



# FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

## The International Federation of Photographic Art

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### **FIAP General Assembly 2025**

#### **Secretary General's Report**

Mr. President, distinguished Members of the Board, Liaison Officers, and Delegates,

This year reflected FIAP's commitment to strengthening its international standing, expanding member engagement, and advancing the federation's diverse photographic initiatives, with different international relationships and cultural collaborations worldwide.

The 2024 financial balance exceeded expectations, providing FIAP with substantial reserves. However, 2025 would present different financial pressures, mainly due to the update of the platform myfiap.net and the safeguarding and archiving of FIAP's vast photographic and documentary heritage—to be centralized in the new Collections Service—which represents a significant new investment.

Some countries have yet to settle their 2025 dues, but we expect the situation to stabilize shortly, as it has in the past. On the other hand, Monaco entered our family, as a new Operational Member, a development considered strategically valuable given its international profile and potential for cultural collaboration. Monaco has already submitted a contest for FIAP Patronage and discussions are advancing for a new Exhibition Center. By the end of 2025, we hope to add two or three more operational members from Africa and the Middle East.

The situation with ILFIAPs is more critical, with a significant number of clubs having failed to pay fees for two consecutive years. Our decision to temporarily open the World Cup for Clubs to all participants free of charge for 2024, while successful in increasing participation, inadvertently reduced membership incentives for ILFIAPs. Nevertheless, a strong turnout is anticipated, especially with the new sponsorship from Skylum, creators of the photo editing software Luminar Neo. Strategic discussions are underway to explore enhanced engagement mechanisms, such as exclusive exhibition opportunities and invitations to major FIAP events for winning clubs.

Our Biennials 2022/2023 book has been extremely well received, and the remaining copies will be distributed with priority to active Exhibition Centers. Starting in 2025, an amendment to the regulations for all Biennials, including the Youth Biennial, will adjust the image submission process to ensure full compliance with current rules, in particular the prohibition of images created wholly or partly with artificial intelligence.

In 2024, the Distinctions Service experienced a transitional period as Jeff Lemmens succeeded Freddy Van Gilbergen, who decided to resign. By mid-2025, new regulations were formally published, introducing several new distinctions including NFIAP, EFIAP/d4 through d8, PFIAP

with its corresponding levels, the new GMFIAP and the new honorary distinctions LAAFIAP, and HMFIAP.

Meanwhile, under the leadership of the new Director Jesús Manuel García Flores, the Collections Service is advancing a significant project focused on the centralized archiving of FIAP's cultural heritage, using NAS systems, complemented by UPS and constant backups.

The Patronage Service has shown continued growth, with FIAP salons expanding across multiple regions. Judges who consistently participate in FIAP salons will be eligible for the ESFIAP distinction, subject to meeting a minimum service threshold with retroactive application. In 2024, a total of 715 FIAP patronage numbers were issued, compared to 677 in 2023 and the respective medals were shipped in most cases without problems, except limited complaints that remain limited and mainly related to postal issues. The same applies to some FIAP Life Cards which returned back, due to various reasons from their postal services or failure to collect which have been resolved by resending or detouring to other countries.

In 2025, unfortunately, two photographers were permanently banned from participating in FIAP exhibitions due to plagiarism. We hope that all photographers understand the seriousness of cheating in photographic competitions, which fundamentally contradicts the principles of genuine photographic and artistic creation. We also anticipate soon collaborating with PSA to establish a unified Nature Guide for Judges and Exhibitors, alongside the shared Nature and Wildlife Definition.

The Audiovisual Service has actively fostered the promotion of photographic audiovisual art by producing thematic audiovisual works that incorporate photographs from the FIAP collection.

It also supports authors in preparing reports for FIAP AV distinctions and collaborates with FIAP Exhibition Centers to enhance the visibility of FIAP AV themes.

FIAP News has resumed its quarterly publication schedule and reinstated the Youth Photographers Gallery, focusing primarily on sharing news, information, and photographs from FIAP and its affiliated organizations.

Our social media presence has expanded over the past year, with a special focus on youth engagement through initiatives like the launch of the new FIAP Youth Instagram Account, which aims to showcase young photographers' creativity to a global audience. Additionally, the first FIAP Youth Ambassadors Meeting brought together participants from five countries to encourage increased youth involvement in international FIAP activities.

Thanks to our coordination office in Jinan, we successfully participated in several significant events in China. In addition to the Biennial FIAP World Photographers Conference held in Lishui in October 2024, we also participated with great success in Photo Beijing 2025, and The Dunhuang International Photography Week and the Vitality Shandong Project aiming to promote Shandong region through photographic sessions across all four seasons.

During the same year, FIAP partnered with DxO to offer its members an exclusive 25% discount on new licenses for all DxO software. We hope that similar offers will help our members benefit from their affiliation to FIAP.

The FIAP Board of Directors has acknowledged the necessity to revise regulations pertaining to artificial intelligence due to rapid advancements in software capabilities, which have complicated the differentiation between generative and non-generative edits. Consequently, the Board has approved the establishment of a joint FIAP–PSA commission tasked with drafting updated guidelines for AI usage to ensure consistency at an international level.

The protection of personal data continues to be a key aspect in organizing FIAP’s international events, such as the 2025 Hunan – Inner Mongolia Photomeeting, ensuring legal compliance along with the security and confidentiality of participant information. At the same time, expanding the legal recognition of the FIAP logo to more countries remains a significant goal, and we are hopeful that the unresolved issues in China will be settled soon.

As in previous years, the official FIAP website content has been thoroughly updated, including the addition of new features such as the "Get your FIAP LIFE CARD" call-to-action button.

Throughout 2025, the FIAP Photo Academy Online Events hosted five presentations by renowned photographers from around the world, covering a wide variety of topics. Additionally, three sessions were dedicated to explaining the revised FIAP Distinction Regulations. For those unable to attend live, most presentations were recorded and are available for offline viewing on the dedicated FIAP YouTube Channel.

The Photo Meeting in Hunan and Inner Mongolia was a great success and all participating photographers left with hundreds of exceptional pictures that we are going to admire very soon in international contests and exhibitions.

The FIAP Exhibition Centers network presently comprises 32 centers worldwide, with further expansions planned soon.

Key priorities moving forward include regulatory modernization, archival preservation and security, enhancement of member communications, pursuit of recognition by the World Health Organization, strengthening of biennial events, expansion of the exhibition network, and development of new strategic partnerships.

In summary, the activities conducted in the past year demonstrate FIAP’s proactive engagement with the complex challenges and opportunities within the international photographic community. The Board's deliberations reflect a strategic focus on regulatory updates, member retention, financial sustainability, and the evolving global role of the federation.

I sincerely appreciate your attention and look forward to welcoming all of you at the upcoming FIAP Congress in Brazil.

Ioannis