according to the planning of activities of the board.

The EC should create a routine according to communication and respect the planning of the internet coordinator to be able to create and publish smoothly with no pressure of time.

- **Create a new identity for IOAPA on social media**

I tested new forms of publications, with more content to be able to have the main information on social media only and not having to go on the website or emails. I wanted to highlight members and show their faces, but also the actions of IOAPA, this is why I included photos in each publication's photos. I wanted to get closer to the Olympic identity and use the colors of the Logo and the rings. Then I decided to get fixed to a template for the Newsletter, just changing the colors of every publication.

For the publications about activities of IOAPA (like the sessions), I have another template to keep the same. Same for the webinar, etc. This allows it to have a similar identity to IOAPA.

What to improve for next term:

1. Use more professional tools: Canva Pro / photoshop.
 - o Need to have someone skilled for this position, maybe having interns on communication
 - o Need to work on the strategy of communication and visual identity.
 - o Need to modernize the logo: it is difficult to add the actual one in publications.

- **Increase our presence on social media**

For the 2 years of terms (from election to the end of In-person session), I would have created and published more than 60 publications.

ATTENTION: Content on Instagram is the same as on Facebook.

Here is what was/will be done:

- Newsletter

Modernize the newsletter and give access to the members to the main information on social media. Give the opportunity to discover a little bit and make them want to read the full newsletter.

→ 4 newsletter / 5 (the one during the Olympic & Paralympic Games I couldn't)

- Sessions

2023 session: having archives and making people live the session through social medias to make them want to come next time.

→ 10 or more publications

Giving information through Website + emails but also giving more information on social media, to give more insight of it and maybe touch more people (more the young generation who is not going on website and barely read emails).

→ 13 or more publications

- Elections Spreading information about elections and giving more insight. Make people want to join. The Election Committee allows me to publish on social media on their behalf every week.

→ 9 publications

- Reunion & Webinar

Paris 2024 reunion, smaller games reunion, webinar in february.

→ 10 publications

- Other

HvH, Country Coordinators, Women's month, Happy holidays, statements etc...

→ 15 publications

What to improve for next term:

1. Be closer to the EC and members to be able to communicate more.
2. Would be great to be able to publish at least once a week when IOAPA doesn't have a lot of activities.
 - Need to think about content and understand what kind of content people would like to see.
 - Need to publish more on LinkedIn: Newsletter, EC, HvH, society actions.

- **Increase the impact of social media on members and other stakeholders**

NOTE: We can have numbers and % on the last 90 days only.

Instagram

- 31 mai 2023 (beginning of term) - 1161 followers
- 28 juin 2023 (after the YOA session) - 1219 followers +58
- 15 mars 2025 - 1366 followers +147

Content:

- Reach 14% of our followers & 86% of non-followers → Need to improve this and understand how to reach more of our followers.
- Publication: In average reach 5077 persons
- Stories: an average of 1000 persons (50% / 50% followers / non followers)
- An average of 100 people visit our Instagram page every week.

Followers:

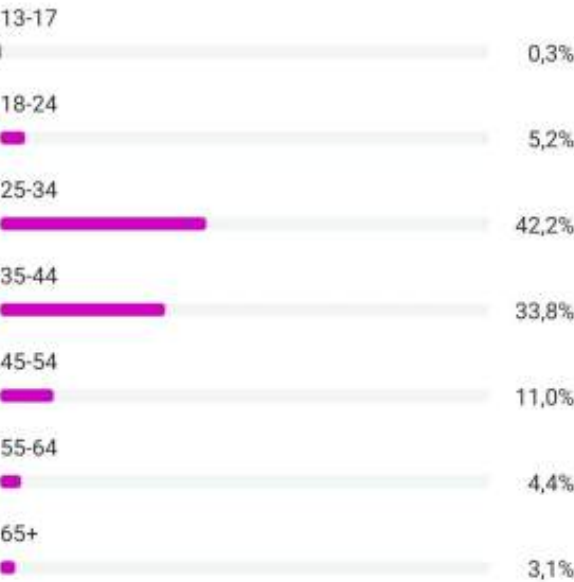
Lieux principaux

- Villes
- Pays

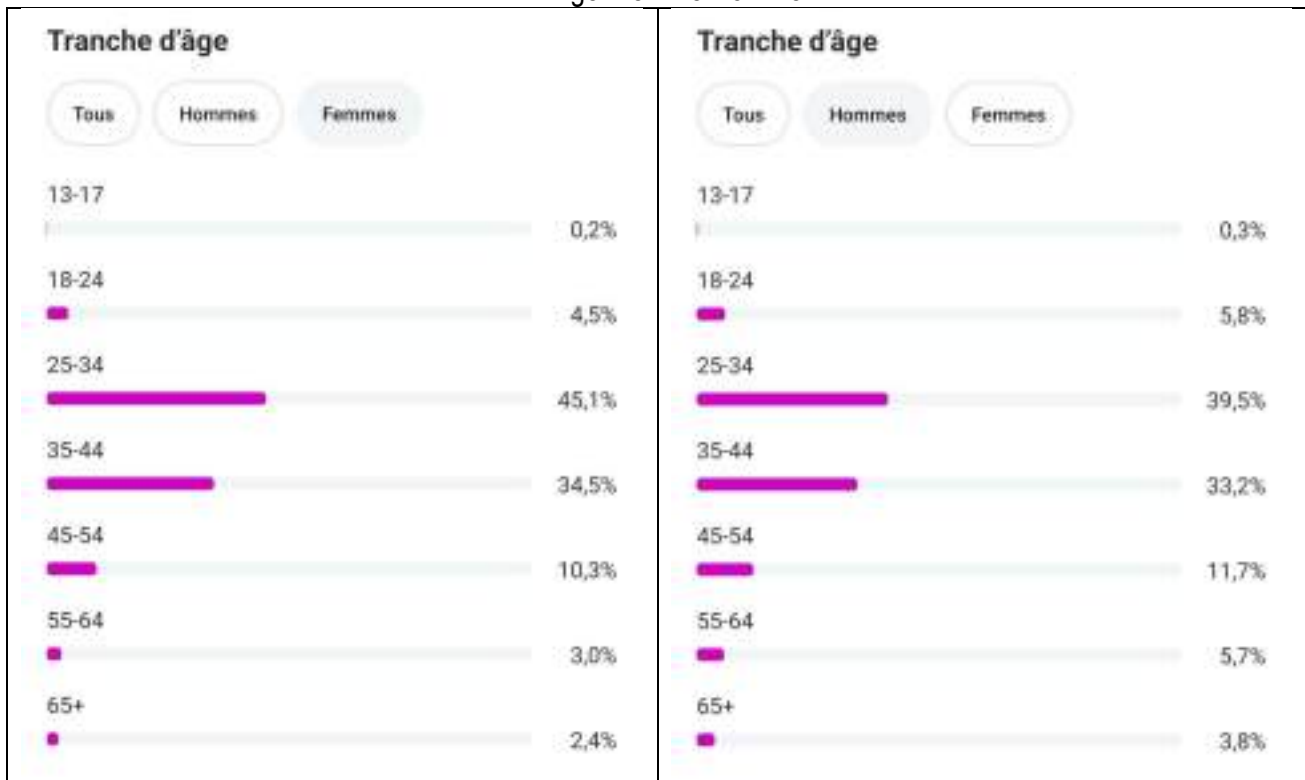


Tranche d'âge

- Tous
- Hommes
- Femmes



Age: Femme Homme



Activities on Instagram:

Best hour: 15h (3p.m) CET, average of 500 people reached.

Best period of time - Between 12h & 19h CET.

Périodes les plus actives



What to improve for next term:

1. Make the community participate more: surveys, questions etc...
2. EC needs to share and forward communication to reach a better audience.

Facebook

3442 followers (+12 since December 2024)

Reached an average of 30 persons usually - More than 150 for the last publication (Women's month publication.)

Âge et genre ⓘ

● 41% Femmes ● 59% Hommes



Lieux principaux ⓘ

Pays Villes



What people like the most:

- Photo: 48,3%
- Multiple photos: 46,2%
- Other: 3,4%

Best content in the last 90 days:

- Women's Month Spotlight, Laurel: 163 people reached
- IOAPA session: 131
- Webinar: 124
- HVH: 80

The most active time

Moment le plus actif ⓘ



What to improve for next term:

1. Having a personalisation of some content on Facebook - Not link all the time with Instagram. Share more on the group "Members Only" and not on the open Facebook for some content (ex: only reserved to members).

LinkedIn

Total of followers: 734 (+16 last 30 days)

Publications reach 900 people on average.

What to improve for next term:

1. Be more present on LinkedIn about subjects like the newsletter, highlight members, showcase members actions and activities.
2. If we have activities like webinars, conferences etc...

Unfortunately, we did not succeed in improving our website. I worked on it to understand the structure, the important things to keep etc... We need to change the website and find a new one - Pay a developer?

Report of the Marketing Officer Xavier Jeannin (FRA)

My subcommittee and I would like to thank our members for their continued support and commitment to the association. I would also like to give special thanks to the executive committee and the different sub committees who have been supportive.

My subcommittee and I are determined to continue our mission to promote the development and growth of the association. Over the past year, we have worked hard to increase the visibility and awareness of our association, as well as to attract new members and to connect them.

Our strategy has focused on several key initiatives:

1. Improving our presence: We have expanded our online presence by being more attractive and informative.
2. I planned many IOAPA reunions to encourage knowledge sharing and to build bridges between us.

Online and in-person events: We organized several events throughout the year to promote the association and meet with our members. These events included conferences, training workshops, and informal meetings. Some examples of venues for face-to-face meetings during all the main Olympics, Paralympics events

Some examples of online meeting topics: the faces of the game. Olympics values at school...

3. Purchase of environmentally friendly ethics pins, mugs and promotional items.
4. Partnerships: We have developed partnerships with other organizations that are in the process of being implemented to expand our reach.
5. Be as close as possible to our members' expectations!
6. Increase connections between members
7. The two masterclasses organized with Ivan were highly demanded by members, giving them the opportunity to interact with the speakers. At the end, some members presented the events that would take place in their NOA or NOC. We had participants from all continents and all sessions, from 1988 to 2024. Following these masterclasses, I received questions from former participants interested in becoming a member of the association.
8. Facilitated the organisation of the program for the 2nd online IOAPA session in April of 2025 like to organise an improvisational theater session where participants act out scenes related to the Olympics (a moving medal ceremony, a hilarious competition, a champion interview) and a poster competition.
 - o Contributed to improve cooperation between IOAPA and NOA, IOA, Organisations
 - o We have three Memorandum pending.

It has been a sincere pleasure and honor to work for IOAPA. There is still work to be done to continue to move IOAPA, so I plan with my subcommittee to continue with new marketing initiatives and explore new opportunities to reach a wider audience and attract new members and improve the connections between the members, institutions, partners.

Report Of the Newsletter Editor Mateus Nagime (BRA)

Arete

Five Newsletters were published (October 2023, March 2024, July 2024, December 2024, and March 2025). A sixth one is planned to be published in June, before the Olympia session. They can be found here:
<https://ioapa.org/news/newsletter/>

I established (quite late on the term) a subcommittee to not only help with the publication process, but also to discuss possible improvements in both editorial and design. If I'm reelected, I hope this subcommittee can work fully during the second term. If not, I encourage the new Newsletter Editor to work with them (or maintain a subcommittee to assist with the work). The main challenge remains in convincing members to contribute small (or big!) articles or texts.

Presence of IOAPA at IOA Journal

I also wrote, together with other colleagues from the EC, an article for the IOA Journal, detailing IOAPA activities and events. The articles can be found here:

- #22 December 2023 <https://www.ioa.org.gr/publications/journal-22> (pages 117-118)
- #23 April 2024 <https://www.ioa.org.gr/publications/journal-23> (page 105)
- #24 December 2024 <https://www.ioa.org.gr/publications/journal---no-24> (pages 121-123)

Other activities inside the EC

Outside the specific duties of Newsletter Editor, I also assisted Secretary Alston Choong during EC meetings by taking notes and producing our documents. Currently, I'm assisting Vice-President Laurel Brassey Iversen (OLY) in the organization of the online and Olympia Official Sessions.

Report of the Head of Country Coordinators Samantha Matavata (ZIM)

SUBCOMMITTEE: Ms. Elena Iñiguezde Heredia (ARG), Ms. Marisleysis Cedeño (GUA), Ms. Leyla Sonko (SEN), Mr. Preeda Muongmee (THA), Mr. Muharram Mchume (TAN)

Number of Countries represented to date: 57

Number of Country Coordinators: 59

The term started in June 2023, with a lot of people eager to serve. When I stepped into office we had 34 Country Coordinators and closed the term with 48. Up to date we have 57 countries represented by 59 Coordinators. Our application window is always opened annually for a certain period, thereafter with the help of the subcommittee, applications are vetted and selected. We received a handful of applications from applicants that had never been to the IOA, which helped us promote not only IOAPA but our birthplace, the International Olympic Academy. Since assuming their roles, they have worked tirelessly to spread the Olympic Movement within their countries. A tremendous amount of effort being put into projects, reaching out to old and new participants as well as engaging NOCs/NOAs in their current endeavours. NOCs and NOAs continue to pose a difficult hurdle for Country Coordinators to communicate or be involved with. We have held quarterly meetings for updates and discussions to help promote growth with provision of meeting minutes and meeting recording at the end of each.

We started our term with the country Coordinators with a more effective approach as to aide them into getting their feet grounded in their outreach programs. Apart from our quarterly meetings we initiated regional meetings. For regional meetings We divided Coordinators into regions in which their countries fall under, and each region was overseen by a subcommittee member. Where there wasn't enough representation in a region we combined with another region. This was to aide and equip Coordinators through presentations and discussions relatable to their countries. This tool has been sustainable, effective and efficient not only for the current EC but for the future ones as the number grows. Great presentations were made by a lot of coordinators that have proven to be great forces within the Olympic Movement. Not only did they channel their strengths and accomplishments but also their struggles for their peers to relate to.

Regional meetings had the following presentations:

- Africa: Mr. Gert Potgieter OLY (RSA)

- Americas (North & South America, Caribbeans): Mr. Jorge Rodriguez (GUA)
- Asia: Dr. Ali Albakri Alyafei (QAT), Mr. Fred Quek (SIN)
- Europe: Ms. Chloe Abou Chabake (LBN)
- Oceania & Middle East: Mr. Hisham Al Adwani (OMA)

Their work and achievements have not gone unnoticed. We hoped to have orchestrated more presentations from many Coordinators on the same paths, however, availability was an issue many times. We look forward to growing the IOAPA brand as we display the Olympic Movement and Olympism through outreach programs being exerted by the country coordinators within their regions stronger together.

As our term concludes, reports of the great work and trials that the coordinators have compiled to present to our members and the International Olympic Academy. We hope their strengths and resilience ignites a flame in others to be pioneers in their region.

With this team we have always stood in solidarity with all our Olympic friends facing turmoil all over the world. We have grieved the loss of our members whether in turmoil or tragic accidents. A moment of silence was always honoured during our quarterly meetings as a sign of empathy and solidarity. I hope we always continue to be a pillar of hope, peace and kindness to one another no matter the differences forged to separate us. One kind word can make a difference in a challenging world.

Respecting each other's beliefs, differences and uniqueness is what the Olympic Movement is about as we grow stronger together.

Report of the Research Coordinator Ivan Coste-Maniere (FRA)

StateoftheArt0325 / Research, Papers, Conferences and Masterclasses: new routes for IOAPA and IOA.

When the IOA was created in 1961, the Olympic movement had been deciding to get one of its kind pedagogical tool. For the past 60 years, all participants to any of the sessions have been sharing the Olympic spirit with a real democratic and multicultural approach. Now we need to boost and strengthen the bonds between all former participants.

Events, conferences, unexpected guerilla operations, masterclasses as those we launched 3 months ago are there to make IOAPA a real powerful association of "alumni" as the IOA deserves it. And the definitive links to be built between research, the IOA itself, are to catalyze and leverage this mission. 2 years ago, nothing dealing with "research" was existing!

For these 2 past years, I have been more than happy to be sharing some wonderful experiences with some of our Olympic friends whether in China, Seychelles, India, Maldives, Mexico, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Korea. NOCs, NOAs, universities or museums have been asking us to organize some events, workshops and seminars in order to strengthen their different sessions which were devoted to the transmission of the Olympic values and numerous other topics. The powerful alliance between the ICPC, the ISOH, and the IOA itself has been opening numerous previously locked doors. And combining these actions with my own job, when visiting so many conferences and universities has been generating huge results at a zero cost.

Smashing, impressive... and numerous students are now on the way with

an avalanche diffusion model as described by my friends Streyer and Bass. Same for some prestigious professors and universities.

Numerous art and history exhibitions have even been organized not only during the Official ceremonies of the last Paris 2024 Olympic Games in Olympia, Paris, Nice, Lille and Marseille, but also throughout the whole year in different countries with at least one per month wherever we were asked to do it.

Not only is IOAPA keeping moving, but with the help of its members and friends it is boosting some of the actions which could not be undertaken by some of the other Olympic entities and bodies.

Diving with my friend Dee, female instructor who is also teaching to disabled people in the GCC has definitely been part of the Agenda 2020+5 as defined by President Thomas Bach. There we have been lighting the flame underwater before the official Paris 2024 one to be diving in my country. And we could be contributing to some great sessions with our friend Hisham Al Adwani, IOAPA and ICPC member and Mohammed Al-Rahbi, NOC Director, dealing with the next official opening of the Olympic Museum of the Sultanate. Now they too publish, and each IOAPA member should becoming an author, whether for Arete or the IOA Journal. All in all, more than 46 research meetings have been held with 16 published papers.

In France at SKEMA Business School and some other universities, I have invited and welcomed my friends President Isidoros Kouvelos, now also elected President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, with Dean Kostas Georgiadis and Alexandra Karaiskou, in charge of the NOA. I have been more than proud to be with them every single minute for some days, with all the people who were to act, play a role for the 2024 and 2030 Olympics. There's no better evidence of our closer than close deep understanding and friendly relationship which has been lasting for decades.

In India, at the Museo Camera, India's First Center for The Photographic Arts, with our friend Aditya Arya, Director, some workshops have been organized in order to make the cyanotypes technique revival.

In Mauritius, Msc in Luxury & Fashion Management students, SKEMA Business School, have designed and produced the tee shirts displaying both the IOA and IOAPA logos which have been used at the official Lightening of the Flame ceremony in Olympia, while we were sharing this precious moment with the students of the Master "Olympic Studies". Vaco, the "state painter" who sadly passed away has even been painting for the Olympic Museums to come, same as Mahmoud Baba Ly, one of the most famous artists from Senegal. As Coubertin had already been thinking about art, culture, poetry as being part of the Olympic Games from 1896 to 1948, I have been helping numerous museums and temporary exhibitions to exist and these events should be boosting endogenic and multi vectorial research among IOAPA Members. **I have never been considering being Research Officer should be limited to lengthy enumerations and lists of conferences around the world...** and this is the reason I have been going 10 times to Olympia, to the IOA during these 2 past years, with numerous discussions about the different tasks we should be helping the IOA officials and staff members to leverage. Our friend Makis Asimakopoulos who's not only Director for the IOA knows what research means, and joining efforts is part of his deep will and understanding: I have even been designing and producing the IOA and ICPC official silver pin's and awards in Olympia!

In Sri Lanka, the first meetings with vice-president Niloo Jayatilake have been pushing the other ones with many young volunteers, members of the administrative staff of the Palais des Sports of Colombo. A great museum which is visited by schools, and numerous tourists. IOAPA is also now partner of the next "Gender Equality Award", in relationship with the ICPC and the CFPC while our IOAPA member Ms. Dinkey Bandara from Sri Lanka has been

announced as the recipient of the Hans Van Haute Scholarship 2025. The Olympic Movement is definitely sounding as a definitive soft power in Diplomacy.

From the beginning of this year, I have been proud to be launching the “IOAPA Masterclass Series” with punchy and sexy conferences, whose topics should be becoming a real academic or professional paper. All in all, more than 46 research meetings have been held. Next Executive Committee should be strengthening these first steps with great care.

From Ancient Olympia, and the premises of our beloved IOA, to the rest of the world, a definitive motto and an everlasting Olympic painting which has been made by my close friend Gianni Immordino when the flame had been reaching the ancient Greek harbor in Marseille last May.

Keep the flame burning, with the strongest bonds with the IOA and the IOAPA members.

IOAPA ELECTIONS

Elections Rules

1. Write a short (200 words) essay stating why you want to run for this position and a rationale for why you are qualified. You may also submit a:
 - a. Bio or short CV (one page maximum), and
 - b. Short video (maximum 2 minutes) which will be made available to members
2. Be sure to name the IOAPA member who is nominating you for this position (Please provide the name, country and email of the person - This will be verified by the IOAPA).
3. A two (2) minute live presentation by each candidate will be allowed during a Question & Answer meeting prior to the election allowing for members to ask questions of the candidates.
4. The order of the Elections will be as follows: President, followed by the other positions in this order: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Internet Coordinator, IOA Liaison, Marketing Officer, Head of Country Coordinators, Research Coordinator.
5. Candidates may be nominated for up to two (2) positions. If elected to a position, the candidate's name will be removed from subsequent positions.
6. Please see all [Executive Committee positions and respective duties](#).
7. All nominations are due to the Elections Commission 30 days prior to the Elections date (14th March, 2025, 23:59 Central European Time (CET)). Applications will NOT be accepted after that date.
 - a. The Elections Commissions can post a list of currently accepted nominations every Friday (or date specified) during the 30-day period. This list would be available on the IOAPA website as well as across all social media platforms. That way, both the EC and general members have the same information and are not being provided with privileged information. Management of these posts would be done by a member of the Election Commission, and they would require access to the IOAPA website and social media accounts in order to facilitate posting.
8. Seventy-Two (72) hours prior to the election, voting members will be emailed a personalised username and password by the platform administrator. At that time the voting system will be closed, and no members will be assigned voting credentials afterwards.
9. On Election Day, members must check in with their username and password to enter the voting session. Members who are late to enter the voting session will be locked out and ineligible to vote. The administrator will be standing by to help anyone with difficulties.
 - a. Members are asked to participate in the Election using reliable connectivity. If a voting member experiences connectivity issues during the election, they must contact the designated elections administrator immediately.
10. The elections will be conducted in the order of the position listed above.
11. If a candidate does not receive an absolute majority in the first round for a position, a second round will take place between the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes and will be decided by a simple majority.

12. In the case where there is only one candidate standing for election, the election will still proceed with that candidate's name on the ballot. Electors will be asked to vote "Yes / No" regarding whether they wish the candidate to be elected to the chosen position. A simple majority of "yes" votes will elect the candidate. If the candidate does not receive a majority of "yes" votes, the candidate will not be elected and the position declared vacant. As per IOAPA bylaws, any vacant position on the executive may be filled by majority vote of the EC
13. Voting will be done electronically using a secured third-party voting platform that has been used by IOAPA in the past two EC elections and that ensures anonymity and preserves the principles of one member one vote. www.polyas.com No member can be identified by name, so the voting is private and secure. Platform used will allow for scrutineers (members of the Election Commission) to verify the accuracy of the vote while maintaining the anonymity of the electors.

Elections Committee

Our voting system will be run by Soenke Schadwinkel, an independent partner for this session. Our scrutineers are:

- Megan Ritch
- Richard Koo
- Caroline Bujold

How to Vote

You will be given a personalised username and password to login the voting platform, 72 hours prior to the Election.

- This system is secure and the only way to vote during our Election.
- Please login to the election platform 5-10 minutes before the start of the Election Session, to make sure everything works. **ELECTION BEGINS AT 14:15 CEST** (13 April 2025)
- Please also attend the simultaneous Zoom meeting. Video cameras should be on at all times (unless you are having connectivity issue).
- There will be a 10-minute grace period during which members can enter. Once the 10-minute grace period has elapsed, the room is "locked" and no additional electors will be admitted into the room.
- Additional time will be provided for members already in the room to log-in to the election voting platform if they have not successfully done so.
- Members logged-in to the election voting platform who are not in the zoom room at the time of "lock-in" will be removed from the voting platform.

Once all are logged in, we will proceed with the Election, following the order below.

If you have any technical difficulties during the Executive Committee Elections, please contact **Richard Koo** (richard@ioapa.org)

CANDIDATES

President

The **president** is in charge of the general management of the association, supervises Executive Committee Members, communicates and liaises with the IOA and other organizations as well as represents the IOAPA whenever possible. More details about duties:

- Communicate and liaise with the IOA and other organizations
- Represent the IOAPA whenever possible
- Supervise the Executive Committee members
- Determine the methods for effective communication of the EC
- Set the agenda and timetable for periodic EC meetings, and the method of conducting the meetings
- Oversee financial management with the Treasurer
- Promote and drive memberships
- Appoint a chair of the Hans van Haute Scholarship Committee and select an EC member to serve as liaison with the chair.
- Ensure that an EC member or other appointee is present at each official session of the IOA to make the IOAPA PowerPoint presentation and encourage new memberships

Candidates:

- Marie Lou Noirot (FRA)
- Xavier Jeannin (FRA)

Vice-President

The **vice president** supports the President in all tasks. The VP may be called upon to represent the IOAPA when the President is unavailable. More details about duties:

- Organize the IOAPA Online session, including the General Assembly and EC Elections, guest speakers, and member presentations
- Organize the Biennial Session in Ancient Olympia: determine a theme, set the programmer, secure guest speakers, member presentations, and extracurricular activities
- Manage and organize all documents pertaining to the sessions in order to produce the official reports of the sessions

Candidates:

- Jean Claude Rugigana (RWA)
- Samantha Matavata (ZIM)

Secretary

The **secretary** organizes the Executive Committee meetings, keeping an archive of the minutes, occasionally supporting the President and Vice-President in their tasks, and assisting the Finance Committee and Treasurer.

More details about duties:

- Clerical administration of association documents
- Oversee the Shared Drive and organize the folders and files of the association
- Organize the Executive Committee meetings at the direction of the President
- Take minutes of the meetings and archive such minutes in the Shared Drive
- Support the President and Vice President in their tasks
- Assist the Treasurer and Finance Committee
- Work closely with the Internet Coordinator to set up session and reunion registrations and dissemination of information to members.

Candidates:

- Ashley Ophorst (NED)
- James Christ Cantave (HAI)
- Ourania Georgiadou (GRE)

Treasurer

The **treasurer** is responsible for the association's finances. More details about duties:

- Generally responsible for the association's finances
- Accepting payments for membership subscriptions and session fees
- Execute payment of all invoices associated with official sessions and reunions
- Provide income/expense report to the EC twice a years
- Ensure secondary signatory on any IOAPA account
- Provide secondary emergency contact information

Candidates:

- Yaya Dembélé (MLI)
- Jorge Rafeal Rodriguez Heerera (GUA)
- Dimitrios Asproulis (GRE)

Newsletter Editor

The **Newsletter Editor** is responsible for the creation of Arete, IOAPA's newsletter. More details about duties:

- Prepare and release one Arete Edition per 3 to 4 months
- Liaise with IOAPA members and other collaborators for articles and updates on their area of responsibility
- Ensure IOAPA's presence in the IOA Journal and other pertinent publications

Candidates:

- Mateus Nagime (BRA) and Michael Thomas Kwiatkowski (CAN)

Internet Coordinator

The **Internet Coordinator** is responsible for the promotion of IOAPA and all action on social media, website and emailing. More details about duties:

- Ensure a dynamic online presence
- Renovate and update IOAPA's website as needed
- Ensure Website is User Friendly and functional
- Monitor all Social Media channels working closely with other EC members for content
- Collaborate with the secretary to update the database and mailing list, send emails to members regarding IOAPA activities, and set up registrations for sessions and reunions

Candidates:

- Gjertrud Østervold Toft (NOR)

IOA Liaison

The **IOA Liaison** is the link between the IOA and the IOAPA. He or She should have a close relation with the team of IOA. More details about duties:

- A close relationship with the IOA is necessary
- Responsible for communication with the IOA
- Support the Vice President in the organization of the session in Olympia
- Obtain participant lists from the different IOA Sessions
- Work in close relation with the president, vice president, and marketing officer to promote IOAPA.

Candidates:

- Yarden Har Lev (ISR)
- Anfisa Kasyanova (BEL)
- Ivan Coste-Manière (FRA)
- Ourania Georgiadou (GRE)

Marketing Officer

The **Marketing Officer** is responsible to build the marketing strategy of IOAPA, find partners and sponsors. More details about duties:

- Create content and materials to help promote IOAPA
- Develop ideas to use the IOAPA Logo for member gift items to be distributed during official sessions and reunions
- Update the IOAPA promotional PowerPoint Presentation with current photos and information
- Create a marketing campaign to increase memberships

Candidates:

- Xavier Jeannin (FRA)
- Jonathan Mbula Lionge (CON)

Head of Country Coordinators

The **Head of Country Coordinators** is responsible for coordinating the network of country coordinators, to select them and manage the group. More details about duties:

- Organize a network of country representatives
- Oversee the selection of an active IOAPA representative in as many countries as possible
- Motivate county representatives to keep an IOA network in their countries
- Keep past IOA participants active and connected
- Encourage new membership in IOAPA through country representatives
- Source content for Arete Newsletter
- Promote IOAPA initiatives through the network

Candidates:

- Michael Thomas Kwiatkowski (CAN)
- Ruben Hauschiled (SUI)
- Yunfei Li (CHI)

Research Officer

The **Research Coordinator** is responsible for coordinating and organizing research by the members of IOAPA.

More details about duties:

- Find academic or other relevant information for members including conferences, webinars, calls for papers, academic and job opportunities, etc.
- Organize such information and work with the Internet Coordinator and Newsletter Editor to publish the information to members
- Liaise with partners and collaborate on initiatives beneficial to both organizations

Candidates:

- Dimitrios Asproulis (GRE)
- HsinWei Chen (TPE)
- Ivant Coste-Manière (FRA)
- Kelebogile Matolela (BOT)

ELECTION MINUTES

These are the minutes of the election of the members of the new Executive Committee of the “International Olympic Academy Participants Association” or “I.O.A.P.A.”.

Today, Sunday April 13th of the year 2025, at 2: 00p.m Central European Summer Time (CEST), the members of the above-mentioned association virtually via Zoom and participated in its bi-annual Ordinary General Assembly meeting, in order to decide on the following issues of the agenda:

1. DISCHARGE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND APPROVAL OF THEIR ACTIONS DURING THE TERM 2023-2025 and
2. ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE TERM 13 JUNE 2025 TO 31 JULY 2027.

The General Assembly is in quorum, as 89 members who have paid their membership fee are present, out of a total of 112 IOAPA members.

First, the members of the IOAPA association unanimously elect Megan Ritch as Chairman of the meeting and Caroline Bujold and Richard Koo members of the Election Committee, who will supervise the election procedure.

The Chairman then presents the reports of all outgoing E.C. members for the term 2023-2025 and asks the G.A. members to state whether they approve of them or not. The latter, after listening to the Chairman, unanimously decide to approve the actions of the outgoing E.C. members and discharge them.

Subsequently, the Chairman explains to the G.A. the voting procedure for the election of the new Executive Committee members according to article 15 of the IOAPA statutes, which states that the elections are held by secret ballot. For election to an office of the Executive Committee, an absolute majority of the members present at the General Assembly is required. In the event that the absolute majority is not reached in the first round, a second round shall take place between the two candidates who received the most votes in the first round.

Afterward, the nominations are announced:

- Candidates for the President Office are Marie Lou Noirot, Xavier Jeannin.
- Candidates for the Vice-President Office are Samantha Matavata, Jean Claude Rugigana
- Candidates for the Secretary Office are Ashley Ophorst, James Christ Cantave, Ourania Georgiadou.
- Candidates for the Treasurer Office are Dimitrios Asproulis, Jorge Rafael Rodriguez Herrera, Yaya Dembele.
- Candidates for the Newsletter Editor Office are Mateus Nagime, Michael Thomas Kwiatkowski.
- The only candidates for the Internet/Website Coordinator Office is Gjertrud Østervold Toft.
- Candidates for the IOA Liaison in Greece Office are Ivan Coste-Manière, Anfi sa Kasayanova, Ourania Georgiadou, Yarden Har Lev.

- The only candidate for the Marketing Officer position is Jonathan Mbula Lionge.
- Candidates for the Head of Country Coordinators Office are Michael Thomas Kwiatkowski, Yunfei Li.
- Candidates for the Research Coordinator Office are HsinWei Chen, Arman Avetisyan, Kelebogile Matolela.

The Chairman and members of the Election Committee checks the digital ballot box software to ensure that it is setup and functioning properly and announces the beginning of the election procedure.

A separate voting takes place for each one of the Executive Committee offices and after completion of each voting, the Election Committee opens the ballot box and tallies the votes.

The results of the voting are the following:

Mr. Xavier Jeannin is elected as President, after receiving 55 votes (90 ballot papers, 87 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 3 blank ballots).

Ms. Samantha Matavata is elected as Vice-President, after receiving 49 votes (90 ballot papers, 89 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 1 blank ballot).

Ms. Ashley Ophorst is elected as Secretary, after receiving 49 votes in a runoff (90 ballot papers, 89 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 1 blank ballot).

Mr. Dimitrios Asproulis is elected as Treasurer, after receiving 47 votes in a runoff (90 ballot papers, 82 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 8 blank ballots).

Mr. Mateus Nagime is elected as Newsletter Editor, after receiving 50 votes (90 ballot papers, 85 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 5 blank ballots).

Ms. Gjertrud Østervold Toft is elected as Internet/Website Coordinator, after receiving 77 votes (90 ballot papers, 79 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 11 blank ballots).

Mr. Ivan Coste-Manière is elected as IOA Liaison in Greece, after receiving 47 votes in a runoff (90 ballot papers, 77 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 13 blank ballots).

Mr. Jonathan Mbula Lionge is elected as Marketing Officer, after receiving 62 votes (90 ballot papers, 69 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 21 blank ballots).

Mr. Michael Thomas Kwiatkowski is elected as Head of Country Coordinators, after receiving 40 votes (90 ballot papers, 74 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 16 blank ballots).

Ms. Hsin Wei Chen is elected as Research Coordinator, after receiving 54 votes (90 ballot papers, 68 valid votes, 0 irregular ballots, 22 blank ballots).

The voting went on until 4:56p.m. CEST, when the Election Committee decided its conclusion, after verifying that all present members had cast their votes and the results had been announced.

Special mention should be made of the fact that no objections were raised against the election procedure, from its beginning to its conclusion.

After the above and since no more issues are included in the meeting agenda, the General Assembly meeting is concluded.

The present minutes, after being read in the presence of all IOAPA members participating in the General Assembly, is signed by the members of the Election Committee as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN

Megan Ritch

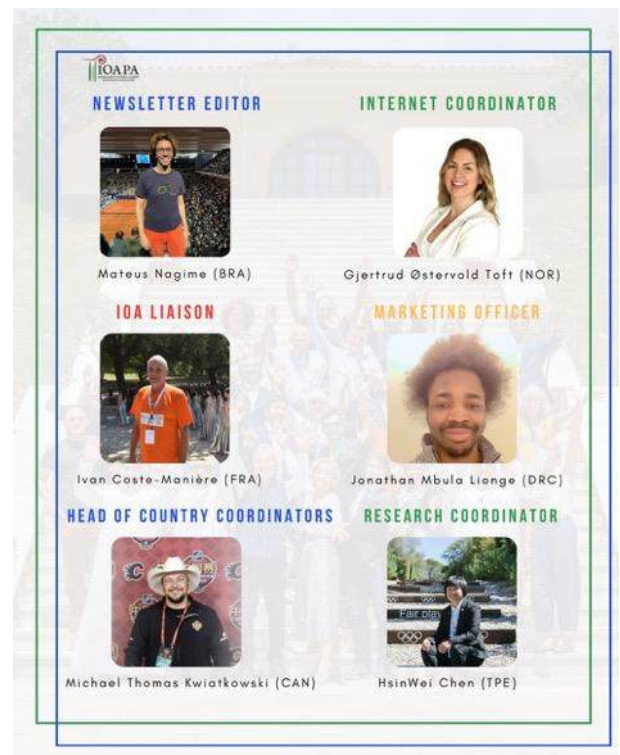
THE ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Caroline Bujold

Richard Koo

NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On behalf of all members and the current Executive Committee, congratulations to everyone!



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Art Workshop Xavier Jeannin (FRA)

The collaborative digital mural was made by participants during the Art Workshop

Xavier also spoke about art in the Olympic movement.



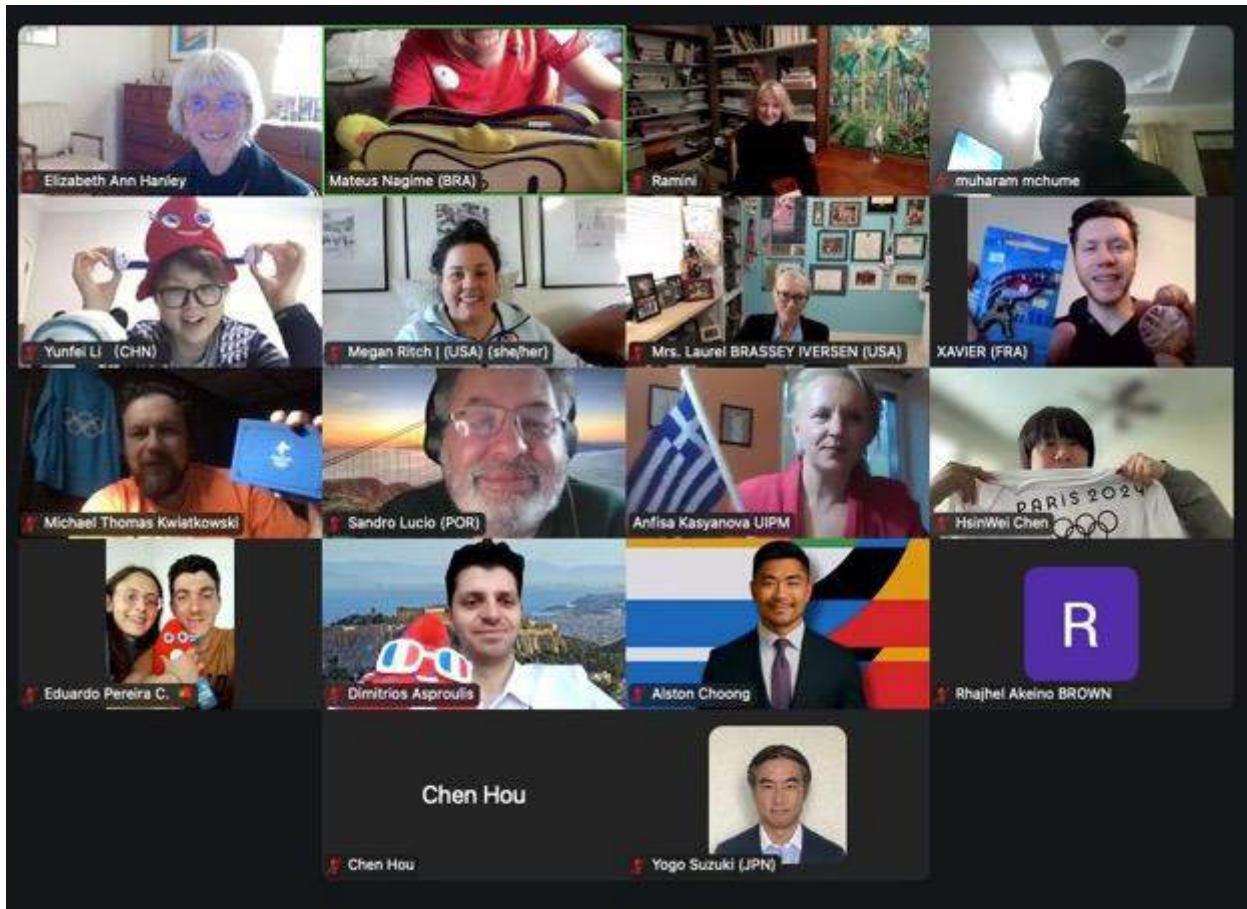
Social Meetings

April 10 - Alexander Ericksson (NOR) and Chloe Abu Chabake (LBN)

First Social Meeting getting to know each other, sharing info about themselves.

April 11 - Megan Ritch (USA)

Join us for a lively virtual hangout where laughter, connection, and creativity take center stage! We'll kick things off with an exciting game of emoji Pictionary—guessing and decoding hilarious emoji clues together. After the fun competition, enjoy some relaxed social time to catch up, share stories, and connect with friends old and new! Come prepared to share stories from the IOA or experiences from the Olympic and Paralympic Games.



April 12 - Anfisa Kasyanova (BEL)

We will play some self-discovery games through Menti. Also, we will have some exploration of LinkedIn networking. People contact each other and endorse 2-3 skills. If we have time we will show a few nice videos from Olympia.

April 13 - Pool Party Laurel Brassey Iversen OLY (USA), Mateus Nagime (BRA, Xavier Jeannin (FRA)

🌴💧 Get Ready to Make a Splash at Our Virtual Pool Party! 💧🌴

The legendary Olympia Pool Party is back—this time, we're bringing the fun online! 🎉

First things first: Let's talk Sangria! 🍷🍊🍓

Every year, after a little shopping spree in Olympia, a group of us would take over the kitchen and whip up over 20 liters of our famous "juice"—a fruity, boozy masterpiece that fermented all afternoon until it was time to party! 😊 This year, we're keeping the tradition alive:

👩🍳 Make your own sangria! Find the best recipe here: www.cookieandkate.com/best-red-sangria-recipe. Prefer white wine? Go for it! Not a sangria fan? No worries—bring your favorite drink and don't forget some snacks (chips, olives, and all the tasty treats we used to find in Greece)!

💻 Set the Scene!

To get into the vibe, change your Zoom background to a tropical or poolside setting. 🌴💧 Bonus points if you show up in a tropical disguise—sunglasses, Hawaiian shirts, flower crowns... get creative!

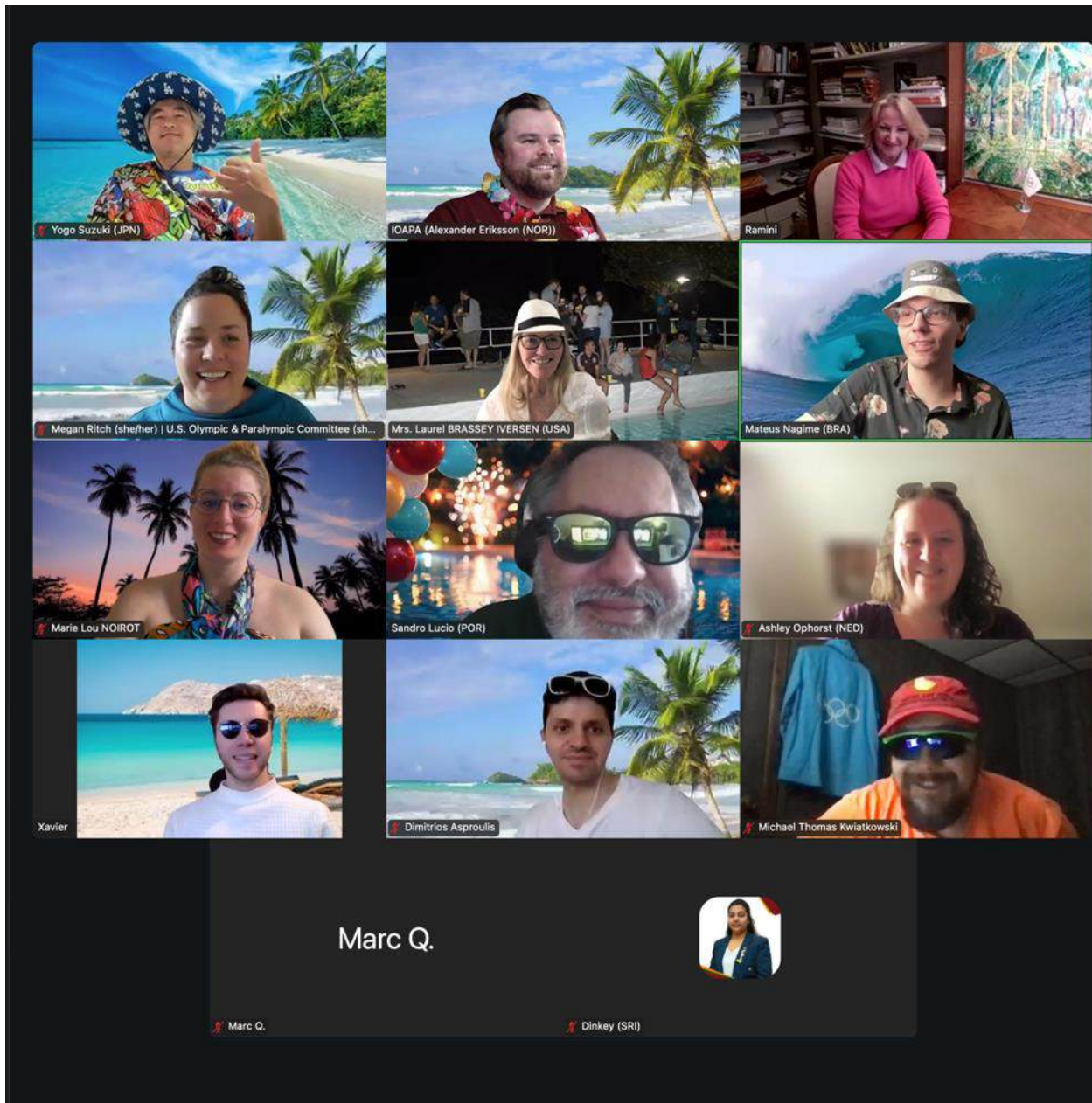
🎵 What's a party without music & games?

We've got beats, we've got activities, and we've got YOU—so let's make this virtual pool party one to remember!

🔥 OPA! 🔥

P.S. Need some wallpaper inspo? Check out the file for ideas! 😊

- Describe the special beverage you have for the party
- Scavenger Hunt – Give players 30 seconds to find items around their house
- Storytelling Game – Each person adds one sentence to a story



OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY DRAW PROCEDURES & DRAW



Milano/Cortina2026 Olympic Torch Relay Selection Draw

IOAPA Session 2025 (Online)
13 April 2024



info@ioapa.org

[@ioapa_official](https://twitter.com/ioapa_official)

www.ioapa.org

Today, you could become an
Olympic Torchbearer!



Selection Process

- Nominee(s) will be chosen at the IOAPA Session by random selection. Selected nominee(s) are not guaranteed to be chosen to participate in Olympic Torch Relay.
- Names of nominated members will be submitted to the Hellenic Olympic Committee / International Olympic Academy in priority order based on position in the draw.
- HOC/IOA will make final determination of member(s) selected to run in the Olympic Torch Relay. The organisers may select 1, 2, 3+ or no members to participate.

Regulations regarding Torch Relay participation

- Relay participant(s) will need to travel to Greece and present themselves at the location determined by the organising committee on the day of the relay.
- Relay participants will be issued a torchbearer uniform and provided with a torch for use in their leg of the relay.
- No financial assistance whatsoever will be provided by the HOC/IOA/IOAPA for the selected relay participant(s) to travel from their place of residence to the designated relay location in Greece.
- Selection to the 2026 Olympic Torch Relay confers no additional rights other than participation in the relay in Greece (i.e., no tickets to 2026 Olympic Games, no accreditation, no Olympic family recognition, etc).

Eligibility (Olympia Session)

1. Must be a member of IOAPA.
2. Must have registered for and attended at least one lecture during the IOAPA Olympia Session 2025.
3. Must not have previously participated as an individual runner in an IOAPA-sponsored Olympic Torch Relay Event since 2020 (i.e., Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024).
4. The final selection of participants is at the sole discretion of the HOC.

NB: For those that have previously run with the Olympic Torch at a non-IOAPA sponsored event, we would respectfully request that you recuse yourself from this selection process to give others the opportunity to run.

Order of Draw Selection & Precedence

Online Session:

- First name drawn will occupy first position in nomination list.
- Subsequent names drawn will form “reserve list” in rank order.

In-person Session:

- First two names drawn will occupy second and third positions in nomination list.
- Subsequent names drawn will form “reserve list” in rank order.

In the event that nominee(s) in positions 1-3 are unable to participate in the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Torch Relay for any reason, the reserve lists shall be activated in rank order (on-line and in-person session lists respectively).

If more than 3 positions are available for the torch relay, the reserve list will be utilized, alternating between first on-line and then in-person reserve lists until all additional torch bearer positions have been filled.



Torchbearer Nominations by Order of Precedence

Online Session	Olympia Session	FINAL Rank Order
1. M. Ritch (USA)	1. A. <u>Kasayanova</u> (GRE)	1. M. Ritch (USA)
2. L. <u>Songo</u> (SEN)	2. Y. Dubinski (ISR)	2. A. <u>Kasayanova</u> (GRE)
3. N. Wolff (AUT)	3. I. <u>Martinkova</u> (CZE)	3. Y. Dubinski (ISR)
4. O. Georgiadou (GRE)	4. E. <u>Almhofer</u> (AUT)	4. L. <u>Songo</u> (SEN)
5. A. <u>Kasayanova</u> (GRE)	5. I. Paska (HUN)	5. I. <u>Martinkova</u> (CZE)
6. F. Quek (SGP)	6. M. <u>Soukera</u> (GRE)	6. N. Wolff (AUT)
7. C. Kern (BRA)	7. D. Bandara (SRI)	7. E. <u>Almhofer</u> (AUT)
8. A. <u>Khoma</u> (ZAM)	8. E. Joensen (DEN)	8. O. Georgiadou (GRE)
9. D. Bandara (SRI)	9. I. Hannesson (ISL)	9. I. Paska (HUN)
10. A. Carroll (CAN)	10. G. Lopez (MEX)	10. F. Quek (SGP)



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SESSION FEEDBACK

Feedback Day 1

Let us know your thoughts.

The first day was amazing

Engaging presentations and great to meet the new HVH scholars!

I would just like to say that the event is very well organized. It's a privilege to take part in an occasion like this. Congratulations, Laurel, Marie Lou, and Mateus.

Today, we had engaging and productive sessions. Excited and looking forward to the next days sessions.

Great first day and presentations.

I know I'm late in sending this, but a few more question for the IOA proposal:

How would that change the organization of our Sessions and Reunions? Would they still happen? Same frequency? Organized by the IOA or by the AEO?

How would cost for participant be affected (membership, participating to sessions, etc.)? We have been able to keep cost very low for most of our activities. Could this merge make the cost increase or decrease?

Thank you to the organizers - You are the best!

Really amazing to meet you all.

It was great, however I recommend more interaction with participants and speakers.

It was nice to meet you all

A clap to the organisers

Great momento of re- connection with the IOA family - emotional and insightful moments alongside very informative one. Each speaker gave me the sense of wanting to live more the IOAPA occasions of sharing and the acknowledge that I can do more to help the movement.

The session was really nice and well planned. Thanks to the organisers it was a blast.

Thanks for the great webinar.

Great work from Megan to keep us on time. Great presentations from everyone.

The Online session for today has been great. Though I feel like contestants for vital positions such as President and Vice President should have been allocate more time and more questions from the Participants in the meeting. All was great.

It was a great moment learning more about each candidate's vision. I'm looking forward to what the future holds for IOAPA under the guidance of our next Executive Committee.

I think the debate was organized and my concern was taken into account.

Found very important the opportunity that the candidates had to share with everyone their experiences and vision about IOAPA - to get to know them better and give us a global understanding of which leaders we want in our future! Good luck to all!

Feedback Day 3

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Found very important the opportunity that the candidates had to share with everyone their experiences and vision about IOAPA - to get to know them better and give us a global understanding of which leaders we want in our future! Good luck to all!

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THE SOUL OF COUBERTIN (POEM) SHARED BY ELVIRA RAMINI (ITA)

L'AME DE COUBERTIN

1. Un homme fit un feu
Jadis... en ce temps-là
Un normand visionnaire
A l'intrepide foi
Nourrit un rêve étrange
Nourrit de faire courir
Tous les hommes ensemble
Au clair de la raison
2. Nourrit de faire courir
Tous les hommes ensemble
En un unique souffle
Une même foulée
Au-delà des prairies
Au-delà des saisons
Avant que dans leur œil
Viennne le mot mépris
3. Et les hommes... ont couru
De ce souffle voulu
Réapprenant le monde
Propageant l'espérance
Des hauts-plateaux d'Afrique
Aux pentes de l'Olympe
Des steppes sibériennes
Aux plaines d'Oregon
4. Un homme fit un feu
Tel un cri: «Aimons-nous!»
O fol amour des autres!
O flamme universelle!
Anneaux nous unissant
Au rythme des couleurs!
Et nul ne fut plus seul
A l'appel de son nom
5. Un homme fit un feu
Athènes en fut témoin
Cet homme nous aimait
Qui dit «Courons ensemble!»
Emaillons notre effort
De miroirs étonnés!
O vous... regardez-toi!
O toi... regardez-vous!»
6. O toi la multitude!
O toi l'enfant du monde!
O toi l'enfant perdu!
O toi qui vient frapper
A la porte dorée
Du stade de la vie!
Un homme fit un feu
L'as-tu su?... L'as-tu dit?
7. L'as-tu dit aux étoiles?
L'as-tu dit à la voile?
Ou l'as-tu dit au vent
Qui conduit la pensée?
L'as-tu dit seulement
Au pauvre de la rue
Que tu vois le matin
Tendant sa main glacée?
8. Un homme, un équipier
Exemple de l'équipe
Debout là près de nous
A chaque coup de rame
A chaque coup de cœur
Sa main sur une épaule
Soulève jusqu'au ciel
De longs envois d'oiseaux
9. Un homme fit un feu
A l'aube de nos vies
Pour que couve toujours
L'âme de ce feu-là
Dans les mots que l'on dit
Pour qu'à chaque pensée
Brûle dans notre cœur
Quelque chose de lui

JACQUES GUHL

Ce poème a été lu par son auteur à la session de clôture du Congrès du Havre (Com. Int. F. de Coubertin) le 20 septembre 1997.

THE SOUL OF COUBERTIN

1. A man lit a fire
In time long ago
A visionary Norman
With intrepid faith
Nurtured a strange dream.
A dream of mankind
Running in unison
In search of reason
2. A dream of mankind
Running in unison
With one breath
And in one same stride
Beyond the meadows
Beyond the seasons
Before the moment their eyes
Could see the word scorn.
3. And so, men have run
With this desired breath
Discovering the world
Spreading hope everywhere
From high African plateaux
To the slopes of Olympus
From the Siberian steppes
To the Oregon plains.
4. A man lit a fire
With the cry "Love one other!"
Oh, mad love for others!
Oh, universal flame!
With rings which unite us
To the rhythm of the colours!
And nobody no longer alone:
At the call of his name.
5. A man lit a fire
Athens was the witness
And the man who loved us
Said "Let's run together!"
Let's link our efforts as one
To the amazement of mirrors!
Oh, you... look at thyself!
Yes, there... look at yourselves!
6. Oh, ye, the multitude!
Oh, thou, child of the world!
Oh, thou, child who is lost
Oh, thou who has just knocked
At the golden door
Of the stadium of life!
A man has lit a fire
Did you know?... Did you say so?
7. Have you told the stars?
Have you told the sails?
Have you told the wind
Who guides our thoughts?
Or have you just told
The poor man in the street
Who you can see in the morning
Holding out his icy hand?
8. A man, member of a team
An example for the team
Standing there near us
With each pull on the oar
With each beat of the heart
His hand on a shoulder
Raising the long flights of birds
Up to the heavens.
9. A man lit a fire
At the dawn of our lives
So that the soul of the fire
Will always burn
In the words that we speak,
And that with each thought
There will burn in our hearts
Part of the man himself.

JACQUES GUHL

This poem was read by its author at the closing session of the Le Havre Congress (F. Int. Com. de Coubertin) 20th September 1997. Trad. David Henderson.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE IOAPA ONLINE SESSION 2025

A personal letter of thanks was sent to each person who helped make the session a success.

Richard Koo (CAN)	Session Planning/Election Committee/Moderator
Marie Lou Noïrot (FRA)	Session Planning/Guest Speaker/Document preparation
Mateus Nagime (BRA)	Session Planning/Moderator/Daily Secretary/Social Meeting
Alexander Eriksson (NOR)	Session Planning/Zoom Coordinator/Technical Administrator/ Social Meeting
Megan Ritch (USA)	Session Planning/Election Chair/Scrutineer/Social Meeting
Caroline Bujold (CAN)	Election Scrutineer
Hsin Wei Chen (TPE)	Guest Speaker
Christian Kern (BRA)	Guest Speaker
Samantha Matavata (ZIM)	Guest Speaker/Social Meeting
Makis Asimakopoulos (GRE)	Guest Speaker
Charalaos Tsolakis (GRE)	Guest Speaker
Xavier Jeannin (FRA)	Art Workshop/Social Meeting
Chloe Abu Chabake (LBN)	Daily Secretary
Hisham Al Adwani (OMA)	Daily Secretary
Dinkey Bandara (SRI)	Daily Secretary
Dimitrios Asproulis (GRE)	Daily Secretary
Marilena Soukera (GRE)	General Assembly
Alston Choon (MAS)	Certificates of Participation/Evaluations
Anidev Singh (IND)	Presenter HVH Committee
Anfisa Kasyanova (GRE)	Moderator

PARTICIPANT'S LIST

Name	Surname	Country
Elena	Iñiguez de Heredia	ARG
Arman	Avetisyan	ARM
Anna	Martirosyan	ARM
Katharina Maria	Regensburger	AUT
Nicolette	Wolf	AUT
Ayanna	Morgan	BAR
Valeria	Rubo	BLR
Kelebogile	Matolela	BOT
Ana Luisa	dos Reis de Almeida	BRA
Christian	Kern	BRA
Mateus	Nagime	BRA
Momchil	Sabev	BUL
Princesse	Ndack Mbaye	CAF
Daniel Farelia	Rock-Mansamed	CAF
Caroline	Bujold	CAN
Allison	Carrol	CAN
Richard	Koo	CAN
Michael Thomas	Kwiatkowski	CAN
Chen	Hou	CHN
Yunfei	Li	CHN
Yuchen	SUN	CHN
Oumar	Magra	CMR
Jonathan	Mbula Lionge	COD
Maria Christina	Bustamente Perez	COL
Jorge	Rodriguez	COL
Carlos	Villegas	COL
Thomas	Bjoerner Jersen	DEN
Lone	Jakobsen	DEN
Gloria	Ramos	ESA
Hector	Arguelles	ESP
Ivan	Coste-Maniere	FRA
Xavier	Jeannin	FRA
Marie Lou	Noirot	FRA
Marc	Quaresemin	FRA
Andrew	Shields	GBR
Roland	Krimmer	GER

Name	Surname	Country
Monika	Zachau	GER
Christiana Naa Merley	Ashley	GHA
Makis	Asimakopoulos	GRE
Dimitrios	Asproulis	GRE
Ourania	Georgiadou	GRE
Anfisa	Kasyanova	GRE
Iasson	Lagos	GRE
Eleni Marina	Soukera	GRE
Panagiotis	Trikaliotis	GRE
James Christ	Cantave	HAI
Neeraj	Kumar Mehra	IND
Atharva	Maid	IND
Anidev	Singh	IND
Farzad	Ghafari	IRI
Mohammad Reza	Oveysi	IRI
Yarden	Har Lev	ISR
Ansen	Sligar	ISV
Eliana	Esposito	ITA
Valentina	Marchel	ITA
Rhahel Akeino	Brown	JAM
Yogo	Suzuki	JAP
Nancy	Nduku	KEN
Joseph	Srimal Wickremasinghe	KEN
Haifa	Bin Aboud	KSA
Chloé	Abou Chabake	LBN
Christian	Hajj	LBN
Fako	Masupha	LES
Yaya	Dembele	MAL
Lassina	Diarra	MAL
Abdul Kader Dabo		MAL
Alston	Chong	MAS
Ashley	Ophorst	NED
Alexander	Eriksson	NOR
Gjertrud	Østervold Toft	NOR
Hisham	Al Adwani	OMA
Ismail	Alkindi	OMA
Ennio	Cornejo	PER
Asiani	Vagi	PNG

Name	Surname	Country
Sandro	Lucio	POR
Eduardo	Pereira	POR
Barbara	De Jesus	PUR
Angela	Stanescu	ROU
Philani	Nongogo	RSA
Ekaterina	Gorokhova	RUS
Jean Claude	Rugigana	RWA
Amadou Sylla	Sarr Diaw	SEN
Leyla	Songo	SEN
Fred	Quek	SGP
Dinkey	Bandara	SRI
Srimal	Wickremasinghe	SRI
Dilan Sandun	Wimalasena	SRI
Amjed	Mustafa	SUD
Pierre André	Delapraz	SUI
Ruben	Hauschild	SUI
Carole	Howald	SUI
Elvira	Ramini	SUI
Muharram	Mchume	TAN
Preeda	Muongmee	THA
Madji Jacques	Ayassou	TOG
Chun-Chih	Chan	TPE
HsinWei	Chen	TPE
Ahmed	ALLOUCH	TUN
Sevda	Varol	TUR
Melei	Melei	TUV
Joseph	Oluka	UGA
Laurel	Brassey Iversen	USA
Marisleysis	Cedeno	USA
Elizabeth	Hanley	USA
James	Lynch	USA
Roldyne	Registre	USA
Megan	Ritch	USA
Rusty	Wilson	USA
Yanel	Pinto Perez	VEN
Andisonn	Khoma	ZAM
Samantha	Matavata	ZIM

ANNEXES



CENTRO LATINOAMERICANO DE
ESTUDIOS COUBERTINIANOS



Pierre de Coubertin
COMITÉ BRASILEIRO
PIERRE DE COUBERTIN



GPEO
Grupo de Pesquisa
em Estudos Olímpicos

BEYOND THE OLYMPIC GAMES: WHAT SURROUNDED THE MEGAEVENT

CHRISTIAN KERN

01 **PUCRS**
Olímpica

02 **Research**
projects

03 **International Symposium**
Olympic and Paralympic Research

04 **International Colloquium**
Olympic Studies and Research Centres

05 **IOC**
Headquarters

06 **Paris 2024**
Olympics

07 **Brazilian Olympic Committee**
Operations assistant

MAIN TOPICS



PUCRS OLÍMPICA

A proposal from the Olympic Studies Research Group of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (GPEO PUCRS) to build knowledge among the university's students, provide greater awareness to the general population, and promote the development of projects and initiatives.



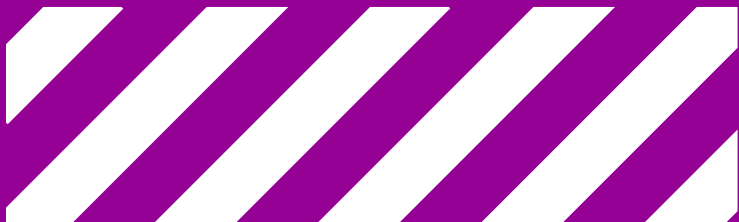
RESEARCH PROJECTS

“The characteristics of a true Olympian”



16TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC RESEARCH

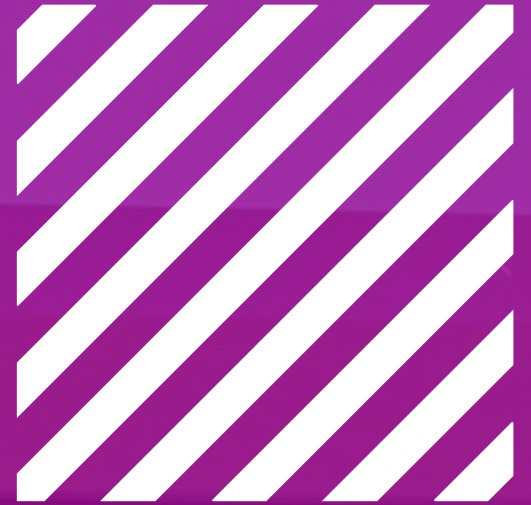
BESANÇON
France





4TH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM OF OLYMPIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTRES

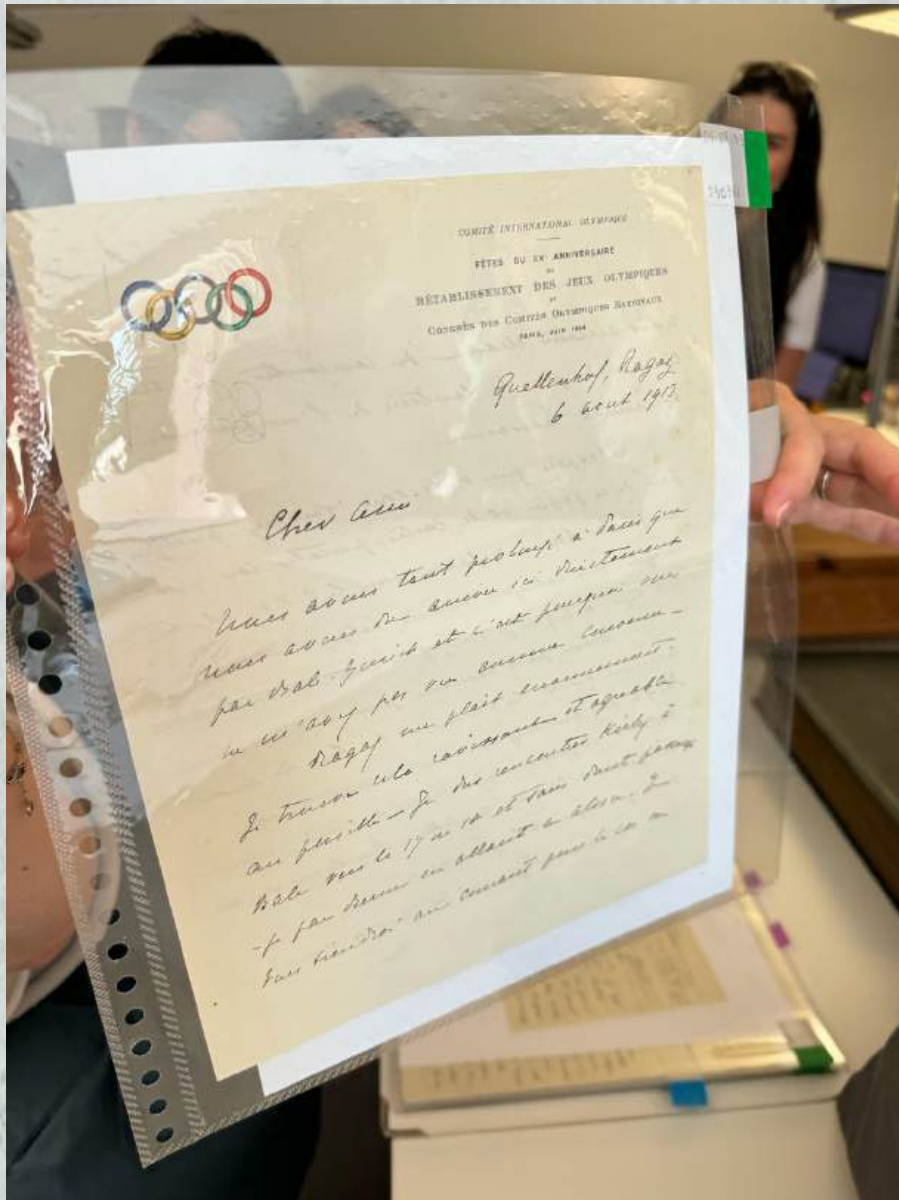
Organized by the Olympic Studies Centre (OSC) of the IOC and the Université Franche-Comté, it featured two days of discussions with representatives from more than 20 OSCs.



BESANÇON
France



IOC HEADQUARTERS



PARIS 2024

EXHIBITION “WHAT IS ESPORTS?”

Organized by Qatar, the exhibition discussed and reflected on electronic sports in the Olympic Games, featuring experts from the field and Olympic Studies.

SORBONNE UNIVERSITÉ

Guided visit to the university where Pierre de Coubertin organized the Congress that officially established the Olympic Games of the Modern Era.



PARIS 2024

CHAMPIONS PARK

The venue brought together Olympic medalists from the Paris Olympics every day, in addition to allowing the public to watch live competitions and shows as attractions.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

event organized in collaboration with Panathlon International, the Pierre de Coubertin International Committee, the International Fair Play Committee, and the International Society of Olympic Historians.



BRAZILIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Operations Assistant for Team Brazil during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The Brazilian Olympic Committee prepared three facilities in addition to the Olympic Village to support their athletes physically, mentally, and individually, with a focus on including individuals with any condition, preparing an immediate legacy for the upcoming Paralympic Games. The spaces featured exclusive Brazilian kitchens, accommodations for athletes' friends and family, and constant support from a multidisciplinary team.



IOAPA ONLINE SESSION

THANKS

christian.estudo@gmail.com

@gpeopucrs

@coubertinbrasil

@centrocoubertin

Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay Experience

Hsin-Wei Chen (TPE)



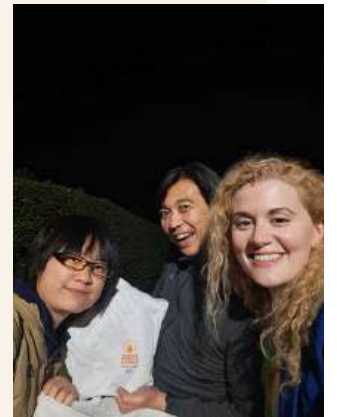
My Journey

- 2022 IOA Postgraduate Session
- 2023 IOAPA online session



Preparing

- Receiving detail information from IOAPA team
- Walking from town to the IOA to pick up uniforms
- Excited to see another torchbearer in uniform



During the Torch Relay

- Tranquility and calmness
- Run slowly and enjoy the moment



After

- Deep connection to past Olympic and Paralympic Games



Appreciation & Giving Back

- IOAPA
- CTOC



Thank you!



HsinWei Chen

University of South Carolina and
National Taiwan Normal University...

















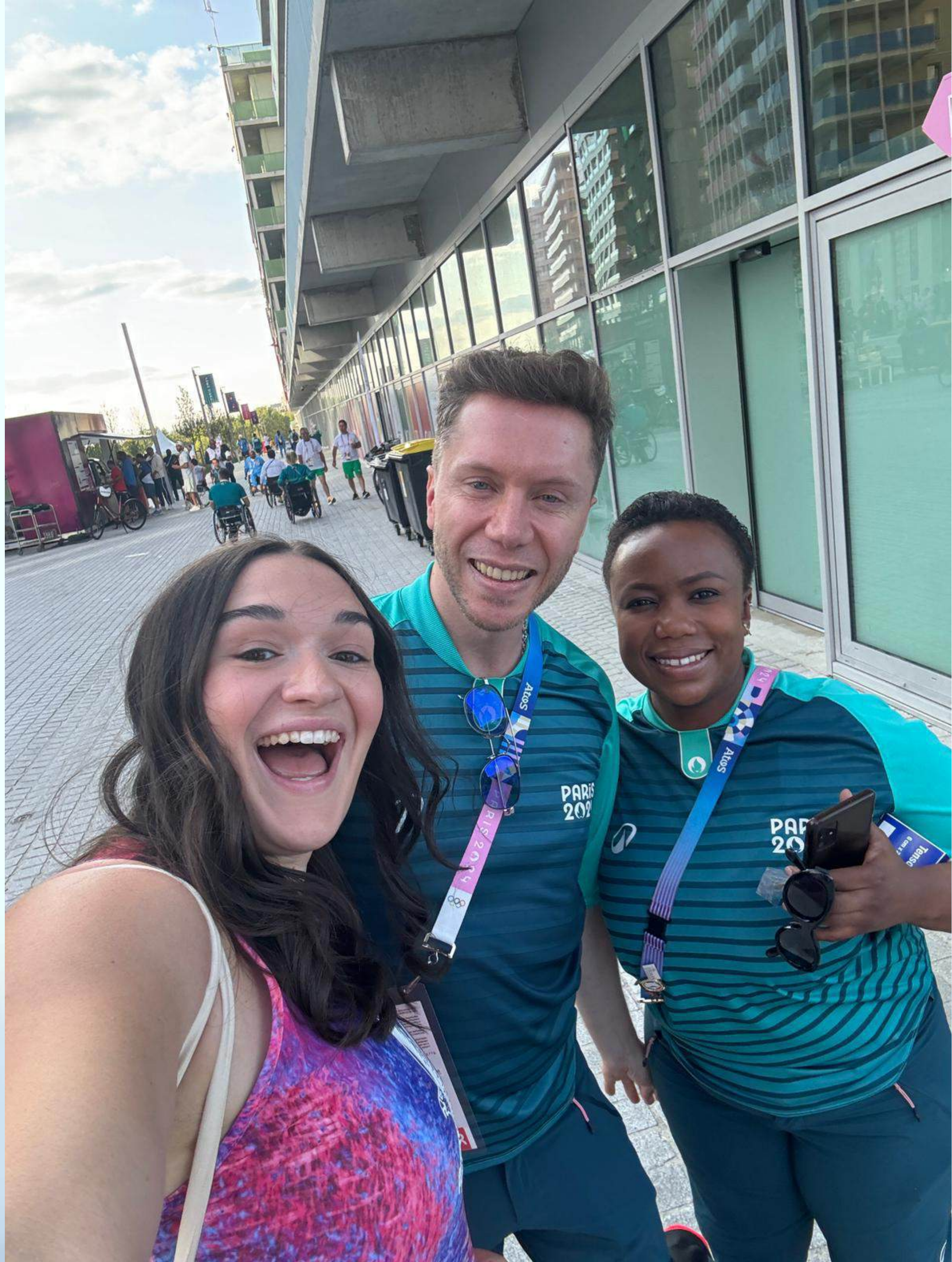














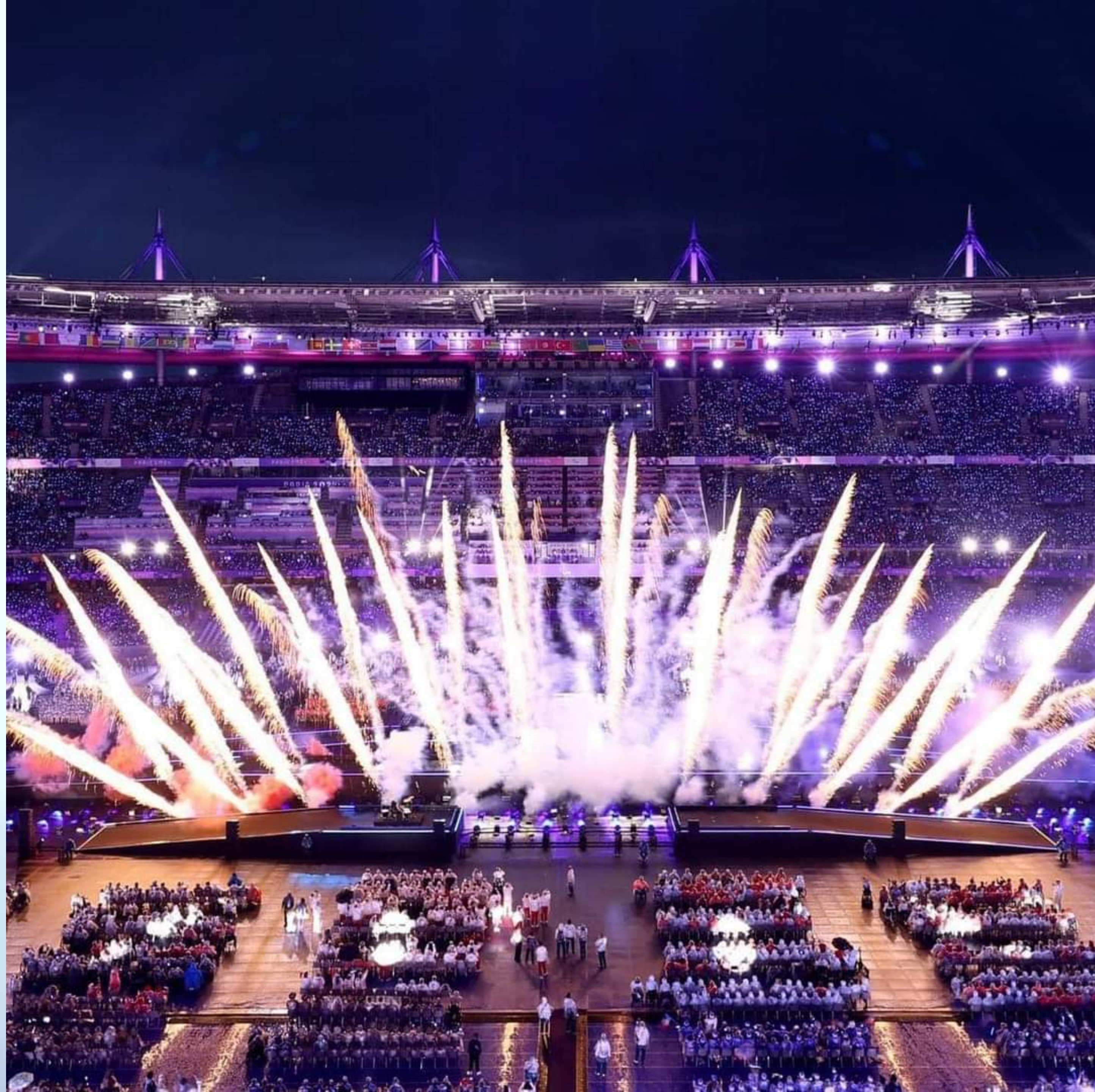
FOOD AND BEVERAGE GRAB & GO 2

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Thank You!!!

Fostering Outreach through Country Coordinators

Samantha Matavata (ZIM)

IOAPA Head of Country Coordinator

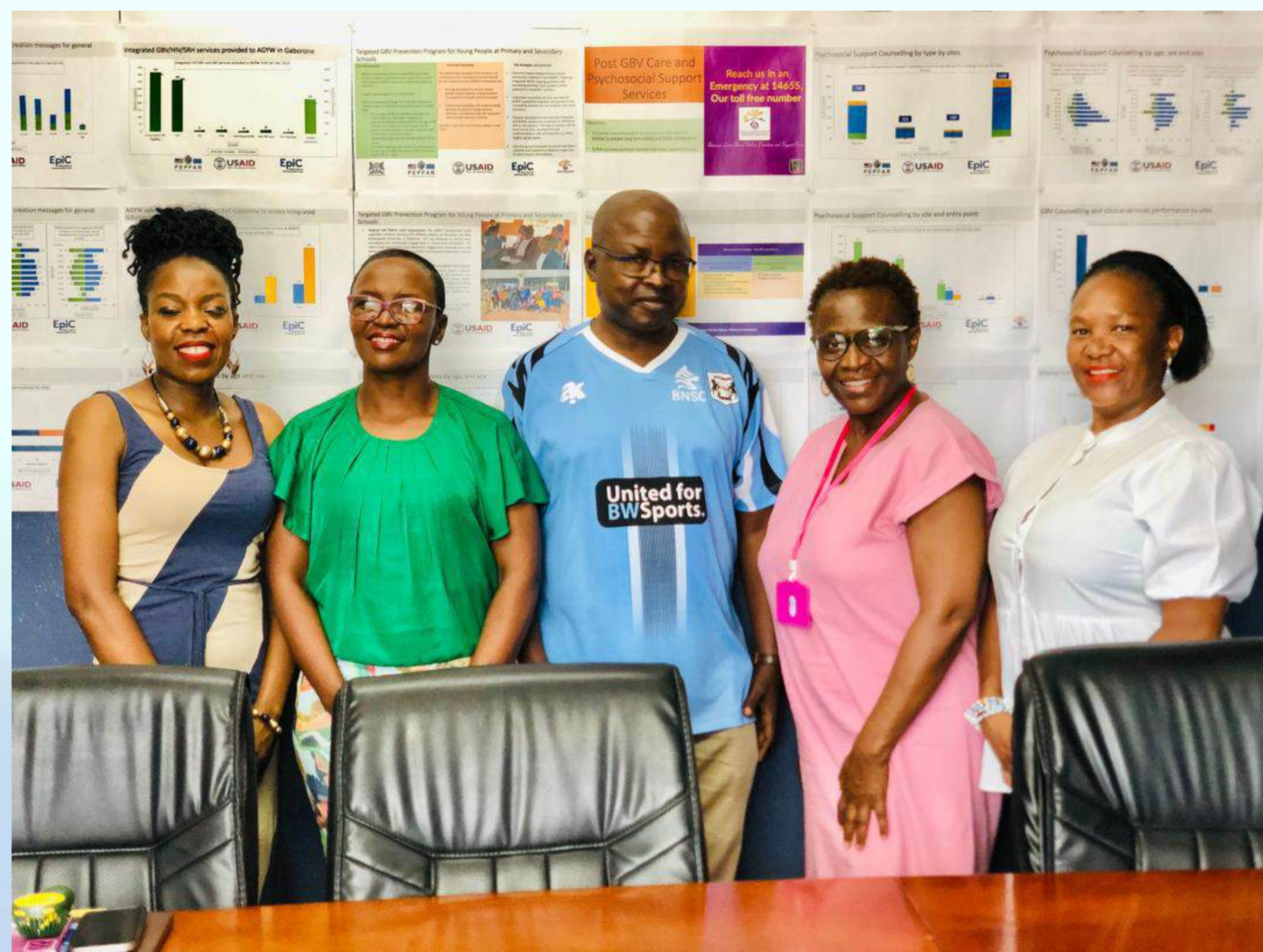
Arman Avetisyn (ARM) giving back in Armenia







Kelebogile (Kelly) Matolela advocating for GBV in Botswana



Hisham Al Adwani directing ASMEC in Oman



Gert Potgieter outreaching through Olympic day activities in South Africa





Juan Diego Blas Fernandez during a presentation in Guatemala



Fako Masupha, from Lesotho, in a joint outreach program with Uganda



Dr Ali Albakri Alyafei, from Qatar,
presenting in an OVEP class



Fred Quek, from Singapore, hosting an Asian members reunion



Dinke Bandara showcasing her work in Sri Lanka



An ASMEC presentation by Muharram Mchume in Tanzania



Presentation on Sport tourism in Zimbabwe by Samantha Matavata



Eugenia Mandeya promoting safe sport and fair play in Zimbabwe



Chloé Abou Chabake
and Christian Hajj
hosting an IOAPA
reunion in Lebanon



Country Coordinators meeting in session

Recording

Iasson Lagos	Dinkey (SRI)	Dr. Ali Albakri Alyafel	Eleri Etverk	IOAPA Executive
Amjed Mustafa SUD	Atharva M (IND)	Kyung-eun Lee (KOR)	Ruben Hauschild	Christiana Ashley
Hisham Al Adwani	Fred QUEK (SGP)	PREEDA MUONGMEE	Galaxy A50	Jacques AYASSOU (TOGO)
Fatima Ahmad	Nazroff- Malaysia	Ms. Asiani Vagi (PNG)	Xavier	Sandro Lucio (P...)

Regional Coordinators meeting in session

Dr. Ali Albakri Alyafel (QTR)	Dinkey (SRI)	IOAPA Executive	Hisham Al Adwani (OMN)	Atharva (IND)
Chloé Abou Chabaké (LBN)	Arman Avetisyan (ARM)	Xavier	Zehua Zhang (CHN)	Monika Zachau (Germany)
Ruben Häuschild (SUI)	Nazroff	Karolina Pietraszek (POL)	Anna Martirosyan	Asiani Vagi (PNG)
	Christiana Ashley	Fred QUEK (SGP)	Samantha Mata...	
		Fred QUEK (SGP)	Samantha Matavata (ZIM)	

Thank you to all your efforts!!!!

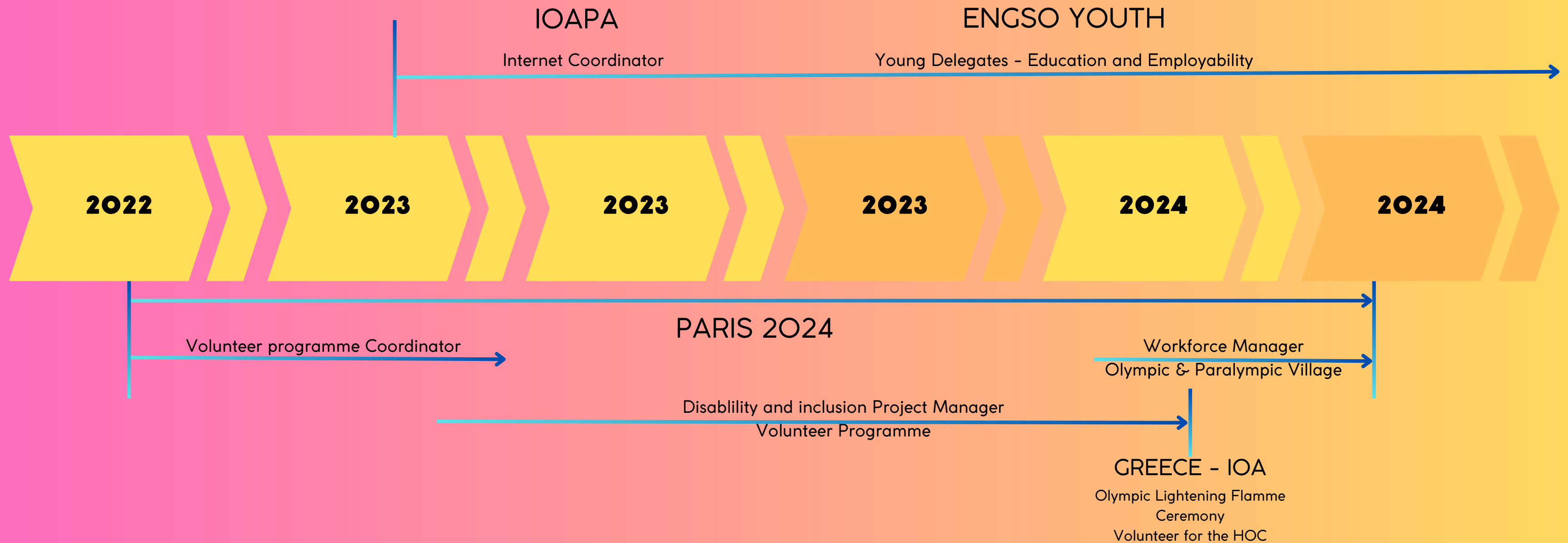
PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES

Staff member experience, 2022-2024



My adventure in Paris 2024

PEM / GWO Team





VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME COORDINATOR





MISSION

Coordination of the selection and recruitment of volunteers

From December 2022 till
November 2023.

Relation with FAs

I had to coordinate the selection and recruitment of more than 15,000 volunteers (on 45,000) for the following FAs :
EVS, ACR, TKT, RTC, TRA, PEM, FNB.

Selection

Coordinate all the requirement from the different FAs to find the best fit with the thousands of profiles.

Recrutment

Sending assignments to the candidates who has been selected, create a waiting list and follow up on validations.



DISABLE VOLUNTEER PROJECT MANAGER

MISSION

Coordination and management of the project - Include 3,000 volunteers with disabilities as volunteers.

From January 2023 till June 2024.

Duality of the project

1. Internal - Managing the programme with the coordination team and Volunteer programme team in general - more than 10,000 Applications of volunteers with "Specific needs".
2. External - Manage relation with more than 21 national organisations - 168 correspondants.

Selection

1. Coordinate more than 5,000 Interviews with volunteers who declared having a specific need. Manage adjustment of mission with the different FAs.
2. Did more than 100 meetings with groups of people with disabilities. Create a side project to the volunteer programme (Half-Day / Half-Time, with specific missions).

Partnerships

1. Working with FAs about Paralympic integration and Accessibility.
2. DIJOP, AGEFIPH - helped into the different programmes and to adjust missions and mobilisation of the volunteers.
3. Working with Toyota to adapt cars to the volunteers in wheelchair and being drivers.

Adjustements

1. Fiting the volunteers with the mission according to criterias of the mission : skills related / Then wishes of the volunteers. And after trying to adjust the mission as much as we could to faced the barrieries to “errase” disability.
2. Manage the new programme - budget related, spaces, relations etc...

Trainings

1. General Training - “How to welcome a person with disaibilities” to all workforce. Training for the future coordinators of volunteers.
2. Adjustement of the training from the specific missions (EVS, PEM, TRA, FNB)

On-Site mobilisation

1. Manage the deployment of the 2,000 volunteers with specific needs all over the 100 venues of mobilisation. Coordinate the handover of the project to the other workforce managers.
2. Manage the deployment of the 800 volunteers from the specific programme and coordinate the handover of the project to the venues.



VENUE WORKFORCE MANAGER

OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC VILLAGE

MY TEAM

Games Time Workforce Operation (GWO)

5,000 Volunteers during 72 days (Average of 1,500/ Day)
600 Staffs over 4 months (average of 450/Day)

Workforce Manager - Antoine

1. Workforce Operations & Services Management
2. Volunteer management
3. Staff management

Workforce Manager - Marie Lou

1. Volunteer Management
2. Conflict Management
3. Sexual & Sexiste Violence Management
4. Staff management

Deputy Workforce Manager - Sebastien

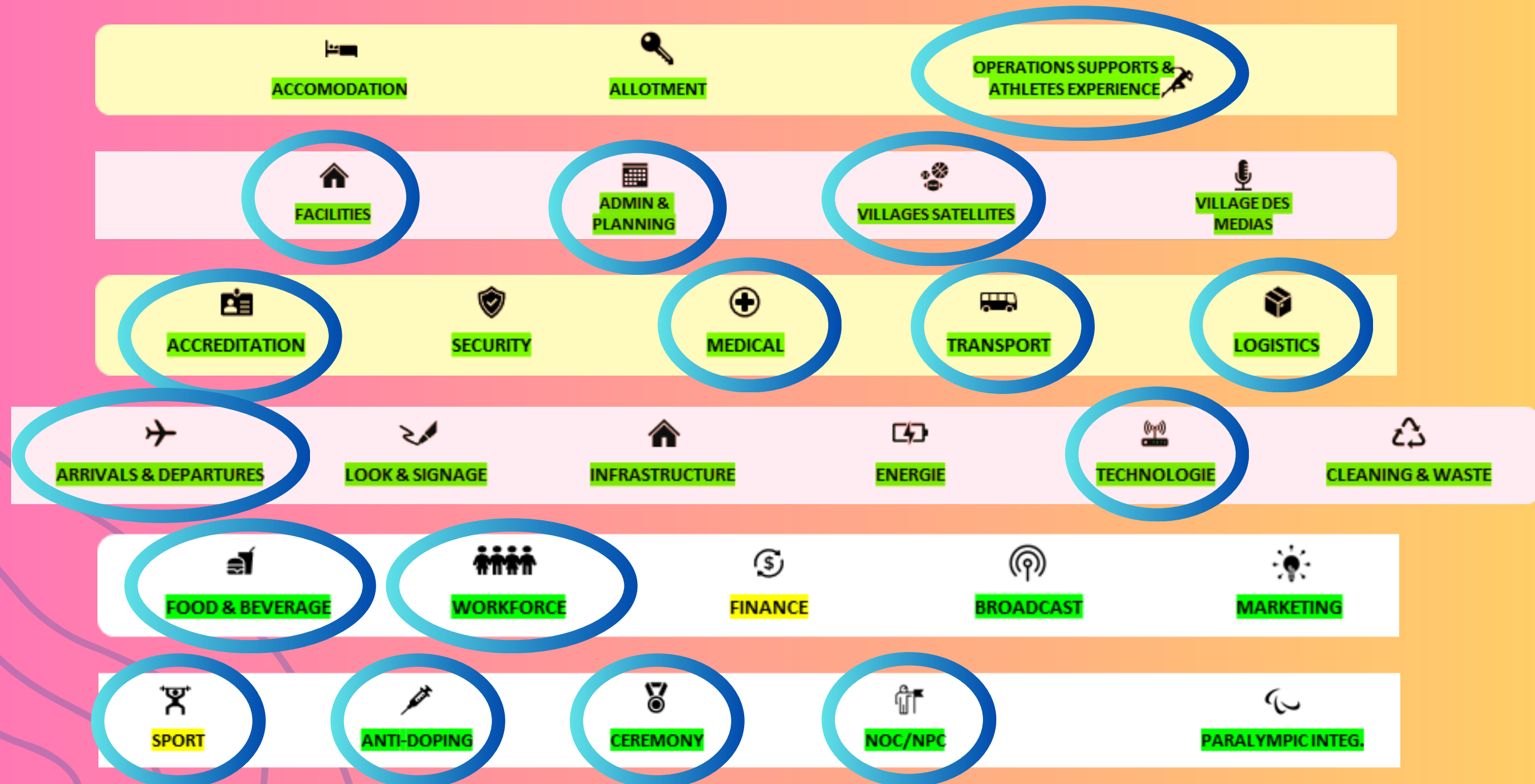
1. Staff management (HR)
2. Volunteer management



From March 2024 till
September 2024.

VILLAGE COORDINATION

Organigramme



Thank you!

mlnoirot@outlook.com

Linkedin/Instagram
Marie Lou Noirot

WhatsApp - (+33) 06 75 66 56 73

