

IASI PRESIDIUM

Beijing, May 15th, 2005

IASI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Beijing, May 16th, 2005

IASI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Beijing, May 16th, 2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(2001 - 2005)

First of all, as my term as President is coming to an end, I would like to thank all those who supported me and helped me to run IASI 's activities these past four years. I am particularly grateful to the members of the Managerial Unit, the Presidium and the Executive Committee who trusted and supported me and helped me to contribute to the development of the Association these last four years. I would also like to express my respect to all the members of the IASI.

At the last General Assembly in Lausanne in 2001, IASI established a Working Program with five key objectives. So it is appropriate for my report to assess the performance of our association against these key objectives, to highlight some of our achievements and to review what is still to be done in the forthcoming years.

OBJECTIVE 1

- **To service the membership of IASI through an efficiently administered association which provides regular communication and professional development opportunities for members.**

From the administrative point of view

The Association experienced deep modifications during this period of time, because of the new Presidency and the succession of two Executive Secretaries. These changes did not affect the administration of IASI's affairs thanks to the predecessors' meticulous work and the newcomers' voluntarism.

- rewriting, preparing, submitting and distributing the new IASI Statutes and By-laws creating a managerial Unit for a more effective administration made possible by the distribution of duties between three people: the Executive Secretary, the Treasurer and the Publications Officer.

- transferring the head office and the administrative archives successively from Brussels to Malaga and then to Barcelona. Thanks to the preliminary work completed by Albert Remans, Jose Aquesolo and Maria-Lluisa Berasategui, these transfers could take place under excellent conditions without affecting the administration of IASI's affairs.
- transferring the bank accounts from Belgium to Finland, residence of our Treasurer Anitta Palvimaki who worked hard in this field and particularly relocated the IASI book-keeping and financial archives after Albert Remans resigned.
- updating the official registration of IASI in the Chamber of Commerce of Den Haag (Netherlands) and obtaining the receipt necessary to open a new bank account in Finland.

All these modifications enabled us to stabilise and facilitate, through the sharing out of the tasks, the administration of the Association, after the upheavals caused by the departure of those previously in charge.

Key issues for the future:

- To maintain the administrative structure of the Association effective in order to meet the needs of its members.

About communication and services to IASI members :

Although the IASI is managed on a purely voluntary basis and with a limited financial potential, it has succeeded in developing many activities in this field. Nevertheless this effort is still too concentrated on few people and should be shared better in the future.

- Organising, with the help of the Executive Secretary, regular annual meetings of IASI and, in particular, the executive Committee and the Forum: Barcelona 2002, Havana 2003, Lisbon 2004.
- Compiling, printing and distributing, by mail or by post, the Minutes of our statutory meetings.
- Regular updating of the IASI member list undertaken by our Treasurer and Executive Secretary.
- Creation and running of a new IASI website more informative, content-rich and professional, in collaboration between the ahwg "IASI website" chaired by our Publications Officer and SIRC.
Creation of the IWAIC Standing Committee (IASI Website, Archives and Information Committee) to be voted in our statutes during this General Assembly, in order to replace the ahwg IASI Website.
- Regular publishing of the Newsletter under the aegis of Gretchen Ghent, disseminated both through Listserv and paper format.
- Developing the World Directory of information centres and experts in order to give the possibility of finding easily a sports information centre or an expert in a specific field (see the report A.13.4.).
- Maintaining the IASI Listserv by the Wingate Institute in order to provide a valuable communication service to the increasing number of members having access to the internet.
- Publication of a new IASI brochure, devised by our former Executive Secretary, Jose Aquesolo, as a strategic tool to promote our Association.

- Thanks to the work of the members of this workshop co-ordinated by Mrs Cindy Slater in relation with the local Organizers, the IASI 2005 Congress was prepared under good conditions. A Congress website was created (www.iasicongress2005.org) with a link from IASI.org.
- Updating the IASI World Congress Guidelines with more details on the expectations and timelines for hosting an IASI World Congress.
- Launching a survey on our members needs, the results of which will be given in a paper read to this Congress by Mrs Hege Underthun and Mr Georg Anders.
- Publication of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group in order to review and recommend methods for acquiring and disseminating sports and physical education test information by our publications Officer.
- Creation of the ahwg on events results databases, chaired by Mr Hartmunt Sandner.
- To continue to develop the IASI web site and particularly create the sections in languages other than English, transfer the World Directory of sports information centres and experts, develop hotlinks to web sites meeting the educational goals of IASI, and add information on sports resources.
- To use the results of the members survey in order to meet our members' needs better.
- To prepare the future IASI annual meetings and the next quadrennial World Congress.
- To update the "Manual for a Sports Information Centre".

OBJECTIVE 2

- **To encourage and support national, regional and international initiatives in sports information development in accordance with IASI's main aims and to provide guidance and assistance in this development.**

At a national level, the activities depend on the vitality and sometimes on the perennality of the centres carrying them out. The difficult economic situation prevailing in many countries during the last few years has unquestionably had an incidence on the development and even on the maintenance of various sports information and documentation centres.

At the regional level, the activities will be reported on in more details by the vice-presidents. I would only like to give the highlights of the different regions.

In Africa, I am pleased to report that a second seminar was organised in Maputo (Mozambique) in April 2004, thanks to the support of the "South African Sports Commission's Information and research" and the "Maria Mutola Foundation", which made it possible to gather and involve 26 representatives of the NOC in the area with the problems put by sports information.

In North America NASLIN is still very dynamically continuing its activities, particularly the organisation of its biannual conference and the production of its "newsletter" which is distributed to IASI's members.

In Latin America, the Association Iberoamericana de Informacion Deportiva-Sportcom was restructured with new people in charge. I hope that it can quickly resume its activity particularly the production of the Atlantes databank.

In Asia, following the important changes occurred in the Honk Kong Sports information centre, the ASIA network is dormant. I think it is important that it resumes its activities quickly for the benefit of the influence of sports information in this densely populated part of the world.

In Europe, sports information is generally well established. The Sports information centres regularly develop their offer. I would like to emphasize the development of "COMPASS" established for seeking the coordinated Monitoring of Participation in Sports within the Council of Europe countries.

A second initiative was launched in 2002, the EKOS project, in order to create an European Platform of sports information on the internet. Unfortunately, because of one of the partners of the consortium, the project, on which IASI Europe had worked hard could not be deposited with the European Commission and did not succeed.

In Oceania, the AUSPIN network, led by the National Sports Information Centre of Canberra (Australia) still very actively promotes sports information in its region through the organization of regular workshops and seminars.

At the international level IASI has attended various meetings including the ICSSPE Pre-Olympic Congress and its Association and Editorial Boards meetings, the European Year of Education through Sports 2004-EYES 2004 Conference, the Conference of the ministers and senior officials responsible for Physical Education and Sports, under the aegis of UNESCO, the Congresses of EASM an ENSSEE..

Although IASI does not have the financial means necessary to support all these initiatives, the Executive Committee decided to grant the organisations appearing most useful and particularly those from developing countries. This is why guidelines for funding were created to facilitate and organise the requests

Key issues for the future:

- to encourage regional meetings linked with the setting up or the development of regional sports information centres.
- to encourage the development of regional networks.
- to encourage the development of topics info packages.

OBJECTIVE 3

- **To apply new technology for the effective management of sports information and to facilitate the sharing of sports information in all parts of the world.**

During these last four years, new information and communication technologies were increasingly used within IASI, which gained an image of modernity and reference in the community of sports and physical activities. The best example is the e-mail which is now used by 96% of our members.

As far as IASI members are concerned, they multiplied local web sites , provided their catalogues, resources and services on the Web, set up open archives and generally used the new technologies, in a proportion I described before.

As far as the Association itself is concerned, the efforts mainly aimed at creating a specialised heading on the web site. Thanks to the significant work of our “Publications Officer”, the heading “Information technology” was put on line. There the visitors can find the resources and links allowing them to be informed of the relevant evolutionary topics and tendencies.

In this context, I would like to mention the development of SPORTDiscus undertaken by SIRC and particularly the integration of the two databases Héraclès and Atlantès and the data of the Olympic Catalogue of the Lausanne Museum.

The production of search guides to these resources, available in particular on the IASI web site, facilitates the access to these information sources.

Lastly, the creation of the International Contributors Committee to SPORTDiscus (ICCS), suggested by the ExCo of Lisbon 2004 and presented to the approval of the AG in Beijing, will lead to a higher level of contribution from a wider range of countries.

These new technologies allow better communication and better access to information sources. We should now facilitate their use by all our members, focusing on those which still experience economic, technical or managerial limiting conditions.

Key issues for the future:

- To encourage the initiatives undertaken by IASI members in order to promote their sports information resources using the new information technologies.
- To follow the developments of information technology, and particularly to update the specialised contents of the IASI web site in collaboration with the IACSS (International Association of Computer Science in Sports).
- To organise a specialised session during each annual IASI meeting in order to deal with the last technological developments in our professional fields.
- To increase the international contributions to SPORTDiscus

OBJECTIVE 4

- **To develop strategic alliances with other organizations operating in the field of sports and physical activity and to promote an awareness of the activities of IASI to these organizations.**

Over the past four years IASI has strengthened its relationship with international organisations, especially the ICSSPE and the IOC which recognized our Association officially.

The contacts with ICSSPE have very regular, particularly through our attendance at the annual meetings of the Associations Board, to which we belong according to the regulations.

Very concrete actions were decided upon:

- participation of IASI Publications Officer, member of the ICSSPE Editorial Board, in the publication of the ICSSPE Bulletin, and in various special issues of the specialised periodical “perspectives”;
- organisation of a Cybercafé in the Thessaloniki 2004 pre-Olympic Congress which was as successful as that of Brisbane in 2000;

- continuation of the Share the Knowledge program to distribute Human Kinetics books to developing countries.

Concerning the IOC, I must say that the new Presidency and the subsequent internal changes did not break our excellent relations but did not either lead all our projects to their term.

The information sector is now managed by Mr. Philippe Blanchard, “Director of Information Management”, who becomes our direct interlocutor and will provide access to all the departments involved in sports information.

Among the projects examined, I would like to mention :

- to attend our Beijing Congress and produce a paper as Keynote Speaker,
- to assist the Sports info centres of developing countries and provide access to SPORTDiscus with reduced rates,
- to update the “Manual for a Sports Information Centre”
- to participate in the COMPASS project (statistics on sporting participation) managed by our colleague Bruno Rossi-Mori and in the project aiming at coordinating national sports results banks, managed by our colleague Hartmut Sandner.

Over these years, the IASI has also continued to collaborate with the international organisations at a regional level. It was contacted by several organisations for purposes of recognition which shows that our Association is acknowledged today as a major actor in the world of sports information.

In Europe the IASI attended all the annual Congresses of the EASM (European Association for Sports Management) and the ENSSEE (European Network of Sports Science, Education and Employment) during which an exhibition stand and a speech enabled to promote the activities of IASI and the visibility of our Association before this specific community.

We are currently about to sign an agreement with the IACSS (International Association of Computer Science in Sports), which will allow the two associations to develop their work and exchanges in the field of new information and communication technologies.

In North America and Oceania, NASLIN and AUSPIN respectively developed their own activities, in close connection with IASI.

Last, we strengthened last year our links with SIRC by the signature of a new Letter of agreement updating and widening the possibilities of collaboration between our two institutions.

This is more precisely reported in the ahwg IASI-SIRC relations (A.12.3.)

Key issues for the future:

- To keep contacts with the key organisations we are in relation with.
- To establish a list of outside organizations that the IASI could contact and work with.

OBJECTIVE 5

- **To develop a marketing strategy which will increase and sustain the membership of IASI and promote the value of sports information to outside organizations.**

We are not effective enough in these crucial times when local economic difficulties, competing virtual environment and internal changes led to a dramatic reduction in our membership.

However various actions were decided upon:

- publication of a specialised booklet to be given out by all our VP to regional organisations meeting our objectives
- organisation of a Cybercafé at the ICSSPE pre-Olympic Congress
- organisation of a workshop, an exhibition stand or a conference at the EASM and ENSSEE Congresses
- management of regional and national networks (NASLIN, AUSPIN, NORDSIB, SPORTDOC, etc...)

All this is still insufficient if it is not part of a general marketing strategy plan the guidelines of which were produced by the ahwg "Marketing plan" during the Lisbon 2004 meeting , but did not give actual results.

Key issues for the future:

- To set up a strong marketing plan in order to promote the image of the Association and its activities in the community of sports and physical activities and develop its partnership and membership.

To conclude this long review of the activities of the IASI over the last four years, I would like to stress the fact that all these results were produced by volunteers still dealing with their daily tasks and I would like to thank them very much. Nevertheless, we should not be satisfied with this situation since this new century brings along new challenges. Now that I am reaching the end of my mandate, I would like to mention three of them:

- The first is the development of our visibility and our audience in the community of Sports and Physical Activities. In this field, where the competition of visible and invisible Web is continuously increasing, we shall dominate if we give more : more products, more services, more added value to the information produced. With this intention, because of lacking means which could direct us towards professionalism, but that does not appear, we should improve our organisation by a better choice and priority of our programs of actions and especially a broader distribution of the tasks between IASI members. Currently the management of the Association relies on very few people.
- The second challenge is the maintenance of the social utility of the information professionals which constitute the large majority of our members. Someone said one day that they could easily be replaced by the Internet. In fact, they have never been so useful since huge amounts of information are available and increasingly produced everyday around the world.

The needs for initial and continuous training are considerable : many professionals having to find information on the Internet are not trained enough. The IASI can play an

active role in this field for its members' benefit by proposing seminars, products such as the "Manual", and a dynamic website in order to update professional knowledge and practices.

- Last, the essence of the IASI, an international association, naturally leads it towards a global vision of the Information Society and Knowledge, including the ethical, educational aspects and more generally the respect of cultural and linguistic diversity, a factor of enrichment for all.

The membership in the Information Society depends first on access and therefore on various interdependent conditions: economy, energy, technology, human competences. Actual inequalities were created between countries not only for economic or material reasons. In the field of communication IASI can surely contribute to attenuate these differences. The organisation of newsgroups, forums, even "blogs", could support the exchange and share of knowledge, and help to reduce inequalities.

Alain PONCET
IASI President

Paris, April 21st, 2005