



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

FIAP General Assembly 2023

President's Report

Dear friends,

Good afternoon and welcome to the FIAP General Assembly here in the beautiful country of Armenia.

I want to express my gratitude for your presence today and warmly welcome those attending this event, especially if it's your first time. Your participation is not only appreciated but also essential for the approval of our annual budget.

In the last 12 months, after a prolonged period of online meetings due to the pandemic, we have been fortunate to resume our regular association activities.

Last October, with the invaluable support of the Omani government and exceptional organization by our Liaison Officer, Ahmed Albusaidi, we hosted our 7Th Photomeeting, which proved to be a resounding success.

Then, in December, we held our 35Th Congress in Asturias, Spain, fulfilling our statutory obligations in person.

Much credit for this accomplishment goes to the Director of our Exhibition Center in Langreo, Luis Vigil Escalera, who received strong support from the Spanish Photography Confederation.

It's noteworthy that Vigil Escalera also organized our 8Th. Photomeeting in Asturias this past June. This is a historic first for our Federation: having an organizer oversee both a Congress and a Photomeeting within such a close timeframe. This stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment and organizational skills.

I'd like to highlight the impressive synergy between our Exhibition Center and our operational member — an exemplary model for all FIAP-affiliated nations.

With the collaboration of my colleagues, I aim to provide as comprehensive an overview as possible of our activities over the past year, allowing all of you to thoughtfully assess the decisions we've taken.

Before I proceed, I want to thank all of you, as well as the Directors of FIAP Services, their assistants, and the Directors of FIAP Centers, for your dedicated work. A special mention to the members of my board of Directors for their unwavering support and camaraderie.

As previously announced:

In April, we held our first annual board meeting in Santo Domingo. This event marked the third time in our history that we've hosted a FIAP event in South America. The previous occasions were the Board of Directors meeting in Buenos Aires in 2013 and the Photomeeting in Cuba in 2015.

During this meeting, we made several significant decisions. These included the use of Artificial Intelligence in FIAP Photographic Competitions, as announced by our General Secretary in the INFO 260 / 2023 publication, and establishing a monitoring committee for contests under FIAP patronage. Additionally, we decided to introduce a new form for FIAP membership requests, which will enable a more in-depth analysis of the applications from ILFIAP and Operational members.

In June, our Photomeeting in Asturias was a resounding success, thus resuming the normal alternation between Congress and Photomeeting.

At this gathering, we met with the Chinese delegation from Tientsin, who officially proposed to host the next Photomeeting in 2025. We will provide more details as soon as available.

In July, we held the award ceremony for our World Cup for Clubs. This event was successfully organized by the FIAP Exhibition Center in Smethwick, UK, with commendable coordination by our Director Roger Parry. The event was also supported by our operational member, the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). The World Cup, now in its 16th edition, has proven to be an event increasingly appreciated worldwide. In fact, the number of participating clubs this year was 218 from 47 different countries: the highest number ever recorded in the history of this important FIAP event.

Also in July, we celebrated the official inauguration of our Exhibition Center in Ceuta, Spain. This event had been postponed multiple times due to the pandemic. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Director, Mrs. Africa...

In September, through the work of the Director of World Cup for Clubs, Michele Macinai, we introduced the 17th edition. The jury for this edition comprises prestigious members like Mrs. Agatha Anne Bunanta EFIAP/p, PSA Vice President; Mr. Gurdas Dua, Sony Alpha Brand Ambassador from India; and Mr. Ross McKelvey MFIAP, EFIAP/p from the UK. The jury will convene in December online. We urge all Liaison Officers to distribute the Entry Form among all the clubs in their respective countries.

In the same month, I was honored with an invitation from the President of the PSA to attend their annual Festival in Williamsburg, Virginia. On this occasion, a third agreement was signed between the two organizations on specific points of mutual interest within photographic competitions. Our close collaboration with the PSA continues with monthly bilateral meetings between various ad hoc committees established on topics of utmost importance, such as those concerning Nature competitions and Ethical commissions.

We must also highlight the outstanding contributions of the Director of FIAP Biennials, Luis Franke. He successfully orchestrated the 30th FIAP Colour Biennial in Greece and the 41st FIAP Youth Biennial in Norway. In this regard, special thanks also go to our two Operational Members: the Hellenic Photographic Society and the Norsk Selskap for Fotografi, and to their Liaison Officers, friends Ioannis Lykouris and Arne Bergo, for their exemplary work.

We also wish to recognize the exceptional work of two other FIAP Directors: Paul Stanley, who coordinates the FIAP Photo Academy Online Events, and Bronwen Casey, the editor of our online Magazine, FIAP NEWS. Their dedication and quality of work have been truly commendable. Congratulations to both!

These highlights represent just a fraction of the major events and initiatives undertaken by the Board of Directors over the past year. You can find more detailed reports on other projects from various FIAP Service directors.

I assure you that our commitment to enhancing FIAP's presence will remain unwavering in the upcoming months.

Thank you again for your attention, and I hope to have the opportunity to meet you all again at the FIAP Congress that will take place in India next year.

I wish you a nice evening