



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

35th FIAP Congress

SPAIN – Overo - 02 - 03 December 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Presidents and Liaison Officers of FIAP Operational Member Federations and fellow photographers, welcome to the FIAP Congress, which is indeed your Congress.

No other Congress in our long history has been so eagerly-awaited as this one.

A Congress that the pandemic forced us to postpone from 2020 to today, and which marks the return to our associative life after three years.

It is a moment that we also share today with our friend J.R. Schnelzer, President of the Photographic Society of America, to whom I extend our warmest welcome.

As already mentioned, it has been three years in which we have been looking for a way to relaunch ourselves...to ensure the continuity of our Federation during one of the most difficult times in our history.

And here we are, once again all together, proving that FIAP is alive and well and stronger than ever, just like the operational members and clubs of our large family and the almost two million photographers it represents.

This was possible thanks to all the members of the Board of Directors, the FIAP Service Directors and their assistants, the FIAP Exhibition Centre Directors and all the liaison officers, who gave hours of their time every day, as never before, for the good of FIAP.

So that ...all that has been done ...remains in our everlasting memory, allow me to retrace the most significant moments:

- The first immediate decision taken by the Board was to open all FIAP competitions to online judging, followed by the decision to reduce the prices of many FIAP contributions;
- Two online General Assemblies in 2020 and 2021;
- The organisation of five FIAP Biennials;
- The organisation of three World Cup for Clubs;
- The creation of the FIAP Photo Academy, established in September 2020: its 21 online events on the Zoom platform were attended by more than 5,000 photographers from 65 different countries, with prestigious speakers such as National Geographic photographers Manocher Deghati, Tino Soriano, Farzana Wahindi, Michael Freeman, Maria Paula Martinez, Art Wolf, Reza Deghati, to name a few.
- The organisation of four free FIAP competitions with prestigious prizes and online award ceremonies:

- "WE STAY HOME" - 1881 participating photographers from 90 countries and 154 people from 54 different countries attended the online award ceremony on 26 September. Probably never in the history of FIAP has a photographic event been organised at such a difficult time and certainly none of our past competitions achieved such results. The main reason for this competition: to try to lighten the lockdown period at the beginning of the year and donate a small contribution to research against the invisible enemy COVID19. The competition was carried out with the collaboration of the Jenners Institute Research Centre in Oxford (manufacturer of the Astrazeneca vaccine) to which a donation of €30,000 was made. Professor Adrian Hill, Director of the Centre, participated in the online award ceremony;
- "THE WORLD IN 2020", another great competition with 5,618 photographs by 1,487 photographers from 81 different countries. The award ceremony took place on 24 April 2021 and was attended by 142 people;
- "WILDLIFE ONLY", a wildlife competition with 539 authors from 57 different countries. The award ceremony of the event took place via Zoom on 27 May 2022 and was attended by 89 people;
- "SENSE OF HUMANITY", the competition was strongly supported by the entire FIAP Board of directors as a solidarity contribution to all people fleeing conflict or persecution: an initiative supported by a financial contribution of €10,000 to the UN Refugee Agency.

Commenting on this FIAP initiative, Ruben Fierens, Associate PSP Officer at UNHCR said: "Let me once again sincerely thank you for this generous contribution. Initiatives like FIAP's make a real difference in the field. UNHCR has been working tirelessly for over 70 years to protect the rights of refugees. ... we're always there and we will always be there to protect people forced to flee. And this would not be possible without support like yours."

- The opening of five FIAP Exhibition Centres in Spain, Ukraine, Indonesia, France and China, bringing the number of FIAP centres to 24 on 4 continents;
- The digitisation of the entire MFIAP archive, completed and published on the FIAP website; the originals have been catalogued and archived at the FIAF Exhibition Centre in Bibbiena (Italy);
- Important online meetings. Two important meetings were held in the middle of the lockdown, with the main purpose being to make it clear that FIAP, despite the difficult times, was close to all members
 - 05 November 2020 Meeting of FIAP E.C. Directors and
 - 14 November 2020 Meeting for our ILFIAP Club
- FIAP online distinction ceremonies. Given the impossibility of presenting the distinctions in person, some operational members organised online award ceremonies;
- Important meetings and projects:
 - "FIAP World Photographers Conference". The Promotion and Partnership Service helped develop a cooperation agreement between FIAP and the Lishui Municipal People's Government in China to organise the FIAP World Photographers Conference.

The Conference will be held once every two years in Lishui, China, starting in 2023. It will be a 10-day event including check-in and return dates. The Lishui Municipal People's Government will cover the costs of food, accommodation and local transport for 200 photographers invited by FIAP;

- "International Humanitarian Summit". FIAP had the great privilege of participating as a partner in the first digital edition of the International Summit of the Humanitarian Fraternity with the theme «Building a Stronger World, Human Fraternity for Tolerance and Coexistence». In the event organised in the United Arab Emirates, FIAP was invited as the only photographic organisation in the world recognised by UNESCO, together with UNESCO itself, the United Nations, the World Council of Churches, the Red Cross, the Make a Wish Foundation and many important universities;
 - The "Ramoge" project on biodiversity conservation and the fight against marine pollution, in collaboration with the French, Monegasque and Italian governments for the protection and conservation of the marine environment;
 - The "We stay Connected" project during which I have personally contacted many Liaison Officers by videoconference from 2020 to the present (and will continue to do so) to learn about their needs and support them as best I can.
- "FIAP NEWS" our online magazine, has become over the past three years an increasingly popular and followed quarterly publication, thanks to the splendid work of our editor Bronwen Casey;
 - "FIAP Audiovisual series". In addition to the four screenings realised by FIAP Audiovisual Service Director Lorenzo de Francesco, thanks to the collaboration with the FIAP Collections Service coordinated by our friend Jeff Lemmens, a fifth one will be added: "FIAP Microcosm". The audiovisuals will be uploaded 6 months after their publication on our "FIAP YouTube Channel" and made available to all photographers;

Last but not least, I would like to highlight:

- The Organisation, by our Omani friends, of the splendid 7th FIAP Photo Meeting that has just ended in Oman, for which I would like to thank once again both our Liaison Officer Ahmed Albusaidi and all his staff as well as the government of the Sultanate of Oman and in particular His Highness Sayyid Dhi Yazan bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth.
- The historic agreement signed just yesterday between 'FIAP/PSA'. It is an agreement that has distant roots and in fact I remember with pleasure the first meeting back in March 2013 in Frankfurt, Germany with the then PSA President John Davis Jr. followed by the meeting in Yellowstone in October 2015 on the occasion of the PSA Festival. The relationship between FIAP and PSA was further strengthened thanks to the active collaboration of the PSA President Elena McTighe with the first FIAP/PSA cooperation agreements signed in the USA in Spokane in September 2019 in the presence of both Boards of Directors. The pandemic years led to a growth in relations between the two associations, as already mentioned with almost monthly meetings between the different working groups, coordinated directly by the two FIAP/PSA presidents (R. Busi, J.R. Schnelzer), which led to this

latest agreement but, above all, to the firm will of both organisations to work together for the good of all their members.

Unfortunately, despite the many accomplishments, some projects announced in the past have not been followed up for various reasons, but this has certainly not discouraged us. In fact, for next year, in an attempt to give greater visibility to our large family, we will be launching two new ambitious projects with the support of all of you:

The first project, **“Our future ... in their eyes”**, concerns the FIAP Photo Academy Training which, as you know, has among its objectives the implementation of exchange programmes with universities and schools of photography and design.

The first step of the new FIAP Photo Academy Training will be aimed at young people, who are undoubtedly our future and in particular at universities, academies and schools of photography. The project, which clearly requires the active support of our operational members, will be developed through a photo competition within the individual universities/schools of photography whose winners will then compete internationally. The best authors will then be rewarded with travelling exhibitions in all our exhibition centres and meetings with the great authors and masters of international photography.

The second concerns an exhibition involving all FIAP members, with the theme **"Immigration, a reality of our time"**. A project that aims to obtain the patronage of UNESCO, the UN General Agency and UNICEF.

All this to achieve the goal of promoting 'real FIAP notoriety' in all FIAP countries. This, as I have said in the past, is another long-standing problem without yet a solution. Unfortunately, there are still too many countries where the liaison officers have had no direct and real contact with the Board. And neither, alas, has anything changed during the lockdown period, where surely all Board members would have been easily reachable by videoconference.

I would like to emphasise once again that being a FIAP member does not mean paying a higher or lower membership fee, organising a higher or lower number of FIAP competitions: it means actively participating in FIAP projects and the most important events organised by FIAP, it means spreading and possibly translating its regulations in the various countries. It goes without saying, therefore, that we will seek new ways with the firm intention of succeeding for the good of FIAP, and I assure you that this is what we will do.

Thanks dear friends for your attention and support.

Riccardo Busi