



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE The International Federation of Photographic Art

36th FIAP Congress

JAIPUR - INDIA: 01 - 07 November 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Presidents, Liaison Officers of FIAP Operational Member Federations, and esteemed FIAP Directors, it is with great pleasure that I address you today at this truly historic moment for FIAP—our first Congress held in India.

This milestone event has been made possible thanks to the generosity and dedication of our friends from the Federation of Indian Photography, to whom I extend our deepest gratitude on behalf of us all.

First and foremost, I would personally like to thank each of you—members of the FIAP Board of Directors, Directors of FIAP Services and their assistants, Directors of FIAP Exhibition Centers, and Liaison Officers.

Your commitment, tireless efforts, and passion have enabled FIAP to maintain its prestigious standing within the global photographic community, even when facing significant challenges such as the pandemic.

To continue fulfilling our role as a leading global photographic organization, we must embrace change, increase our flexibility, and expand our expertise across various fields—legal, financial, administrative, technical, and digital. Achieving this goal will require greater and more active participation from each of you, as well as ongoing support from those holding key coordinating and representative positions.

Additionally, I encourage those among you who are willing to step forward as volunteers to support the Liaison Officers, Service Directors, and Board of Directors in their ongoing efforts.

Your contributions will be invaluable in ensuring FIAP remains at the forefront of the international photographic community.

Growth and Expansion

FIAP continues to strengthen its position as the world's leading photographic organization. Our global presence has expanded significantly—from 96 countries in 2012 to an impressive 120 countries in 2024. This growth is evident across multiple areas:

- The number of FIAP Patronage competitions has steadily increased, demonstrating resilience and continued growth even during the pandemic years, rising from 564 in 2019 to 677 in 2023.

- Events held under FIAP auspices have also shown consistent expansion, driven in part by the establishment of new exhibition centers—growing significantly from just 5 exhibitions in 2005 to 83 in 2024.
- There has been an exponential increase in FIAP distinctions, resulting in an unprecedented workload compared to previous years. Special acknowledgment is due to our friend Freddy Van Gilbergen and the entire FIAP Distinctions Service for their remarkable dedication.

This sustained growth has positively impacted FIAP's financial resources, which increased from €1,167,342 in 2019 to €1,654,551 in 2023, enabling us to launch new and ambitious projects more frequently.

Key Accomplishments

- The 8th FIAP Photomeeting was successfully organized in Gijón, Asturias (Spain), thanks to our colleagues at the Asemeyando Centre and the outstanding coordination of our friend Luis José Vigil Escalera, who also organized the FIAP Congress in 2022.
- The FIAP World Cup for Clubs has experienced a steady increase in participation over the last two editions, reaching 224 clubs in 2023, although we recognize there is still untapped potential. To further enhance visibility and encourage broader participation, registration for the 2024 edition has been made free of charge.
- Following the challenges encountered in the last Nature Biennial, we have decided to introduce a new regulation for the FIAP World Cup for Clubs, which will also be extended to all FIAP Biennials starting next year.
- The long-awaited FIAP Biennial Book has finally been completed, thanks to the dedication of Director Luis Franke, who will officially present it during this Congress.
- The 27 FIAP Exhibition Centers remain one of our most valuable assets, enhancing global recognition of FIAP and its photographers. Recent openings include Amparo, Brazil (July 2024); Toledo, Spain (June 2024); Istanbul, Turkey (March 2024); and Lishui, China (November 2023). Upcoming inaugurations are scheduled in Edirne and Balikesir, Turkey (February 2025); Paris, France (April 2025); Sulmona, Italy (April 2025); and Montevideo, Uruguay (December 2025).
- In September, we signed a partnership agreement with the Paris-based software company DXO, which we hope will be the first of many. We are currently finalizing arrangements to provide our photographers with an exclusive 25% discount on DXO products for FIAP members.

New Initiatives and Projects

- Artificial Intelligence (AI): FIAP is actively exploring the impact and opportunities presented by AI in photography. We have participated actively in global forums such as the AI symposiums held in Lishui, China, as well as bilateral meetings with PSA, to discuss the implications of AI in the photographic world and to determine future steps in this rapidly and continually evolving field.
- Decentralized Board Meeting: With the aim of enhancing FIAP's global visibility and expanding its activities, we decided to decentralize the meetings of the Board of Directors. As part of this initiative, the FIAP Board meeting was held last April

in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with participation from all Gulf countries. On this occasion, various opportunities for future collaboration were explored, and I am pleased to announce that the next FIAP Youth World Cup will take place in Bahrain in December 2025.

- FIAP Academy: Established in 2020, the Academy consists of two distinct sectors: the *FIAP Photo Academy Online Events*, led by Director Paul Stanley, and the *FIAP Academy Training*, managed directly by the FIAP Board.

FIAP Photo Academy Online Events: Over the past two years, numerous events have been successfully organized, showcasing both challenges and achievements. More than 2,000 photographers from over 50 countries have had the opportunity to participate in these online sessions free of charge, gaining insights from some of the most renowned international photographers.

FIAP Photo Academy Training: Launched the inaugural Universities & Academies Photographic World Cup, an initiative aimed at fostering emerging photographic talent. The young winners from Sri Lanka, Oman, and Iran, together with the deans from the three winning faculties in India, Oman, and Indonesia, had the opportunity to showcase their work and explore prestigious venues across China, including the acclaimed Photo Beijing. This 13-day experience also featured participation from esteemed masters of international photography, notably Manoocher Deghati and Tom Ang.

Special Project

- FIAP International Medical Photographers Club: First announced during the FIAP Congress in Durban, South Africa, in 2018, and revisited during the 2022 Congress in Oviedo, Asturias, this initiative has now become a reality—thanks especially to its President, Dr. Sefa Ulukan, and Vice Presidents, Dr. Krzysztof Muskalski and Dr. Franco Ameli.

Next Steps

- New FIAP Distinctions Regulation: Set to take effect on January 1, 2026, this new regulation introduces an innovative, ambitious, and unique framework for the global photographic community. It redefines the pathway toward FIAP distinctions, establishing higher standards of excellence and dedication in both artistic achievements and service contributions. The regulation offers photographers a dynamic and structured route to growth and international recognition.

Dear friends, I could continue highlighting the numerous achievements we have made, such as the newly designed FIAP distinction pins, the successful launch of FIAP Photo Days last September, and many other upcoming initiatives.

However, all these topics will soon be presented to you in greater detail by the FIAP Board members and Service Directors, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Before concluding this report, allow me to emphasize once again that all these initiatives require the active involvement of a greater number of people. Within your countries, it is crucial not only to present these initiatives but also to actively support

and promote them, ensuring they become not merely FIAP initiatives, but YOUR initiatives as well.

Let us highlight our strengths, not only by organizing competitions but also by actively engaging in various initiatives that can attract more photographers to our remarkable FIAP family.

Thank you, dear friends, for your unwavering support.

I wish you all good light and continued success.

Riccardo Busi
FIAP President