



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

FIAP General Assembly 2021

President Report

Dear friends, good afternoon,

Welcome to the Second FIAP General Assembly online,

An event that once again we would all have gladly avoided but which is unfortunately dictated by the continuation of this dreadful health emergency caused by Covid19.

This year, sadly we have lost several of our friends to this terrible virus, including some who had shared with us the best moments of our last Congress in South Africa. To them, and their families, please allow me to address a special thought and prayer.

As a consequence of this pandemic, we had to cancel our annual meetings and postpone them. But now thanks to the vaccination campaigns that are reaching more and more countries around the world, we hope to finally be able to meet again next year, respecting all the safety measures that the situation may require.

In fact, the next FIAP Board of Directors meeting will be held in-person, to better analyse the actual possibility of organising the next Photo Meeting / Congress in the second half of next year, possibly between October and November.

We hope to be able to give you all the necessary information as early as next May.

Concerning the activities carried out during the year that now is drawing to a close, I will try, also with the contribution of my colleagues, to give you as broad a description as possible, so that you can all evaluate with serenity the choices we have made. But first I would like to thank all of you, as well as all the Directors of FIAP Services and their assistants, and of course the Directors of FIAP Centres. Last but not least, I want to thank all the members of the board of Directors for their incredible work and the number of hours they have dedicated to FIAP, perhaps, once again, more than usual during this period.

*As previously announced, **in January** we moved the production of FIAP cards from Romania to a specialised company in Hong Kong under the direct supervision of our FIAP liaison officer Lewis Ka Yin Choi. This change, despite some initial adjustments, is proceeding smoothly and we are confident that by early next year we will be able to respond to the continued high demand for FIAP cards.*

***In February**, we participated as partners and exhibitors in the first digital edition of the "International Summit of the Humanitarian Fraternity" organised in the Emirates by H.E Cheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan Minifor. It was certainly a great honor to be attending such a prestigious event, with leading representatives from many different countries of the world and international organizations, such as UNESCO, the United Nations, the World Council of Churches, the Red Cross, the Make a Wish Foundation and many others from important universities.*

In March, we organised by video conference the Award Ceremony of the 14th FIAP World Cup for Clubs with the valuable participation of all the winning clubs.

Also in March, to mark Women's Day, we dedicated a two-day event to FIAP women, presenting Afghan Photojournalist Farzana Wahidy and a selection of images by our authors awarded with the EFIAP Diamond distinction. Without doubt, a great event that we wish to repeat this year.

In April, we organised the Award Ceremony for "The World in 2020", a competition launched in August 2020 under FIAP Patronage, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of our Federation.

In September, through the work of the Director of World Cup for Clubs, Michele Macinai, we launched the 16th edition of this important event, whose jury was held a few days ago and the results will be announced next week. Many thanks again to the members of our jury: our Liaison Officers Ann Bastion from New Zealand, Barun Sinha from India and Petteri Mussalo from Finland. We can however anticipate that the number of participating clubs this year was 218 from 47 different countries: the highest number ever recorded in the history of the World Cup for Clubs.

In October, the award ceremony of the 29th FIAP Color Biennial was held in the castle of Forézan in France: a great event organised by the friends of the French Federation and perfectly coordinated by the Director of the Biennials Luis Franke. A special thanks to the President of the French Federation Jean Saleilles and to our Liaison Officer Alain Wittezaële for the excellent organisation and the beautiful award ceremony in presence.

In November, with the support of our friend Freddy Van Gilbergen, president of the Belgium Federation of Photographers, the jury of the 40th Youth Digital Biennial took place in Belgium. The Award ceremony will be held next May. Here, a very special mention for the great work done goes to the director of the Youth Service, Kurt Batschinski. With this wonderful event he has decided to leave the Youth Service to focus only on the Medals Service.

As from January next, the Youth Biennials will merge into the Biennial Service under the direction of Luis Franke whereas the FIAP Youth Service, whose task is to create new initiatives for the FIAP youth, will be entrusted to Ahmed Al-Busaidi, already our liaison officer for Oman and Director of the FIAP Exhibition Center in Muscat. Good luck Ahmed.

In the same month, a Cooperation Agreement was signed with the Lishui Municipal People's Government to hold the "FIAP World Photographers Conference" every two years in Lishui (China), starting in 2022.

Also in November, as promised, we published "Wildlife only", the new competition under FIAP patronage dedicated to all our photo naturalists. A great Wildlife contest that will allow the winner to participate as a "special FIAP guest" at the next Photo Meeting / Congress.

And finally in November we also organised, once again by videoconference, the Award Ceremony of the 15th FIAP World Cup for Clubs, with the participation of the winning clubs.

To what has already been said, we must add, at administrative level.

- the incredible work done, in particular by the Director of Distinctions Freddy Van Gilbergen, the Director of Patronage Romain Nero and the Director of Medals Service Kurt Batschinski. They have managed the considerable increase in the number of competitions and the number of requests for FIAP medals and distinctions in the last 12 months in the best possible way.

- *The decision taken last March by the FIAP Board of Directors to take exceptional economic measures to address the difficulties faced by a large number of FIAP members. Decreasing until June 30, 2023 the costs of Patronage, Medals, FIAP Photographer's Card and FIAP Distinctions.*
- *Update of MFIAP pages on the FIAP website, including all portfolios scanned during 2020.*

Epecially important was also the activity carried out by all the Directors of FIAP Exhibition Centers, who organised an incredible number of events under the FIAP "Auspices", making our Federation increasingly known and appreciated.

In this regard I would also like to announce the opening of two new FIAP Centers: the first one last May in Ukraine, in the beautiful Uzhhorod Castle, coordinated by Mr. Volodymyr Norba, and the second one in September in Jakarta (Indonesia) at the "Indonesia Institute of The Arts" coordinated by our Liaison Officer Harjanto Sumawan and the Dean of Faculty of Recorded Media Arts, Dr. Irwandi, S.Sn.

The next Exhibition Center will be inaugurated next February in Villefranche de Conflent in France and will be coordinated by the President of the French Federation himself Jean Saleilles together with the Mayor of Villefranche.

A special mention goes to our online magazine "FIAP News" which in the last 12 months has had a further exceptional development thanks to the work of our Director and Liaison Officer for Australia Bronwen Casey and our FIAP Photo Academy online Events, coordinated by our Officer for Ireland, Paul Stanley. As you may recall it was founded at the end of last year, to organise Online Events dedicated to our members.

These events have seen the participation of almost 5000 authors from over 45 different countries and there have been 14 speakers so far, including some of the greatest masters of contemporary photography, such as Michael Freeman, Reza, and Manoocher Deghati, Tino Soriano, Coskun Aral, Farzana Wahidy, to name but a few. Next week, the year will end with the American photographer Art Wolfe.

Recordings of these events are already available on our YouTube channel.

Finally, I have continued to pursue the "We stay connected" project, which involves a "one-to-one" meeting with all Liaison Officers, intending to establish a direct relationship to develop better and mutual collaboration.

These, dear friends, are the most important events and projects carried out by the Board of Directors during this period, but there are still others that we know need to be addressed.

We will certainly do our best in the coming months to make FIAP even more present at every level.

Thank you again for your attention. I truly hope that next year, as I have already said, we can, at last, get together, raise our glasses in person and finally embrace each other.

Thank you, dear friends.