



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

FIAP 9th General Assembly

Asturias, Spain, December 1, 2022

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr. President, members of the Board, dear Liaison Officers, dear Delegates

I cannot describe how happy I feel today being in person in front of you in this beautiful town of Spain, after two years of pandemic. In the years 2021 and 2020 we were able to hold our Assembly via teleconference but being present in this room is a completely different feeling !

About two months ago we had the opportunity to meet also in person in Oman, where we took a lot of pictures together, and we already started sharing our common memories.

In 2022 we announced new photographic projects. The first one was the "Sense of Humanity" photographic competition, where FIAP invited all photographers of the world to join this salon for free. In return FIAP contribute an amount to the UN Refugee Agency. The second one was "wildlife only" reserved to nature photographers. On the contrary, the "UNESCO Heritage" project could not be organized because it was impossible to get the necessary information from UNESCO during the pandemic.

During 2022 new ILFIAP Clubs around the world joined FIAP, a fact that proves the global interest for our Federation. On the contrary some ILFIAPs and some OM had not paid their annual fees, but we decided to wait until this Congress before taking a decision, due to the special situation we faced during the Covid-19 period.

In the last months we had a very important cooperation with PSA, in order to establish some common rules regarding the different definitions in the sections of nature and photojournalism and a common acceptance rate for exhibitions under the patronage of FIAP and PSA. The collaboration with PSA also aims to share a common view on ethics, thanks to the support of our Ethics Service, which has also the unpleasant task to investigate cases of plagiarism and non-allowed manipulations.

In the FIAP Biennials the number of countries participating has increased. Some months ago, it was decided that the organizer will no longer need a printed catalogue and will receive EUR 3,000 for a pdf catalogue and for covering part of their remaining costs. From now on, instead of a catalogue for each Biennial, FIAP itself will publish a catalogue every two years, which will contain the award-winning photographs of the four Biennials of that period in one volume. We strongly believe that this Biennial catalogue will be a very luxurious one.

FIAP World Cup for Clubs knows a great success between ILFIAPs and other photographic Clubs around the world. Starting with the 2022 World Cup for Clubs, individual photographers will be able to count their acceptances in this competition towards their applications for individual FIAP distinctions, something that will encourage more new photographers to participate.

2022 was a very successful year for the Distinctions, as the applications beat the previous records. An exception to these rules was in China, where some bureaucratic procedures prevented local authors from applying for FIAP distinctions. The Board of Directors finally decided to entrust this task to a well-known Chinese institution, the Eastern International Photography Art

Association (EIPAA), which organized the Jinan Biennial and the 5th FIAP Photo Meeting in China and set up a Coordination Office in Jinan to carry out this work efficiently and on a volunteer basis.

After a decrease in the year 2020, due to the pandemic, the number of salons under FIAP patronage and events under FIAP auspices is slightly increasing.

The Audiovisual Service has been working during 2022 with different activities like the production of thematic sets for supporting FIAP events and FIAP Exhibition Centers.

2022 was an excellent year for the Collections as well, where the number of images submitted to the FIAP collection increased importantly.

In the Youth Service we had a change. After 30 years in the head of this Service, Mr Batschinski handed this function over to Mr Al Busaidi, something maybe obvious, if we consider the recognition and success of youth photography in his country, Oman. I don't know if we can give Kurt a pension, but we should definitely be thankful to him for the endless hours he has dedicated to FIAP all these 30 years !

During 2022, Mr. Joan Burgues, Director of the Exhibition Centers announced the opening of a new centre in Villefranche de Conflent in France. By the end of the year, two more exhibition centers will open in China, each one covering a surface of around 1.000 square meters.

Our Promotion & Partnership Service is always promoting FIAP's visibility through a mix of in-person and hybrid collaborations. In mid-November, FIAP jointly organised with Lishui Municipal People's Government, the FIAP World Photographers' Conference with online participation in Lishui, China, at the Lishui Photography Museum. We are looking forward to the in-person organization of this event in 2024.

FIAP News has continued to be a source of information and inspiration. The feedback is very positive, as thousands of people are always waiting for the next editions. Apart from the articles reserved to FIAP events and activities, the "Recommendations" section gives the readers many ideas about their future photographic expeditions. In 2022 an initiative gave youth authors and photographers the possibility to see their works and articles published. Unfortunately, after a promising start from a group of South Africa, there was no more interest. We really hope that with some effort from our Liaison Officers this project will be not discontinued.

Our web site data, like OM, ILFIAPs and MFIAPs are regularly updated thanks to our Web Team. The web site is including more and more information, like FIAP Photo Academy events, Biennials, World Cup, FIAP News, Salons and other FIAP activities. As you can see in the statistics, it is visited by many people from around the world. A very important detail is that most of the visitors are coming from the United States, a country where FIAP has not very important presence, at least for now. This is a very useful information that we should seriously consider !

During the year 2022, the Data Protection Service collaborated with the software publisher in Spain for the conditions of use of the special software created for the Club World Cup and for the competitions organized by FIAP "Wildlife Only and "Sense of Humanity". Regarding the 7th FIAP Photo-Meeting in Oman, this Service prepared Special Contractual Clauses (SCC), requested and approved by EU legislation for the transfer of personal data to countries outside the EEA, concerning the protection of individuals with regard to the processing and the free movement of such data. Finally, a special text has been drafted concerning the protection of personal data to be signed by the delegates before their participation in this 35th FIAP Congress in Spain.

Following our official order, we have been awarded by the World International Property Organization the registration certificate for our FIAP logo. This is valid for Australia, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Serbia, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Vietnam, the United States, the United Arab Emirates and Ukraine. According to the legislation of some of the above countries, there is a second step before

registering the mark.

During 2022, the FIAP Photo Academy Online Events has hosted the award ceremonies for the “FIAP Wildlife Only” Contest and the “FIAP – A Sense of Humanity” contest and different presentations by well-known photographers. Many photographers from around the world joined us during these online events.

In 2022, the pandemic of COVID-19 has been continuing to affect the postal services around the world, due to insufficient air cargo flight and sea container capacity. As a consequence, the shipment of Medals and Life Cards is still missing the normal rhythms, especially between some countries. This is something we are trying to resolve by different methods, but we really hope that in a couple of months it will be completely fixed.

Two months ago, we had our photo meeting in Muscat, Oman. After two years of self-restraint, everyone was eager to meet their friends, hang out and take as many pictures as possible. The organization was exemplary and the shooting opportunities endless!

I wish you all a good and successful General Assembly and I hope to meet you again in person as soon as possible during 2023 !

Ioannis LYKOURIS