



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ART PHOTOGRAPHIQUE

The International Federation of Photographic Art

FIAP 36th Congress

Jaipur India, November 2, 2024

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

[1] Mr. President, members of the Board, dear Liaison Officers, dear Delegates

This year we are gathered in a very beautiful place, the city of Jaipur in a magical and very photogenic country, India ! We are sure that everybody will profit of the great landscapes and the wonderful people of this country in order to commemorate exceptional moments with our images.

[2] In 2023 we have had some new operational members and ILFIAPs and also some cancellations due to non-payment of their annual fees. This is something normal for every year. 2024 started with a positive financial balance and substantial reserves, a fact that allowed the support of projects such as the biennial catalog.

[3] Nevertheless, we still need an important enhancement of our social media, in order to widen our presence as the biggest and unique international federation to be officially recognized by UNESCO. Our new contact in Paris with UNESCO and the meeting already realized with the Director of affiliate associations will help improve our relations with this very important institution.

[4] On the other hand, the official opening of our coordination office in Jinan, China, marks FIAP's first official recognition by the Chinese government, facilitating the organization of events in the country. The fruit of this opening is among others the multiple and diverse events that took place in 4 different regions in China during last month.

[5] In fact, thanks to different and I would say complicated agreements with the cities of Lishui, Yantai, Jinan, and Beijing we managed to implement 4 different projects in a very short period of 20 days during October 2024.

[6] The first one was a project dedicated to young people from Universities, Academies, and Photography Schools, where the majority of the costs, including transportation and accommodation was covered by the three municipalities. That project had a great success, although we do hope that due to bureaucracy implications from the Universities, in the future a more direct communication with the students themselves would improve their participation.

[7] Following an agreement signed between FIAP and Lishui municipality in China, this town invited some renown FIAP photographers to an international conference organized biennially by the municipality, covering their accommodation.

[8] Some days later FIAP was present in the coastal town of Yantai in China, in order to celebrate the multinational Conference of China and Central and Eastern European Countries with a great collection of wonderful images and the publication of a splendid catalogue. Every one there admired the high quality of our pictures and the Chinese authorities gave officially their congratulations to our artistic approach and the high standard of the published catalogue.

[9] Finally, during the same period, FIAP sent several large-scale exhibitions to these cities, along with exhibitions on cities recognized by UNESCO as world heritage, specifically requested by the Chinese municipalities, in order to support the Photo Beijing exhibition, where FIAP as official

partner incessantly participates for the last 10 years.

[10] FIAP has started to publish the commemorative books of the Biennials, starting with 'Biennials 2022/2023'. From the 42nd FIAP Youth Biennial in 2025 the age for participation in category II will be raised from 21 to 25 years, and the categories will be up to the age of 16 years and up to the age of 25 years.

[11] In the last Nature Biennial we had from one part the pleasant surprise at Poland and Canada's participation, bringing the total number of participating countries to 21 and from the other part the unpleasant surprise to discover that the majority of pictures submitted to the FIAP Nature Biennial have had a degree of unallowed manipulation, a fact that forced the Ethics Direction to intervene in order to ask for the raw files and the Biennials Direction to postpone the official announcement of the final results.

[12] In the World Cup Service new rules focus on making this important event more attractive. The World Cup for Clubs award ceremony took place in Torrijos, near Toledo, Spain, coinciding with the inauguration of the new FIAP Exhibition Center.

[13] This was not the only new FEC in 2024. We actually have 27 exhibition centers worldwide, including 19 in Europe, 6 in Asia, and 2 in South America, with a new addition in Brazil, the Cinephoto Club Amparo and maybe one more in Bandeirante, located near São Paulo, one in Uruguay, another in Spain and another in Morocco. Unfortunately we were informed that 2 of our FECs have on the contrary ceased their activity due to various reasons.

[14] In the Patronage Service, the number of FIAP salons has remained stable compared to the previous year. Our new initiative regarding the "World in Focus" section, appears successful, if we note that 95% of salons have already adopted this change. Next to the Patronage Service lies the very important work of the FIAP Salon File Service, needed to prove the acceptances to apply for FIAP distinctions, as well for the liaison officers and the Director of FIAP distinctions to check the applications.

[15] This year was also very successful for the FIAP Distinctions. Unfortunately, Freddy communicated his intention, for personal reasons, not to seek the renewal of his mandate from the Assembly and to hand over the position of Director of the Distinctions Service after so many years in FIAP.

[16] We all need to thank him for such a successful route in FIAP after 20 years of hard work and more than 15000 applications. At the same time, we must also welcome our new Director Mr Jeff Lemmens, who worked also many years next to the Distinctions, as Director of the Collections Service and is coming now with new ideas to further promote this very important section of our photographic activity.

[17] FIAP Photo Days, is a new initiative introduced by FIAP in 2024. It is an event organized by a third party and recognized by FIAP, where FIAP Life Card holders may benefit of privileged access to photography workshops and shooting sessions with various artists for a couple of days under a special price. The first agreement related to FIAP Photo Days was the Body Painting Festival in Klagenfurt, Austria organized in September 2024, leaving extremely tight deadlines for participation, but moving forward we do hope to be able to communicate such opportunities well in advance to allow a greater number of FIAP members to participate.

Following a request from DXO, FIAP signed a partnership agreement with that company that provides FIAP members with a 25% discount on DXO product prices.

[18] In the youth service, our new Director Ahmed Al Busaidi introduced promising ideas, like the appointment of Youth Ambassadors and International Youth Photography Competitions. Nevertheless, effective dissemination of information within the member countries and to the various FIAP directors is a crucial issue that needs to be resolved quickly to enable the various FIAP initiatives to achieve real and global success.

[19] In the Medals Service there is no particular issue, apart from a few challenges with some

countries not responding to communications. It is very important to centralize the medal distribution for Europe and Asia to streamline the process.

[20] During the first 8 months of 2024 we had more than 700 FIAP Cards produced, but some of them have difficulties to reach their owners due to postal services, a fact that forced FIAP to look for alternatives asking for the help of neighboring countries.

[21] FIAP News has continued as a mode of information and communication of FIAP activities throughout the photography community, as the magazine is not only distributed digitally to our Members but is also published on the FIAP website.

[22] Since 2008, the Audiovisual Service has been working to promote the peculiarity of the photographic audiovisual, with specific regulations, organizational and production guidelines, the creation of an international collection, the reorganization of admission statistics and the alignment of distinctions. Among the activities of this important Service is a sequence with the best “Music Lovers” produced and made available for Exhibition Centers and FIAP channels that features the images from the FIAP collection of different countries having as subject music in all its meanings.

[23] During 2024, the FIAP Photo Academy Online Events has hosted seven presentations by distinguished photographers from around the world. These covered a great range of subjects – including Nature Photography, Documentary Photography and Travel Photography.

[24] In the FIAP official website most of the images have been replaced with new ones, giving the page a refreshed look, while the actual pages have been updated and some new subpages have been added to fiap.net, like the FIAP Photo Days, the 1st University & Academies Photographic World Cup and the FIAP - Medical Photographers Club.

[25] I just wanted to give you a quick update on our recent activities. You can check out more detailed reports from the FIAP Service directors.

All of us are fully committed to making FIAP even better, and we've got some exciting plans in the works for the upcoming months.

I really appreciate your attention and I hope to see you all at the FIAP Photo Meeting next year!

Ioannis Lykouris
FIAP Secretary General