



## ***FIAP General Assembly 2020***

### ***President Report***

*Dear friends, good afternoon,*

*Welcome to the first online FIAP General Assembly, an event that will certainly be remembered as a historic moment in the life of our Federation.*

*An event that all of us would have gladly avoided but that was unfortunately dictated by this terrible pandemic, that for almost a year, has forced all humanity, to fight a daily battle, against this terrible virus.*

*Allow me therefore, before anything else, to address a special thought and prayer for all the many friends who have left us and for their families.*

*This should have been the ordinary assembly of our Congress in Jaipur, India, a congress that was supposed to celebrate our 70th anniversary, an important milestone that unfortunately we had to celebrate very differently, first postponed, then cancelled.*

*So many things have occurred since our last meeting, and before reviewing them so that you can all evaluate with serenity the choices we made, I 'd like to thank all of you as well as all the Directors of FIAP Services and their assistants without forgetting the Directors of FIAP Centres and last but not least all the members of the board of Directors for the incredible work and the amount of hours dedicated to FIAP, maybe more than usual during the long days of lockdown.*

*This year everything was done to make our big family feel even more united in such a difficult time and to show that, not only are we capable of reacting, but that precisely in moments of greater difficulty, we are able to adapt rapidly to the new needs of our countries and our authors.*

*Here are the main decisions and projects carried out over the past 12 months:*

- We decided as early as last March, to authorize online juries. This decision was further perfected in November, to make it definitive and even more effective for both the organizers and the various authors.*
- In March, we also organized the free contest, "We stay Home", with FIAP Auspices. A competition that saw the highest participation in the history of FIAP, 1881 authors from 90 different countries. And for the first time even famous professional photographers, many of them from National Geographic, acted as disinterested testimonials. Let me remind you that the competition was also born for a charitable purpose and saw FIAP donate 30,000 Euros to the Jenners Institute of Oxford Research Center for the fight against Covid-19.*

*The online awards ceremony, held in September, saw the participation not only of many of you, but the Director of the Center himself, Adrian Hill, came symbolically to receive our donation, but also to give us an, update on research developments.*

*The winning and admitted photos were then made available to our member countries; it was then possible to organize a series of important exhibitions and projections both in China and in Turkey.*

- In August we launched a second competition, "The world in 2020", again free and with FIAP patronage. The competition will close at the end of December and we hope will allow us next year to publish a book on the year 2020, as a unique and faithful image of the life of our member countries in this very special year.*

- At the end of September, we presented, the FIAP Photo Academy, born with the intention of encouraging, on the one hand, the collaboration with universities and schools of photography, for the realization of important training projects, including the long-awaited course for FIAP Judges and on the other hand, the organization of Online Events dedicated to our members and coordinated by our Liaison Officer for Ireland Paul Stanley.*

*The first results of the FIAP Photo Academy were not long, in coming, and in fact 4 evenings were held between October and December, presented by great names in international photography, attended by almost 600 authors from over 34 different countries.*

*The goal for next year is to organize two events a month, both at European and extra-European level. Definitely an ambitious project that will need the collaboration of all of you to be completed.*

- At administrative level we transfer the production of FIAP cards to a specialized company in Hong Kong, under the direct supervision of our FIAP Liaison Officer Lewis Ka Yin Choi. The new production will start next January.*

- We also completed the scanning of the vast historical archive of MFIAP portfolios. All the photos will be available on the FIAP website during the course of next year.*

- We opened three new Spanish exhibition centers in San Sebastian, Reus and Ceuta.*

- We held the 20th Nature Biennial in Russia, perfectly organized by our Operational Member and our Director Luis Franke and the 15th FIAP World Cup for Clubs, which ended just this week, with a record participation of 214 clubs from 51 different countries. Also, in this case, special thanks to the jury members: our Liaison Officers Bronwen Casey from Australia, Csaba Balasi from Romania and Sergey Buslenko from Ukraine and to our Director Michele Macinai.*

- In the last twelve months, our online magazine "FIAP News" has had an incredible development becoming an important and qualified bimonthly appointment thanks to the superlative work of our new Director and Liaison Officer of Australia; Bronwen Casey*

- Finally, I am personally carrying out the "We stay Connected" project, which provides for a "one to one" meeting with all the Liaison Officers, with the aim of establishing a direct relationship in order to develop a better and mutual collaboration.*

*These dear friends, are the most important projects carried out by the Board of Directors, during this period, but there are still some others that we know need to be developed.*

*We will certainly do our best in the coming months to make FIAP even more present at every level.*

*Thank you for your attention; I hope that next year we will finally be able to meet again together to toast in person and finally embrace each other.*

*As soon as the health situation makes it possible, our first objective will be to organize a FIAP Congress/Photomeeting that will make us forget this terrible period in time.*

*Thanks, dear friends.*