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INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY
FOURTY FIFTH SESSION

SPECIAL SUBJECT:

THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES
OF ATHENS 2004

ANCIENT OLYMPIA
Commemorative seal of the 45th Session
«The Athens games last year were marked by their return to the birthplace of Olympism. The International Olympic Academy, where you will study for the next few days, is the guardian of this birthplace and of the Olympic values.»

Quotation from the message of the IOC President, Dr Jacques Rogge at the Opening Ceremony of the 45th International Session for Young Participants of the International Olympic Academy. Hill of the Pnyx, 28th July 2005
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FOREWORD

The 45th International Session for Young Participants, the oldest and most attended session of the IOA, was held in Ancient Olympia for the 45th consecutive year from 27 July to 11 August 2005. One year after the highly successful staging of the Olympic Games by Athens in 2004, the Session's special subject was «The Olympic and Paralympic Games of Athens 2004».

The Session was attended by 171 young participants (86 women and 85 men) from 93 countries, 14 lecturers (1 woman and 13 men), 12 guests (8 women and 4 men) and 15 discussion group coordinators (9 women and 6 men).

According to the established tradition, the opening ceremony of the Session took place on the Hill of the Pnyx, on the afternoon of 28th July 2005, in the presence of the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Karolos Papoulias, who also presented the International Olympic Academy’s honorary distinctions. The IOA’s Honorary Vice-President and regular lecturer at its sessions, Professor Nikolaos Yalouris (GRE), received the «OLYMPIA» award; the choreographer of the Olympic Flame ceremony for over forty years Mrs Maria Hors (GRE) received the «ATHENS» award and Mr Norbert Müller (GER), Professor of Sports History at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, lecturer and supervising professor at IOA Sessions and the President of the International Foundation for Olympic and Sports Education Mr Antonios Tzikas (GRE) both received the «DELPHI» award.

The Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports, Mr Georgios Orfanos and the Mayor of Athens Mrs Dora Bakoyiannis (who was represented by Deputy Mayor Eleftherios Skiadas) addressed participants.
The message of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Dr Jacques Rogge, was distributed to participants. Mr Eli Wolff (USA) took the floor on behalf of the lecturers and the Session was opened by the President of the International Olympic Academy and IOC Member, Dr Nikos Filaretos.

Before the opening of the Session’s proceedings in Ancient Olympia, participants visited the archaeological sites and museums of Athens, Delphi and Ancient Olympia. At the opening ceremony short addresses were delivered by the Deputy Mayor of Ancient Olympia, Mr Georgios Devves and IOA President Dr Nikos Filaretos, followed by a lecture by Professor Ioannis Mouratidis, at the Department of Physical Education and Sports of Thessaloniki University, on the pan-Hellenic Games in antiquity. After the ceremony, wreaths were laid at the stele of Pierre de Coubertin, the reviver of the Olympic Games and at the monument of John Ketseas and Carl Diem, the pioneers of the International Olympic Academy.

The Session’s work began with a lecture by the President of the IOC’s Commission for Culture and Olympic Education, Zhenliang HE, who spoke of the cultural impact of the 2004 Olympic Games, followed by the lecture of the President of the International Paralympic Committee, Philip Craven, who presented a quick overview of the Athens Paralympic Games and briefed the participants on the Paralympic Movement. Then, Dr Roland Baar, Olympic medallist in swimming, dealt with the subject of athletes at the Athens Games. The Paralympic Games of Athens was also the subject of Eli Wolff, a Paralympic athlete and researcher. After that, Philippe Blanchard, Director of the IOC’s Information Management Department, referred in his lecture to the management of the Games television coverage by the IOC. The Dean of the IOA Dr Konstantinos Georgiadis presented the Olympic Education Programme of the «Athens 2004» Organizing Committee and the Greek Ministry of Education in which he had personally been involved for the development of the curriculum and teachers’
evaluation. Dr Stavros Tziortzis, Professor at the Physical Education and Sports Department of Athens University and 6th Olympic winner in the 400 m. hurdles event at the Olympic Games of Munich in 1972 presented a comparison between the sport of yesterday and of today. The subject of women’s participation in the Olympic Games was covered in her comprehensive lecture by Ms Maha Zaoui, Physical Education Lecturer, while the relationship between sport and the pursuit of excellence was analyzed, from a philosophical point of view, by Cesar Torres, Assistant Professor at New York State University. For his part, Professor Claude David Kemo Keimbou talked about the coverage of the Athens Games by the world media. There were also two lectures dealing with legal aspects, that of the IOA’s legal adviser Mr. Michalis Anastasopoulos who referred to the legal framework of the Athens Games and the lecture of Mr Carlos Manzur who spoke of doping’s legal parameters, in relation in particular to the Athens Games. Finally, Alexandros Kitroeff, History Professor at Haverford College, gave a lecture on the involvement of politics in the history of the modern Olympic Games.

In the margin of lectures, participants presented their Olympic experience as athletes, volunteers or administrators. The Session was also attended by 12 IOA guests, including the President of the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games, Mr Amar Addadi (ALG) and the IOC’s General Director, Mr Urs Lacotte (SUI).

For the 6th consecutive year, the Session was webcast live and watched by hundreds of young people all over the world who, in cooperation with the coordinator of the internet workshop, could put questions to the lecturers thus making the IOA’s vision of worldwide education on Olympic issues a reality.

In parallel to the lectures, participants could also take part in different artistic, sporting and social activities. Workshops on literature and poetry, song, dance and painting were organized.
and participants took part in track and field, basketball, football, volleyball and swimming competitions, while at the social evenings they were able to highlight particular cultural features of their individual countries.

Through free and open dialogue in the discussion groups, participants can express their views, exchange ideas and arrive at conclusions, which are then sent to IOC Members and to the IOC’s Commission for Culture and Olympic Education. This year, the topics that were discussed included the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, women’s participation in the Olympic Movement, Olympic education programs, the principles of Olympism and others.

During the year 2005, the IOA also organized the 8th International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies and the 13th International Olympic Studies Seminar for postgraduate students.

The 8th International Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies was held in Ancient Olympia on 19-25 April 2005. The special subject of this session was: «The National Olympic Academy: Structure, Objectives and Operation» and was developed by Prof. Hai Ren, Ms. Zdenka Letenayova, Mr Marius Francisco, Prof. Dimitra Koutsouki, Dr Silvio Rafael and Dr Kostas Georgiadis in their respective lectures. Ninety-four participants attended the Session (31 women and 63 men) as representatives of NOAs from 71 countries and 1 guest.

The 13th International Olympic Studies Seminar for Postgraduate Students was organized from 14 June to 14 July 2005 at the IOA’s facilities in Ancient Olympia. It was attended by 39 students (20 women and 19 men) from 30 countries who presented their work during the Seminar. Lectures on the Seminar’s four teaching courses were delivered by Professors Nigel Crowther, Heather Reid, Karl Lennartz, Kostas Georgiadis, Manfred Messing, Klaus Heinemann, Mike McNamee and Alberto Reppold who supervised the students’ papers, whilst Ms Roe Panagiotopoulou also taught at
the Seminar as invited professor. Professors Jim Parry and Eleni Theodoraki were in charge of the examinations for the University of Loughborough, in the context of its collaboration with the IOA, in which 10 students took part successfully in order to obtain the 30 marks required for the Postgraduate Studies Programme.

In parallel to the 13th Postgraduate Seminar, the first Olympic Truce Session was held from 24 to 27 May 2005 at the IOA’s facilities in Ancient Olympia. The Session was jointly organized by the International Olympic Committee, the International Olympic Academy and the International Center for Olympic Truce. The IOA was represented by its Vice-President Isidoros Kouvelos, who welcomed participants and Dean, Kostas Georgiadis. The Session was attended by representatives of National Olympic Committees of countries that were until recently involved in armed conflicts, such as Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Israel, Iraq, etc., as well as representatives of Organizing Committees of the Olympic Games and international non-governmental organizations. Discussions focused on the role of sport and sports organizations in promoting the Olympic Truce and proved to be extremely constructive. In fact, it was decided that this initiative should be pursued by institutionalizing the Olympic Truce Session.

Closing this short prologue, I wish once again to thank the International Olympic Committee and the Hellenic Olympic Committee for their continuous support to the IOA’s activities.

Assoc. Professor Konstantinos GEORGIADIS
Honorary Dean of the IOA
Guided visits to the Panathenaikon stadium and the archaeological sites of Ancient Olympia and the Acropolis.
OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE 45TH INTERNATIONAL SESSION
FOR YOUNG PARTICIPANTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC ACADEMY

HILL OF THE PNYX
28 JULY 2005
The Opening Ceremony of the Session on the hill of the Pnyx. At the front, the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr Karolos Papoulias. At the back from left to right, the ICMG President Mr Amar Addadi, the President of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education Mr Zhenliang He, the IOA President Dr Nikos Filaretos, the deputy Minister of Culture with responsibilities for Sports Mr Georgios Orfanos, the Vice-President of the HOC and the IOA Mr Isidoros Kouvelos and the deputy Mayor of Athens Mr Eleftherios Skiadas.
PRICE AWARDING
by the International Olympic Academy

Price «OLYMPIA»: Prof. NIKOLAOS YALOURIS (GRE)
Price «ATHENS»: Mrs MARIA HORS (GRE)
Price «DELPHI»: Prof. NORBERT MÜLLER (GER)
and Mr ANTONIOS TZIKAS (GRE)

Prof. NIKOLAOS YALOURIS (GRE)

Nikolaos Yalouris, distinguished archaeologist and a pure sports fan, was born in Smyrna of Asia Minor. After the Asia Minor War, he settled as a refugee in Athens, where he grew up and studied at the School of Philosophy of the Athens University. After the Second World War, he continued his studies in classical archaeology at the University of Basel in Switzerland and obtained the Doctor’s degree. He served for 35 years at the Archaeological Service as Curator of Antiquities of West Peloponnese, Director of the National Archaeological Museum of Athens and General Inspector of Antiquities and Restorations of the Ministry of Culture.

Since 1958 he is in close cooperation with the Hellenic Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Academy, offering his services not only as a full member of the Ephoria, but also as a regular lecturer at the IOA’s Sessions. He has never ceased to contribute with his rich scientific work and his benevolent offer to the propagation of the ideals of the modern Olympic Movement, remaining always a good teacher and a precious friend for all of us.

Professor Yalouris is an Honorary Vice-President of the IOA.
Mrs Maria Hors, eminent Greek choreographer, marked with her diachronic presence the modern ritual of the Lighting of the Olympic Flame. Her first participation dates back in 1936 when, still a student in Koula Pratsika’s School of Dance, participated as one of the Priestesses in the Lighting Ceremony of the Olympic Flame in Ancient Olympia for the Olympic Games of Berlin, with Mrs Pratsika herself being the Head Priestess. She completed her professional studies in dance in Greece and abroad, studying archaeology at the University of Athens at the same time.

She was a member of the Pratsika dance group for many years, she organised the department of rhythmic exercises and gymnastics.
at the Lyceum of Greek Women and worked as a permanent choreographer at the National Theatre of Greece for more than 30 years. From 1964 until today she has the leading role as a choreographer in all the Lighting Ceremonies of the Olympic Flame. She always remains pioneer and very energetic, enriching the modern expression of the ancient beauty with innovative musical and dancing elements, in her personal way that never ceased to delight us.

**Prof. Norbert Müller (GER)**

Norbert Müller, a distinguished historian on History of Sports and Olympism, chair at the University Johannes Gutenberg of Mainz, is
Awarding of the prize «DELPHI» to the professor Norbert Müller by Mr Karolos Papoulias.

Awarding of the prize «DELPHI» to Mr Antonios Tzikas by Mr Karolos Papoulias. In the middle Dr Nikos Filaretos.
an important personality in the Olympic Movement. Being a track and field athlete from 1964 to 1970, he also studied Physical Education, French and General History at the Universities of Mainz, Graz and Munich.

His thesis on the subject: «The Olympic Idea of Pierre de Coubertin and Carl Diem and its Materialisation in the International Olympic Academy», determined from the very beginning his love and interest in this Institution that promotes and defends the ideals of Olympism at an international level.

Norbert Müller, with his rich scientific work and his overall action from the high-ranking administrative positions that he holds in Commissions relevant to sports in his country and in the IOC, has already received international recognition. His course within the IOA from 1968, when he first participated as a student, till today, has marked the course of a brilliant scientist who has never ceased supporting and enhancing its educational role.

**Mr ANTONIOS TZIKAS (GRE)**

The industrialist, Antonios Tzikas, has been distinguished as a top sports official of our country through his personal and collective sports action. His presence at the Hellenic Olympic Committee since 1974, in his capacity as a member, has marked a series of positions and public offices, through which he served with consistency and devotion the Olympic and Sports Ideal.

He acted as President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee from 1993 to 1997, *Chef de Mission* of the Hellenic Olympic Team at the Olympic Games of Moscow 1980 and President of the International Institution of Olympic and Sports Education; he also strongly recommended to the Pedagogical Institute of the Ministry of Education the introduction of the Olympic Education in the schools of our country.
Through his fifty-year contribution to sports, he belongs to the romantic generation of the Olympic Movement and he keeps on offering uninterruptedly his services with the passion of a true idealist. Through the awarding today, we honor not only a distinguished sports fan, but also a precious friend and an old colleague.
MESSAGE
from the President
of the International Olympic Committee,
Dr JACQUES ROGGE (BEL)

Dear participants of the 45th Session of the International Olympic Academy,

Welcome to Athens!

I should have been very happy to speak before you on Pnyx Hill, in the city of Athens, where unforgettable dream Games took place last year.

I should like once again to congratulate the city of Athens, its citizens and the whole of the Greek population.

Dear young participants,

The Athens Games last year were marked by their return to the birthplace of Olympism. The International Olympic Academy, where you will study for the next few days, is the guardian of this birthplace and of the Olympic values.

Olympism can be studied from the most varied angles: through history, symbols, venues, sport and the values linked to sport and Olympism.

I am convinced that you will appreciate this course and that it will allow you to discover new and enriching aspects.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games will be at the heart of your discussions in Olympia. These Games are at the centre of the IOC’s

1. The message of Dr JACQUES ROGGE was distributed to the participants, since he could not attend the Opening Ceremony.
main mission, alongside the promotion of the values of Olympism. Today, and more than ever, the Olympic Games are the most popular sporting event in the world – the universal meeting of youth.

The Games transcend cultural, religious and political differences; magnificently symbolised by the Olympic Village, a place of brotherhood and universality.

Today, we enjoy an ever-growing interest in and recognition of the Olympic Games – and also the trust of the political and economic worlds, the media and general public.

A recent survey revealed that the Olympic rings are still one of the most recognised and powerful emblems in the world; and this is also among your generation, the 16 to 25-year olds.

If we want to retain such a level of popularity, good governance by the IOC and an accent placed on the importance of the values of Olympism are appropriate.

Our role as guardian of the Olympic Games and the values that they represent is to ensure that they remain of excellent quality and that they are still a source of inspiration for the youth of tomorrow.

We must defend the values in which we believe: sport at the heart of human development, support to the athletes and of their right to practise a sport in a spirit of fair play, exempt of racism and other scourges of today’s world.

The future and success of the Games is connected to zero tolerance for doping and for any unethical conduct.

Dear young participants,

Never forget that sport is a formidable educational tool, which teaches tolerance and respect for others, and brings hope, pride, identity and health, thus shaping the body and mind.

You who are the managers, coaches, doctors, and journalists of tomorrow, on returning to your respective countries be the emissaries and advocates of these values!

Before concluding, I should like to convey my most sincere thanks
to the President of the International Olympic Academy, my colleague and friend Nikos Filaretos.

And to the speakers for their commitment and contribution to the defence and dissemination of the Olympic ideals.

The Olympic Games correspond to the desire and dream of young generations the world over. It is up to us, all together, to perpetuate this dream.

I wish you all a wonderful Session!
MESSAGE
from the President
of the Hellenic Olympic Committee,
Mr MINOS KYRIAKOU (GRE)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As it has ceaselessly been happening for the last 45 years, Greece hosts, once again, young people from all over the world, aiming, on the one hand, at their initiation into the secrets of the Athletic Spirit and Olympism and, on the other hand, at laying the foundations for the creation of the next generation of researchers and international propagators of the Olympic Spirit.

The annual Session of the International Olympic Academy constitutes a unique international initiative of our country, which hosts and in numerous ways supports, through the Hellenic Olympic Committee, the contemporary «amphitryon», which is the only, internationally recognized by the International Olympic Committee, cultural sports center.

One year has passed since the successful organization of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Greek people are capitalizing the versatile and multidimensional benefits of this unique in the whole world undertaking. Benefits that are not limited to the ultra-modern Olympic facilities, the road and transport developments, the works of construction or the security systems...

Greece has mainly succeeded in upgrading the Olympic Games, giving them back their real meaning and revealing their real content.

1. The message of Mr MINOS KYRIAKOU was read by the Vice-President of the HOC and the IOA, Mr ISIDOROS KOUVELOS.
Greece was not just the «administrator» of a complex enterprise or of the heritage of a glorious past, but the country that has given a new dimension to the most significant meeting of all the peoples on Earth and revived the Ideals of Sport, of the Olympic Spirit, of the Golden Mean.

Today, here in Athens, the eternal Olympic Capital that revived the Olympic Games three times in the last 109 years, through the «main Session» of the International Olympic Academy, this «Olympic experience» is being capitalized on an academic level as well.

I would like to underline that, within the same framework, the Hellenic Olympic Committee, the guardian of the Olympic Movement in Greece, is already attempting to integrate the great profits from the organization of the Olympic Games in Athens into the context of the Athletic Movement. Simultaneously, it tries to create new fields of action in Education and Culture, so that the Athletic Ideal can evolve within the great spectrum of the Hellenic Society.

I welcome you in Athens, the city that gave birth to the Intellect, the Dialogue and the Democracy and I wish you every success in the works of the Session.

Thank you.
ADDRESS
by the Deputy Minister of Culture
with Responsibilities for Sports,
Mr GEORGIOS ORFANOS (GRE)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the new participants, as «Ambassadors of goodwill», to the 45th Session of the International Olympic Academy in Greece.

We welcome you in Athens, the city that successfully organised the greatest sport and cultural celebration of all, the 28th Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games of 2004.

Your presence here today is a great honour for all of us, but, first and foremost, it honours the Olympic spirit and the idea of Olympism which was born in our country and has become common patrimony.

For us Greeks, the Olympic Games were not just an event held in the sports venues. They fulfilled, at the same time, our glorious historical past and our rich Greek tradition. When Baron Pierre de Coubertin conceived the idea of reviving the Olympic Games, he set as a prerequisite that they should be international. Indeed, globalization, fraternization and peaceful coexistence are the main elements of Olympism, as it was first conceived in 1894 and fulfilled by the 1896 Games that were held in Athens.

Sports and competitive spirit in general are the main elements of the ancient Greek civilization. They have been fully integrated into social life and are transmuted into a way of living.

The Olympic Games, as an event of utmost importance and
worldwide gathering of free people, incorporate all these values and ideals which should be passed on younger generations.

We should bring out the «We» and leave the «I» behind us.

We Greeks kept our promise to the international Community. Through intense effort, certitude and self-confidence we managed to carry out the most complete and secure Olympic and Paralympic Games in the history of this institution.

What led to this exceptional result was mainly the solidarity and unity of the whole Greek nation who supported this venture and remained faithful to the ideals of Olympism and Fair Play and sent a message of friendship, peace and cooperation throughout the world.

Since the return of the Olympic Games to their birthplace, we have underlined even more the overall effort to productively promote the Olympic ideals, the active participation in Sports, the Olympic truce and Fair Play.

«The whole world pays tribute to Greece» those were the exact words of the IOC President, Mr Jacques Rogge, during the opening ceremony of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Mr Rogge also expressed the IOC’s gratitude to the Greek population and the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Konstantinos Karamanlis, for organizing «magical, dream and safe» Olympic Games in Greece.

The message of the round-the-world Torch Relay, of the thousands of volunteers and of hospitable Greece brought out and promoted the contemporary and creative image of a country that contests, ventures, fights systematically and succeeds.

The Greek Government and all we Greeks are determined to safeguard and turn to our own advantage this valuable legacy, making sports the focal point of everyday life for every citizen and especially for the new generation.

This year, in particular, that the United Nations Organisation has declared 2005 to be the International Year of Sport and Physical Education, the Greek successes encourage the systematic develop-
ment of Sports throughout the country and combined with the rest of the infrastructure in transport, communication and new technologies contribute to the development of the whole country.

The position of Greece in the European and international sport field has been upgraded. It now has every potential to claim for international and European sport organizations.

Dear friends,

In your turn, by participating in this Session, you are asked to turn to your advantage the concerns and conclusions drawn from the works of this Session, so as to play a leading role, each one of you in his/her own way, in spreading the Olympic ideals.

I am sure that this historic place, where you are now seated, will inspire you to put forward and discuss your ideas and suggestions as regards both the present and the future of the supreme institution of the Olympic Games, of peace, noble emulation and fraternity for all the people of the world, an institution whose meaning and value are being changed in the 21st century.

Thank you very much.
MESSAGE
from the Mayor of Athens,
Mrs DORA BAKOYIANNIS (GRE)

Ladies and Gentlemen,
In a few days we will have covered a year’s time since the unforgettable opening ceremony of the 2004 Athens Olympics. In some respects it seems as if it was just yesterday; in others as if centuries have elapsed!
The Greeks, and their capital city, Athens, have returned to the exigencies of everyday life; to the preoccupations and anxieties of living. Yet, I believe that in the hearts of all Athenians still lingers that feeling of exaltation and achievement, which placed their city and their country, in the eyes of the world, at an all together different level.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I would now like to turn our attention to the broader concern of the future of Olympism and its ideals. I consider this occasion as particularly suitable for doing so. The International Olympic Academy welcomes today its new participants. And it is these new participants that will carry its ideals well into the future.

Let me first say, ladies and gentlemen, that Athens has done its best to serve the Olympic spirit both during the Olympic and the Paralympic Games of 2004.

We tried to link the ancient with the modern Games; to imbue

1. The message of Mrs DORA BAKOYIANNIS was read by the Vice-Mayor of Athens, Mr ELEFTHERIOS SKIADAS.
them with a breath of humanity, as was particularly evident in the opening ceremonies of both the Olympic and the Paralympic Games. We have linked them –for the first time to such an extent– with culture and art, staging more than a thousand, large and small, cultural events before and during the Games.

We have also tried to revive the ancient Olympic Truce, and to give it a meaning relevant to the exigencies of conflict in the modern world.

So, Athens can be considered as a new start: A new start, but a start that needs to be complimented with a variety of policies in order to truly invigorate the ideals of Olympism.

The first thing that comes to mind, when recollecting our experience in Athens, is that the Games must gradually acquire a new character. A character at the same time more modest and more essential: modest in their dimension and costs; more essential as far as their sporting context, their procedures, evaluation and projection to the world, are concerned.

Athens has done its best to show to the world that a medium, even small, sized country can succeed in fulfilling the obligations of such a gigantic undertaking. Yet, it must be plainly admitted that we did so by paying a very high cost in order to meet these obligations.

It is no accident, therefore, that in the present contest, that for 2012 which ended with the selection of London, only the largest and richest cities participated. We warmly congratulate London for its success and we are sure that they are also going to stage wonderful Games. And we extend our deepest sympathy to this marvellous city for the tragedy that hit it within hours from its selection, turning its exaltation to grief. But selecting only among the richest and most powerful must not become the norm for the Olympic Games of the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
A second question concerns the true ability of many nations in
the world to participate in the Games under conditions of true equality.

The International Olympic Committee is certainly doing its best to help them, in whichever way it can, to form their athletic teams and to empower them to participate on equal terms to the Olympics. Still, there is much more to be done until we achieve conditions of true equality.

A third consideration, ladies and gentlemen, is the promotion of Olympic ideals during and between the Olympic Games, in a wider context than that simply of athletics. Be it culture, philanthropy, the environment, or international relations, we need to endow the world with the power of Olympic ideals. We need the Olympic spirit in many more aspects of life than just athletics.

A fourth, and last, thought of mine concerns the means we need to adopt in order to promote and consolidate the idea of the Olympic Truce.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I’m confident that all these preoccupations are shared by the old and the new participants of the Academy alike.

And, to return to the Athens Olympics and to their legacy, let me say that the balance in evaluating them leans clearly towards the positive side. We’ve got a new multi-faceted infrastructure; we presented the world with a new image at the beginning of a new century; Athens’ man power has shown it can rise to the occasion and meet any challenge. And, above all, the Games have left the Greeks with a new confidence in themselves. Let me also say, ladies and gentlemen, that I’m optimistic. Confident in the future of both Greece and the Olympic movement.

And I am grateful. Grateful to the Greek people and, most of all, to my fellow-citizens, the Athenians. They have performed miracles for their city. I am grateful to all political parties, who brushed aside their differences for the common cause. And I am grateful to you,
Mister President and dear Members of the International Olympic Committee, for your faith in Athens, for your commitment, your advice and your persistent support.

These were indeed dream games. And we owe it to all those who contributed in making them such a wonderful experience, to continue in earnest; to continue until we crown this achievement with what Athens deserves most:

A permanent place at the top of the list among the Capitals of Europe.

But we owe it also to the Olympic movement to struggle, in every possible way we can, until we can make it, as I said, not only more modest and more essential, but also of truly universal application, in as many fields of international life as possible.

Thank you.
ADDRESS
on behalf of the lecturers of the Session
by Mr Eli A. Wolff (USA)

It is my great honor to welcome each of the young participants to the 45th Session of the International Olympic Academy. I am humbled to welcome you on behalf of the lecturers.

We are here on the Hill of the Pnyx and I am sure you are experiencing the powerful energy of this beautiful and inspiring place. I hope you will take in the moment and feel the magic of the Olympic spirit in all of us.

We are gathered here today to embark on a journey to touch, breathe and embrace Olympism, the Olympic Movement and the legacy of the Athens Games. We will learn, share and grow together. We will make new friends and have experiences we will carry with us for the rest of our lives.

A few short months ago the people of Greece were host to a magnificent and historic Athens Games. There were triumphant athletic performances by heroic athletes. The Games provided many memorable Olympic experiences for people around the world. The legacy of the Games continues to enrich and strengthen this great country. The legacy of the Games has extended beyond the borders of Greece, and motivates and inspires all of us. We will have a unique opportunity to review, reflect and discuss the Athens Games.

The lecturers will present ideas and questions to engage us all in discussion and debate. Your ideas and perspectives are very important to the future of the Olympic Movement. As the educational
center of the Olympic Movement, the International Olympic Academy encourages a dynamic and interactive environment.

Each of you is a leader and each of you has the potential to make a difference in the world. I hope you will feel empowered to contribute with your ideas, your questions, and your proposals. A collaborative educational atmosphere will foster a journey that is welcoming and inclusive.

You will be able to connect with ancient Olympia in many ways. You will breathe and touch the birthplace of the Games. This opportunity is remarkable. I hope you will recognize and appreciate the privilege of your presence in Olympia.

You will be able to experience Olympism throughout your activities and your surroundings at the International Olympic Academy. Olympism will provide us with a pathway to think about diversity, non-discrimination, peace, and human rights. Olympism can help us come together as human beings where each of us is valued as equal. I encourage you to think about what Olympism will mean to you.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the President of the International Olympic Academy, Dr Nikos Filaretos. I would like to thank you for your leadership, vision, and commitment to Olympism, Olympic Education and the Olympic Ideal. You are a true example of courage and honor.

My friends, young participants, I would like to wish you the very best in your experience at the International Olympic Academy. On behalf of the lecturers, we look forward to learning, sharing and growing on a journey together with each of you.
ADDRESS AND OPENING
of the works of the Session by the President
of the International Olympic Academy,
Dr NIKOS FILARETOS (GRE)

Dear participants in the 45th Session,

I welcome you wholeheartedly in Greece and in Athens. In two days I will have the pleasure to welcome you in our installations in Ancient Olympia, where we will work together for two weeks approximately. We will examine and analyze from various points of view the subject of the Olympic and Paralympic Games of Athens in 2004. The I.O.A. always proceeds to such an analysis during the Session for Young Participants in the year following the Olympic Games.

I should point out the presence of three dear colleagues, members of the International Olympic Committee, who will also lecture in Olympia: Mr Zhenliang He, IOC member for China, President of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education and ardent supporter of our candidature for 2004, Mr Philip Craven, IOC member for Great Britain, President of the International Paralympic Committee and precious collaborator of the IOA as well as the German Olympic champion in rowing, Mr Roland Baar, who has also served as IOC member, representing the athletes.

I am particularly happy and proud that among the lecturers there are 6 who have distinguished themselves in the recent years firstly as participants, and then as discussion group coordinators in the IOA Sessions for Young Participants. These lecturers are now holding important posts as University Professors, as distinguished legal
counsels and as administrative executives in sports associations in their countries. I would also like to mention the presence of Dr Alexander Kitroeff among the lecturers, Professor at the department of History of the University of Haverford (USA). Three years ago, Professor Kitroeff asked to consult our archives, stayed with us in Olympia and enthusiastically accepted to lecture in our present session. In addition, I have also the pleasure to state that in this Session we have delegates from 101 countries. This is a fact that proves the enormous impact of the IOA worldwide.

The IOA functions as a multicultural, interdisciplinary international centre, that aims at studying, enriching and promoting Olympism. The source of inspiration for the foundation of such an institution was the Ancient Gymnasium, which shaped the Olympic ideal, by harmoniously cultivating the body, the will and the mind. In the beginning of the 21st century we are witnessing global scale changes affecting every aspect of human thought and activity.

Cultures have already entered a greater transitional period in which the images of the world that we were used to taking as granted are changing.

The interrelated scientific, technological, economic, political and social developments that characterize the course of humanity in the third millennium influence each and every idea, every norm and institution of the International Community.

This dynamic wave also opens new forms of dialogue for the future of Olympism. Moreover, as can be seen through the study of its age – long history, the Olympic ideal, has always been conceived and formed according to the wider conditions that prevailed during different periods of time.

The birth, the blossoming, the decline and the revival of the Olympic Games were the reflection of the wider cultural conditions that shaped each era. The speculations and the potentials evolving out of the modern Olympic Movement result as natural consequence in the course of the realization of such an ideal.
Olympism, in the words of Pierre de Coubertin, is not a system: it is a state of mind, a way of life. It can penetrate a wide variety of modes of expression, but no single race or era can claim to monopolize it.

The International Olympic Academy provides a unique opportunity for students, academics, athletes, artists and officials from all over the world to exchange ideas and share this state of mind in Ancient Olympia.

The wide variety of educational sessions, academic programmes and in depth research studies that are carried out by the IOA aims towards serving our vision for this new century to explore and enhance the contribution of Olympism to humanity.

The former IOC President, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, said a few years ago: «The IOA is a symbol of unity and friendship among people and continents, a very special link that unites the past to the present, tradition with the modernism, Ancient Greece to the 20th century».

Even earlier, the then IOC President, Avery Brundage, addressing young participants of a session said from the IOA podium: «For two weeks you will have the privilege of living here, in the Mecca of the Olympic Movement, in the sacred precincts that constituted a source of inspiration where Pindar and other great poets, orators, sculptors and artists of Ancient Greece gained inspiration».

Dear friends,

For the next two weeks we will all have this privilege to live together, exchange our thoughts, opinions and criticisms, but mainly to realise that we are all human beings with our faults and qualities, and above all, to learn how to love and respect one another. Only in this way will we arrive to achieve what each one of us aspires more than anything else: World Peace.

We, the older generation, are relying upon you, the younger
generation, we have confidence in you and I know that you will not disappoint us.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hereby declare open the works of the 45th Session of the International Olympic Academy for Young Participants.
OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE 45TH INTERNATIONAL SESSION
FOR YOUNG PARTICIPANTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC ACADEMY

ANCIENT OLYMPIA
30 JULY 2005
Laying of wreaths at the commemorative stele of John Ketseas and Carl Diem by the discussion group coordinator, Mr Panos Vassilaras and the lecturer and coordinator Assoc. Prof. David-Claude Kemo Keimbou.

Reading of Pierre de Coubertin’s writings by the discussion groups coordinators. Second on the left the IOA Dean, Dr Kostas Georgiadis.
Mister President,

Dear participants of the 45th International Session for Young Participants,

It is an honor for this locality to be the meeting place of young people from all over the world and at the same time the starting point for celebrations of fraternity and friendship like the Olympic Games.

All those who are gathered here today, as well as those who set foot in the peaceful valley of the Alpheios have felt the unique message, which this landscape conveys, the timeless commitment to fair play, peace, fraternity among people.

Thousands of years ago, some enlightened people responded to this call and created the Olympic miracle, an unprecedented fascinating reality.

The trials of history, the wars, have not erased the Olympic vision, but have made it stronger. The revival of the Games about one century ago turned a new page for mankind, a promising prospect for every man on this planet.

In this sacred place, therefore, just 300 meters away from the ancient stadium of Olympia, with its age-old peaceful symbolism, I welcome you all here today, noble pilgrims of these all-human values.

Your meeting is unfortunately taking place at a time when the Olympic Idea is being tested. The values of fair play, fraternity among people and peace are being pushed aside by the frenzied commer-
cialization of ideas and symbols and unbridled competition that tend to dominate our societies and international relations.

This is why we need to return to Olympia and make it a world center of values for civilization, a place of dialogue, just as it was in ancient times.

I will therefore close this short address with a quote from a speech, which the President of the IOA, Mr Filaretos, made here in 1998.

Mr Filaretos said at the time, «All those who come here, become better and more effective ambassadors of the Olympic values the world over», and he then went on to say: «I therefore believe that they could contribute, in a positive way, to the implementation of the Greek proposal regarding the Olympic Truce and the establishment of the International Truce Foundation in Olympia».

Thank you.
I said yesterday that I would have the pleasure to greet you and meet you today, here in Olympia. This is your home; this is our home and during the next few days that you will be here, I believe that you are going to realize why.

I want to say something in addition to what the mayor of Olympia just said. The International Olympic Truce Center has already been established. Its main offices are in Lausanne and Athens, and here in Olympia in our premises we have its symbolic head office. The president of the International Olympic Truce Center is the president of the International Olympic Committee and the vice-chairman is the former minister of foreign affairs of Greece, Mr George Papandreou, who is the leader of the opposition party today, and he has done quite a lot of work together with the former president of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch, in this respect.

I will not make a speech, so don’t be afraid. I would like to say just one word about a coordinator, an aboriginal from Australia, who used to be with us some years in a row and is no longer with us. It’s about Keith Sambo from Australia. The word has probably traveled around about the unexpected and unfortunate death of Keith Sambo last January. Those of you who had the blessing -for I call that a blessing- of meeting Keith, will remember him as lively, charismatic and charming person. Keith was definitely a very well respected personality in the Olympic Movement in Australia and
beyond. We will all surely greatly miss him. In his memory I would like you to stand up and keep a moment of silence.

Thank you. May God rest his soul.

I would now like to say just a few words of introduction about the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. I am not, or at least, I don’t think that I am, a chauvinist Greek, but I have been following all the editions of the Olympic Games since Munich 1972 and from these editions three Olympic Games impressed me very-very much; one in Barcelona in 1992, the second one in Sidney in 2000 and the third one in Athens in 2004. Barcelona was lively, was gay, you had happenings in every street corner, it was quite a holiday, it was quite a festivity, but traffic was unbearable. That’s why I was afraid that my fellow countrymen –because we are Mediterraneans and have the same temperament like the Spaniards– wouldn’t respect traffic as well. Finally, they did and I was very happy about it. The second one was Sidney; Sidney was fantastic in every respect, the volunteers made quite a job, an excellent job, but it had not the liveliness of Barcelona. The third one was Athens; in Athens one or two things were great and one or two things were not great. The first one was the Opening Ceremony. I think that it was quite a remarkable Opening Ceremony, which obliged my fellow colleague, Zhenliang He, to come and say to me: «You put us now into trouble about the Opening Ceremony in Beijing in 2008». On the other hand, I didn’t like at all the Closing Ceremony. It was a Closing Ceremony, which was addressed to Greek people, but not to the foreign audience, therefore it was a little bit debatable. Another good thing was that all the installations were marvelous by far exceeding the installations of Barcelona, Atlanta and Sidney because, for reasons beyond our control, they were permanent installations. It was considered that Athens should have remarkable and permanent installations, because of the fact -of the unfortunate fact- that something around 43% of the total population of this country lives
in the Athens area and the suburbs. Another good thing was the respect of traffic. I was really astonished, how obedient we were, because we are not so obedient in general. Anyway, we managed to make it. We have temperaments of Mediterraneans and our blood is boiling in our veins.

Anyway, the fact is that we managed to make good Games despite all the attacks we suffered. Before the Games we had another problem, because all the Anglo-Saxon newspapers –especially American, British and Australian ones– were attacking us. They were saying that we are very vulnerable to terrorism and things like that. The «accusations» automatically stopped 48 hours after the Greek government ordered all the security equipment worth 600 million dollars to the United States. So, money, money and money reign in the Olympics. It was an unfortunate event, but I am happy to say that we managed to go through without any incident at all, throughout the Games.

In general, they were good Games, but another unfortunate thing is that we had the biggest number of doping cases that we had ever experienced during the last 20 years or so. Among them there were three of our athletes, of Greek athletes; one was found tested positive and the other two avoided the testing which leads to the question: «why did they avoid testing?» That was another unfortunate thing. In general, I was very happy about the Games although, as I said, the Closing Ceremony was not romantic, it was not nostalgic, it was something a little bit too much Greek for the Greeks.

So, that’s my criticism. But, anyway, I am happy we managed to do it and we did it in a very good way and I hope that the Beijing Games, my dear Zhenliang, will be much better. I am sure of that for many reasons; because you have system in China, while we do not, we are just improvising every day, and after all, you are 1.350 million inhabitants and we are only 11 million. That makes the difference. So, I wish you all the luck and you know we will, as much as we can, assist Beijing in every respect.
I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the British who are here, for the brilliant success in getting the Games of 2012. Anyway, I just wanted to convey to you my own feelings about how I lived, as a spectator, the Athens 2004 Games. The analysis of these Games will come as of tomorrow morning with the speeches that will start. Thank you.
The opinions of the lecturers do not necessarily reflect those of the International Olympic Academy.
Authorization is given to reproduce articles published.
We would appreciate it if the source of such articles was mentioned.
The commemorative photo at the main stairs.
It would be difficult and somewhat unusual to talk about the pan-Hellenic games without referring to physical education in ancient Greece and the Greek people’s love for sports competition. Sports competition played a very important role in the life of ancient Greeks and we know that no other people has loved sports competition so much before or after them. It is true that there is something to learn from the sports history of a people who were able for a long period of time to combine in perfect harmony the body and the mind, as immortalized in their art.

More recent researchers believe that love for competition was a salient feature of Greek personality. Greeks wanted to be the first in anything they would undertake and this did not apply only to citizens but to their cities as well.

Already since the beginning of the 7th century there were three large gymnasia in Athens: the Academy, the Lyceum and Cynosarges. Later, these gymnasia also became schools of philosophy. We know that Plato established his school of philosophy at the Academy, Aristotle at the Lyceum and the Cynics at Cynosarges. These gymnasia were situated outside the city walls, the Academy on the west bank of the Kifisos and the other two in the
eastern part of Athens, close to the rivers Iridanos and Ilisos. The various philosophers who taught at these gymnasia gave special emphasis to physical education for young people, as can be seen in their writings. These places were an indivisible part of their life since they would spend many hours there, training, learning and discussing the questions that give a special meaning to men’s lives. Today, unfortunately the names of the three major Athens gymnasia are only associated with cultural institutions.

A significant difference between modern and ancient Greek sport resides in the latter’s practical purpose. Ancient Greeks considered sport as an essential part of their education and way of life. Today, we consider sport as a leisure activity or a game and it is only in recent years that certain people see some educational value in it.

Another difference is that the ancient Greeks strived to achieve the harmonious development of the body and the mind with music and gymnastics. Thus, the presence of musicians at sports venues was just as necessary as that of gymnasts.

A third difference is the practice of Greek athletes to compete naked at the ancient contests, a unique phenomenon never observed in any other ancient or modern people. The works of art, which Greeks have left, reflect in the most eloquent manner, their love for the nudity of their athletes. In fact the «gymnasium» takes its name from the Greek word «gymnos» (naked). The ancient Greeks could not conceive athletic contests without nudity, which they loved and preserved until the end of their games.

The ancient Greeks considered the Olympic, Pythian, Isthmian and Nemean Games as their common or pan-Hellenic games. The pan-Hellenic games were also called sacred, «stephanitai» games (at which the prize was a crown of wild olive or laurel, celery, pine or palm branches) and «eiselastikoi» (from the verb «eiselavno»[to enter]) because victors on their return to their homeland entered the city through an opening in its walls made by their fellow citizens
who said that with such brave men, we do not need walls for protection.

At these games, all Greek cities felt it was an honour to be represented by their own envoys, whose duties included the offering of sacrifices to the gods. From the middle of the 6th century B.C. these four major games became known as the circuit («periodos»). The athlete who was able to become a winner at all four games, within a period of four years, was called «periodonikis», a title that every athlete dreamed of winning. The truce was an important aspect of all these religious festivals, which allowed both competitors and spectators to travel to the venue of the games and back in safety as they went through enemy territories.

The history of the pan-Hellenic games and the Greeks’ love for sports competition are lost in the mist of prehistoric times.

Delphi, where the Pythian Games were held, was a sacred site not only in historic times by also during the prehistoric period. It seems that with the worship of Apollo musical competitions were also introduced at Delphi and they were the only contests to be held in the sanctuary until 586 B.C. In 582 B.C. gymnic games were included in the program. So, 582 in considered today as the year when the Pythian Games were established. It was during that same year that the decision was made to celebrate the games every four years like the Olympic Games. The Pythian Games, however, were not held in the same year as the Olympic games but in the third year of each Olympiad at the end of August, i.e. three years after the celebration of the games in Olympia.

The sports programme of the Pythian Games was more or less identical to that of the Olympic games. The victors won a crown of laurel, which grew in the valley of Tempe. The Pythian Games were the most important pan-Hellenic festival after the Olympic games, a pole of attraction for all Greeks who came from every corner of the Greek world.

The end of the Pythian Games probably coincided with that of
On the podium, the lecturer Mr Zhenliang He. On the right Dr Nikos Filaretos and Dr Kostas Georgiadis.

Participants, lecturers and guests standing for the Olympic anthem during the Opening Ceremony of the Session in Ancient Olympia.

Participants attending the lecture of Prof. Alexander Kitroeff.
the Olympic games or maybe occurred a few years later. Throughout their existence, these games were celebrated in honour of Apollo.

The Isthmian and the other pan-Hellenic games were associated with mythical heroes, gods and legends. The games were held in honour of the god Poseidon. The Corinthians were the main organizers of the Isthmian games more or less for the whole period of their duration. According to a tradition, the Athenian hero Theseus was the founder of the games on the Isthmus, something that was confirmed, it is said, by the fact that the Athenian delegation at the Isthmian games enjoyed special status and that the Athenians considered these games as their own festival, similar to the Panathenaea, travelling by thousands to the Isthmus for the games. The Athenians’ preference for the Isthmian games is also attested by the fact that Socrates, wishing to underline his love for Athens, had said that one of the rare occasions on which he left the city was precisely in order to attend the games on the Isthmus. Socrates’ disciple, the philosopher Plato, competed in the Isthmian Games and was the winner in wrestling. The program of these games was about the same as in Olympia. The winners received a crown of pine branches or celery. The Isthmian festival, similar to the Pythian Games, lasted for a few days, but we do not know exactly how many as we do for the Olympic games. It appears that the Isthmian Games were first celebrated in 580 B.C. and that they ended at the same time as the other pan-Hellenic games.

The Nemean Games, like the other religious games, have their roots in Greek mythology according to which their celebration is linked to the death of Opheltes. Another tradition mentions Heracles as the founder of these games held in order to celebrate the killing of the Nemean lion, one of the twelve labours of the hero who established these games in honour of his father Zeus. Whatever their origin or the name of their founder, the first official Nemean Games were probably celebrated in 573 B.C.

The Nemean Games were held in the summer, every two years,
in the second and fourth year of each Olympiad. The four major pan-Hellenic games were therefore celebrated in the following order:

1\textsuperscript{st} Olympic year: Olympic and Isthmian Games
2\textsuperscript{nd} Olympic year: Nemean Games
3\textsuperscript{rd} Olympic year: Pythian and Isthmian Games
4\textsuperscript{th} Olympic year: Nemean Games

The Nemean Games lasted a few days and included sacrifices and athletic and musical competitions. Excavations in Nemea bear witness, in the most eloquent way, to the importance of these games, which were held in Nemea and Argos. According to researchers, although they were called Nemean, these games were celebrated in Argos for most of the time.

The history of the Olympic Games is lost in the mists of prehistoric times. According to tradition, the games were probably reintroduced in 776 B.C., which means that there were athletic contents before this time, in all probability during the Greek prehistoric period. Anyway, Olympia was already a sacred site in 776 B.C. The games were celebrated every four years in honour of Zeus, at the earliest since the 6\textsuperscript{th} century onwards. The program of the ancient Olympic Games remained relatively stable through the centuries, in contrast to that of the modern Olympics, which changes all the time with the addition of new sports. The ancient Olympic Games were held, as already indicated, every four years in the summer without any interruption, despite the wars and conflicts that divided the Greek cities. The modern Games on the contrary during their short period of existence were not held on three occasions (1916, 1940, 1944) because of the two world wars.

During the Olympic as well as the other pan-Hellenic games, a holy truce was proclaimed, which lasted for about three months, starting from the date of departure of the «spondophoroi». They would leave Elis, a little before the opening of the Olympic Games, wearing a wreath of olive branches in order to announce the holy truce during which all athletes and spectators would travel to Olympia.
to attend the Games and return to their city in safety, even when
going through enemy territory. All hostilities also had to stop in the
region of Elis where no one was allowed to enter carrying arms.
The violation of the truce was considered as show of disrespect
towards the god in whose honour the festival was held. With a very
few exceptions, the Greeks respectfully observed the truce first
because it was holy and secondly because they attached a very great
importance to their athletic festivals.

Philosophers, generals, kings, poets, artists and simple people
took part in the pan-Hellenic games. Many generals and kings
wanted very much to compete in the pan-Hellenic contests and the
Macedonian kings were no exception. The Macedonian kings gave
a lot of support to the pan-Hellenic festivals, the Olympic Games in
particular. Very early, in the 6th century B.C., the king of Macedon
Alexander I, son of Amyntas, competed in the speed race at the
Olympic Games where he distinguished himself. Later on, another
Macedonian king, Archelaos, was the winner in the chariot-race at
Olympia. That same king established Olympic Games in Macedonia
(at Dion), which lasted nine days and were held in honour of Zeus
and of the nine Muses. King Philip of Macedon, the father of
Alexander the Great, was the winner in the hippodrome events at
the Olympic Games in the year 356 B.C. He also won two more
victories during the next two Olympiads.

Both Philip and Alexander showed from very early on their great
interest in the major pan-Hellenic religious festivals, the Olympic
Games in particular. They had built the Philippeion in Olympia, a
round modern building the most important edifice of that period in
the sacred precinct. The Philippeion was a jewel for the sanctuary
of Olympia, symbolizing the unity and reconciliation of the Greeks.

The pan-Hellenic athletic festivals had the power to bring
together rival Greek cities, reminding them that what united them
was much more than what divided them. The truce, with a very few
exceptions, was generally accepted by all Greeks; allowed them to
travel to their sanctuaries as spectators or competitors without being harmed by anyone. Even during the destructive Peloponnesian war, the Athenians could go freely to the Peloponnese for the Olympic or the Isthmian games. When the Greeks from the different cities attended the pan-Hellenic athletic festivals, they realized that they had many things in common, in spite of their differences. The religious centres held a very special place in the conscience of the Greeks as places of national and pan-Hellenic significance. They were the places where representatives from all the parts of the Greek world would meet to compete or to exchange views and listen to orators, poets and philosophers. What made these religious centres important was the fact that, rival Greeks who saw one another on the battlefields, could meet in friendly combat. Greek philosophers believed that their visit to the religious centres and especially to Olympia was a unique opportunity to put forth their ideas about the unification of all Greek cities.

The pan-Hellenic games played a major role in preserving good relations between Greek cities. We have to say though that this effect of the games was only temporary, as they were not able in the end to resolve their differences. The city-state system, which contributed so much to the development of the athletic and fair play, also proved to be a major obstacle to the political union of the Greeks that turned out to be a very difficult enterprise as the ancient Greeks never accepted to sacrifice their love for their city, its autonomy and its independence, for whatever price.

The sites, where the pan-Hellenic games were celebrated were sacred. We should not forget that the games were held in honour of the different gods. It appears, therefore, that, from the very beginning, the pan-Hellenic games were in some way connected with religion. This relationship lasted almost until the end, since even at the time when the gods had been ostracized from peoples’ conscience, the athletes at the Olympic games took their oath before the statue of Zeus and offered sacrifices to the god before and after
their victory. In general, we can say that the athletic contents of the Greeks remained until the end an essential part of the festival in honour of the gods and heroes. We know that, at every major festival in honour of a god or hero, the programme usually included, in addition to athletic competitions, music, drama and dance contests. In Delphi for example, apart from the athletic events, there were also musical competitions; the games in Olympia though remained strictly athletic until the end.

The athletes who participated in the pan-Hellenic games took an oath to the gods and feared their wrath, but they never felt so small and insignificant before them as modern men do. We should emphasize here that the distance that separates god from man today did not exist in ancient Greece. This distance was very small in the conscience of the ancient Greece. This distance was very small in the conscience of the ancient Greeks. Their gods were in excellent physical shape; they were strong and immortal. They always tried to emulate the first two attributes, knowing quite well that the third would always escape them. Although the games were associated with religious festivals, they did not have a ritual character. They were purely secular, aiming at promoting physical virtues, athletic competition, the development of young people’s skills and good relations between the different Greek cities. Naturally, one cannot disregard the fact that these events were held under the auspices of the gods and thus enjoyed the respect of all Greeks.

The games in fact owed their continuity and purity to this and a few other reasons. It was commonly believed that the use of any unfair means by athletes, any violation of their oath would be an insult to the god. The pan-Hellenic festivals of the Greeks owed their longevity, their purity, but also their extinction to their link with religion. Their fate might have been different if they were not so closely associated with the worship of the Olympian gods. The new religion saw in them the remnants of paganism and demanded their abolition. The new religion insisted on its demand and so the games
died together with the Olympian gods. Without their link with religion they might not have lasted for such a long time, perhaps they would not have been held in such high esteem by the people, but they might not have died in the hands of the new religion. The new religion had a serious reason to insist on the abolition of the games because they were not just associated with the old religion; they represented in fact its most splendid tradition.

Very few events in antiquity had such a strong impact as the pan-Hellenic games of the Greeks, in particular the Olympic Games, the most famous of all. In the conscience of the ancient Greeks there was no site more sacred than Olympia. The ethics of the ancient world were always predominant there. Olympia combined logic, passion, fraternity among men and fair competition. Olympia’s love for man, its morality, simplicity, humanism and holy history, as well as its philosophy gave it a unique place in people’s conscience. Just like the ancient Greeks, later generations were impressed by the ancient Olympic Games and their philosophy, a philosophy that was never forgotten through the centuries. This classical philosophy that prevailed in Greek thinking was not lost forever with the disappearance of the Olympic Games, it simply was the end of an era.

Around the end of the 19th century, an important event occurred: the revival of the Olympic games, which could become reality because this had been the dream of many people, a dream in a world that was looking for its origins, its roots, a world that tried to forget wars, and consolidate peace and mutual understanding among peoples and men. The philosophy of the modern Olympic Games, which is a prolongation of the ancient games’ philosophy, aims at promoting peaceful coexistence among the people of this earth, fair competition and enhancing international youth’s physical skills.

Very few human inventions have lasted so long or have been embraced by so many people as the ancient and modern Olympic Games. These games were and remain one of the best-known moral
values in the world, as they demand respect for the principles of fair
play and the principles of ethical behaviour.

Olympia and its games have withstood the test of time and remain
at the heart of many people’s interest all over the world. The object
of Olympia is man, his history, his anxiety and his drama as he
strives for excellence through fair competition and mutual
understanding.

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The cultural impact
of the Athens Olympic Games

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IOC Member

The Olympic Flame of the XXVIII Olympic Games at the main stadium in Athens was extinguished nearly a year ago. However, it left such a deep impression that people still have amiable and kind memories of it. The Athens Olympic Games will be recorded as a splendid page in Olympic history.

«Welcome Home»

The Athens Olympic Games were imbued with special significance. Special, because it was held in the Olympic Games’ home country. «Welcome Home!», this cordial slogan of Athens Games with rich humane connotation vividly reminds the world that the Games of the XXVIII Olympic Games had returned to its birthplace-Greece where the first-ever Olympic Games in history was held twenty eight centuries ago.

The term «home» always arouses a cozy feeling to people. Back «home» should not be understood only in terms of geography, but in terms of its historically profound cultural roots. Our Greek friends proudly demonstrated that «The Athens Olympic Games combine
history, culture and peace with sports and Olympism. The people of Greece host unique Games on a human scale, inspiring the world to celebrate Olympic values».

«Welcome Home». Did this slogan contain broader and deeper meanings? Our Greek friends didn’t explain. For all the people who are passionate about sports, the Olympic Games has been and is an unparalleled precious gift that Greece presents to the world. ‘Back Home’ is for them to seek the roots of the Olympism. But, beyond that, it is known to all that Greek civilization has given birth to philosophy, mathematics, literature etc, that constitute the basic elements of today’s western civilization, and spurred up the great «renaissance» whose splendor is still shining upon our mankind. Therefore, the significance of «Welcome Home» should not only be interpreted as to search for the roots of the Olympism, but also to present the Greek civilization to the whole world with its glory of yesterday, its revival of today, its effulgence of tomorrow.

An Olympic Games of culture and history

Every Olympic Games is endowed with its unique features which would be remembered for long. Our Greek friends were determined to present to the world «An Olympic Games of Culture and History». They elaborately designed and organized with great creativity a colorful Athens Olympic Games. From the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony down to celebrations, ritual activities and competitions, all emitted the fragrance of Greek culture and history.

The opening ceremony of the Athens Olympic Games were highly appreciated by members of the International Olympic Committee, who had experienced numerous Olympic Games and were not always very generous to give high marks. By adopting an original approach, the Athens Organizing Committee broke through the traditional style of the previous Olympic opening ceremonies which had been
practised for many years. It shook the whole world with its colorful originality in combining sports with culture, and applying hi-tech means. The opening ceremony unfolded a gigantic group of moving sculptures, composed beautiful painting and poetry depicting the profound philosophy, arts and the humanism of ancient Greece. In brief, what the opening ceremony of the Athens Olympic Games presented to the world was the long tradition of the eminent Greek civilization which constituted the roots of western culture. The opening ceremony of Athens Games reflected indeed the deep connotation of the slogan «Welcome Home».

The Olympic Games in Athens was very distinctive as well in terms of the organization of the competitions. The shot put competition imitated the pattern of the games more than 200 years ago. Athletes competed in the ancient Olympia arena and the spectators sat on the grass slopes to watch, just like in ancient times. The umpires recorded the results by handwritings. Only the journalists and the audience held modern electronic devices. Marathon athletes replayed the heroic achievement by running on the same historic route which the Greek soldier Phidipides had originally run to Athens to announce the victory of the Athenian army over the Persians back in 490 B.C. The Archery competition took place at the Panathenai-kon Stadium (Kallimarmaro), where the first Olympic Games in modern era were held 108 years ago. While competitions were shown on the electronic screen and their results on electronic scoring board, spectators sat on marble seats under the blazing sunlight.

Greek friends also made great efforts to spread their culture, notably the «Olive Culture». The bottom color of the Athens Olympic Games logo is the crystal blue of the Mediterranean Sea and sky. The logo portrays an olive wreath with very simple lines, symbol of peace and glory. After Athens was selected as the host city of the 2004 Olympic Games, IOC members were invited to plant an olive tree in a park of Athens. At the victory ceremony, the Olympic winners, besides the medals they got as in other Olympic Games,
they were crowned with an olive leaves wreath and received a bouquet of wild flowers and olive branches. The Athens Olympic Games also initiated the global torch relay which deeply impressed nearly 260 million people. The torch which was transferred hand to hand by more than eight thousand people, took shape of an olive leaf, and made partly of olive tree wood. What a subtle and creative way to carry through the aspiration for a lasting peace and international friendship!

Most of the host countries of the Games usually choose their local peculiar animals or characters from their folk tales to be mascots of the Games. The Greek sought their inspiration from the ancient clay dolls of the 7th century B.C. They humanized the dolls and named them one as Apollo, god of light and art, and another Athena, known as goddess of wisdom and patron of the city of Athens. These two mascots were adored universally.

Having very long and rich traditions in culture, the Greeks organized varied and colorful cultural programs. There were excellent performances and exhibitions from around the world, as well as the ones displaying various traditional Greek and local ethnic cultures. Numerous were the publications introducing Greece and promoting the Olympism in different languages. And Olympic readings in Braille showed in particular humanistic care of Greek friends. During the Athens Olympic Games I went twice to the Herod Atticus Theater at the foot of Acropolis to enjoy the marvelous concert and the Opera Rhea under the starry sky. Beyond my expectation, the acoustic was so good that made all the dulcet music notes reach every corner of the amphitheater and listening to the concert played by contemporary musicians, makes your thinking fly over time and space. You can hardly forget this kind of experience.

The Athens Olympic Games, with their human-centered conceptions, tried their best to care for every participant who came to their "home". The Athletes who are the main feature of the Olympic Games lived in the Olympic Village which was decorated into a
theme park of Greek Culture. I was told by athletes that in the Olympic Village they received great hospitality and really felt at home. Swarms of journalists went to Greece to cover the Olympic Games. Part of them was not accredited, because of the limited number of accreditations. The Greek authorities did not exclude them, but instead considerately established a special «news center» for them providing facilities and information service same as if not better than those in the main press center. Thus, these unaccredited journalists also had a home of their own. Finally, all the participants became messengers of Greek culture once returning to their respective countries.

Volunteers of the Athens Olympic Games were also the pride of Greece. Each one of them was an ambassador without portfolio of Greek culture. When you saw all these volunteers, male and female, young and old, some of them suffering from polio, some others being grey-haired grannies, but all doing his or her best to offer the best service, always ready to assist the Olympic participants and showing the warm hospitality of Greek people, you cannot but gasp in admiration, and acclaim that volunteers of the Athens Games deserved indeed a huge gold medal.

The organizers of Athens Olympic Games believe that a generation that will uphold the Olympic Ideals and prove that the significance of the Olympic Games lies not only in their hosting but also to the legacy they leave behind, especially in terms of the education and cultivation of youth. Undoubtedly, the Athens Olympic Games has achieved it.

On behalf of the entire Olympic Movement, Mr Jacques Rogge, President of the IOC, appraised the Athens Olympic Games as a «dream-like, unforgettable Games». Condensing the western civilization long of thousands of years, the Athens Olympic Games realized a dialogue between the modern and the ancient. As a brilliant chapter in the history of the Olympic Games, it will be engraved over the years in people’s memory with its high aesthetics and profound
thinking. For Greek people, the 2004 Athens Olympic Games constitutes an important landmark in their road toward the great resurrection after going through all the cragged paths.

**Concluding remarks**

The Athens Olympic Games achieved tremendous praiseworthy success. With its distinctive cultural identity and excellent organization, the Athens Games embodied the essence of Olympism—the integration of sport, culture and education. In my capacity of Chairman of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education, I would like to salute our Greek friends who showed to the world that only an Olympic Games refuting vulgarity and excess of commercialism is the Olympic Games in its true meaning.

The Athens Games also brought big challenges to the organizers of the coming Olympic Games. The organizers of the XXIX Olympic Games, which will be held in Beijing in 2008, will definitely benefit a lot from the experience of the Athens Olympic Games.

Greece is the origin of the occidental civilizations; while China is one of the main origins of the oriental civilizations. Culturally speaking, the Olympic Games take roots mainly in the western culture. Therefore, hosting the Olympic Games in China would be an extraordinary opportunity to mingle the eastern and western cultures. After the successful dialogue transcending the time achieved by the Athens Olympic Games, the people of the world are looking forward to Beijing to realize the dialogue transcending the space linking eastern and western civilizations. Dialogue instead of confrontation, blending instead of rejection, absorption of each others’ advantages instead of mutual exclusion of these two major civilizations in the world, will not only promote the multicultural nature of Olympism, but more crucially, will contribute to the birth of a new civilization.
of symbiosis and harmony, in the benefit of the development of the modern world.

Recently, the Beijing Olympic Games Organizing Committee has adopted as its theme the slogan «One World, One Dream». Yes, we are living on the same planet; our destiny is closely connected and we share a common future. Our common dream is to establish a peaceful, harmonious world full of mutual respect. We appreciate the precious spiritual legacy endowed by the Athens Olympic Games. The Chinese people will strive to make their contribution to the human society and will not let down the expectations the whole world puts on them.
The Paralympic movement
and the Athens 2004 Paralympic games

Sir Philip Creaven (GBR)
President of the International
Paralympic Committee

ATHENS 2004

Being back in Ancient Olympia for the first time since the close of the Paralympic Games, this is an especially poignant moment. The games of ancient Olympia were tests of strength, dexterity and perseverance. Just a few months ago, Paralympic athletes demonstrated to the modern world that they are true descendents of their ancient colleagues, as they embody the Greek heritage of «kalos» and «kagathos», harmony and excellence paired with nobility and ability.

In ATHENS 2004, the International Paralympic Committee in partnership with ATHOC and the city of Athens, fully achieved, even surpassed, its declared Vision: «To Enable Paralympic Athletes to Achieve Sporting Excellence and Inspire and Excite the World», as a few statistics show:

- 136 nations competed
- 73 nations won at least one medal
- 3,806 athletes of which 1,160 women (= 31%)
• 304 world records and 448 Paralympic records
• 576 hours broadcasted in 17 countries
• 850,000 tickets, more than double the expectation

Success is more than statistics. It can also be measured in positive change: in the transformation of a great city and the lasting impact on a whole population, especially its youth. The return of the Games to the Greek homeland marked a special celebration and an exceptional effort by the authorities and citizens of Athens:

• Project «Ermis» to make the city sidewalks and facilities (metro) accessible for people with a disability. Businesses added ramps, elevators, adaptations for people with a visual or hearing impairments, even the Acropolis was made wheelchair accessible.
• Project «Adopt a Sport» to change attitudes and educate young people in awareness in general, and sport for people with a disability in particular. Greek school children participated in two Paralympic sports «adopted» by their schools, and visited many competitions. The legacy of accessible sport venues and housing (Paralympic Village).

The ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games changed Greece and the world. Some people even say that they had a greater long-lasting positive influence than the Olympics.

The Paralympic Movement

The IPC was founded on 22 September 1989 as an international, nonprofit sport organization. It has a democratic constitution and structure, made up of elected representatives. Its members include 160 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and four disability specific international sports federations (IOSDs). The IPC supervises and co-ordinates the Paralympic Games as well as other multi-disability competitions such as World and Regional Championships. We also develop sporting opportunities around the world for athletes.
at all levels. The IPC also currently serves as the International Sports Federation for 13 of 26 sports.

The Paralympics entered the world sporting stage officially following the Rome Olympic Games in 1960. These were the first games held in the same venue as the Olympic Games, and since 1988 this has become best practice. Can you guess how many athletes and how many countries participated in 1960? 400/23 compared to 3,806/136 in 2004! And we expect to welcome 4,000 athletes in Beijing 2008.

In ATHENS 2004, 19 competitive sports were on the Paralympic Programme, in 1960:8. In Athens, the volunteers (8,800+) vastly outnumbered the spectators in 1960: 5,000! Also for the first time, the Games included competitions in Football 5-a-Side for men and Judo and Volleyball (Sitting) for female athletes. These are just a very few examples of the growth of the Paralympic Movement, measured against the backdrop of Paralympic Games.

The Paralympic Movement is more than just facts and figures. Over 3,000 years ago sport was used as an instrument to attain physical, mental and spiritual achievement. To a modern Paralympian, it is also the way to a full life of empowerment, achievement and success. The Paralympic Movement has high goals that encompass the development of sport at all levels for people with a disability in underprivileged countries, the full involvement of women and girls with a disability and of athletes with a severe disability, the promotion of clean sport and the education of athletes about anti-doping, and educational programmes at all levels to change perceptions about the abilities of people with a disability.

In November 2004, the IPC membership adopted a new Constitution that reflects the development of the Paralympic Movement and revitalizes the structure of our organization. The basic changes include a smaller, more dynamic Governing Board, whose members are elected by the IPC membership, and an expansion of our membership base to include all Paralympic sports and the IPC
Regions. By better acknowledging the differences in the roles and responsibilities of its members, the IPC has become more democratic. The decision-making process has been simplified to increase accountability and the organizational structure has been streamlined to enhance efficiency. We have created a vigorous platform that will enable the IPC to deliver its Vision and address challenges beyond the 21st century to Paralympic sport.
There are many ways to describe the athletes of the Olympic Games in Athens 2004. The following presents the athletes of the Olympic Games 2004 in a new way by not showing all the well known stories and pictures. It is an attempt to characterize the essentials of the athletes in three steps: the Way to Athens 2004, the Games of 2004 themselves and their legacy.

There is no doubt that each of the Olympic Games has its special story and its specific impact on the athletes. In the case of the Games of 2004, the history of the years before is most important to take into account. The years before the opening of the Games were driven not only by the massive preparation of each individual to reach or maintain a high level physical and mental fitness, but also from many other circumstances. There have been many records and heroes during Olympic Games, some are still well known, some have never been really public. Some stories will last forever, and some will stay mainly in the hearts of the athletes who experienced them. It would be easy to talk about all the medals, heroes and stories during the Games of Athens 2004. But it is much easier to read about this in
The way to Athens 2004

To get an idea of what it means to an athlete to go to the Olympic Games, it is worth it to take a look at the long time that is needed to prepare for the Games. The starting point of such preparations is not easy to define. Probably there is no athlete in the world who started sport with the target to become an Olympic champion, or at least this is a minority. Most athletes are active in sport due to the sport itself. The dream to become an Olympian is often born not only on one day or one specific moment. There are several specific boundary conditions that make it happen to develop this dream. If one asks athletes what it was that made them dream about the Games, there might be a general but not personal answer. This shows the complexity. The way is long and stony. First of all, the athletes abandon most their leisure time. Although professional sports plays a big role in the Olympic Games, most athletes are still amateurs who –though getting support from a funding body– have an education at school or university or a job parallel to the sport. By the way, it is more than just a social responsibility for the sport to develop people who can survive in real life after sport; it is also very fruitful for athletes not to concentrate too much to the sport what can result in an «over concentration». For most athletes the preparation for life after sports is as essential as it is for anybody else. Although sports can be a door opener for a later job, it is the competence that is essential. Additional time that was needed to reach a specific level of education is accepted if there is a certain level of education at all. And this is an issue. There is a risk to forget the time after sports. This has been discussed by the IOC athletes commission in different seminars already, and because of this and
other efforts the necessity to prepare for life is now evident. As a result, athletes don’t have much of a choice to configure their free time. If one reads through the different NOC books of the participant of the Olympic Games in Athens and pay special attention to the information athletes give about their hobbies, there is an answer to the question how much leisure time there is for an athlete. These are mostly travel (athletes travel from training camp to training camp), books or internet (this is something you can do everywhere with little effort and even after hard training) or sport itself. Very seldom will you find hobbies like «spending time with family and friends» or «doing nothing». Athletes never do nothing. Athletes are facing a very controlled life when they are active. There is not much time available and flexibility is mostly not possible.

You need good friends and an understanding family. This is even more important when the Games come nearer and nearer. Then both public and private pressures are getting tougher. Having an Olympian in a family or circle of friends is an interesting thing and gives everybody the opportunity to say something. Athletes have to open and to declare themselves. The upcoming Olympic Games are «the» topic of conversation. This results not only in satisfaction but in pressure.

There are two more big issues athletes have to manage through the preparation for the Games. First of all there is their health. A sport is generally healthy, even on a top level it is avoidable to suffer from injuries or long term problems. But there is a risk and it is the job of the sports bodies to minimise this. This is valid especially for those who are not in the direct access of federations. Finally the costs for a preparation to participate are an issue. Those athletes who have a sponsor are in a good position. But even those can have problems if the success share of the funding is too big. Internationally, an Olympic success can result in totally different finances. Some might earn millions, some nothing, some might get a cow for an Olympic Gold (which is worth gold), some a car or
vacations. Some might get a pension, some the chance for an education of their dreams. And some get nothing but their memories. The good thing on these different results is: They were mostly not taken into account when the sport was started. The preparation for the Olympics is not on the athlete’s agenda in the very beginning. Although there were more full- or semi-professionals at the Games in Athens compared to other Games, the origin of all athletes was very similar and driven by the dream to be part of the Olympic movement.

The explained general and personal approach to the Olympic Games had other specific aspects that are connected with the Games of Athens. Firstly there were the effects of the terror attacks of the 11th of September. This has not only changed the political world but also the sports world. Although security was already an issue during the ancient Games, the Games of recent Olympiads have been directly affected; it has never been of such importance than as it was in 2004. It is the size itself, the meaning of the Games that makes the Games a potential target for terror attacks. The fear that something terrible might happen should be faced seriously as possible to provide secure Games. Athletes accepted all the measures to provide secure Games; during the Games there was no major problem. But in advance, on the way to Athens, athletes had to face many questions: Will there be many controls? Will it affect the travel within Athens? Will it affect me personally? All the fears there were before the Games did not really exist last summer in Athens. The Games were peaceful and secure. Another specific issue on the athlete’s way to Athens was the preparation of the Games and Athens itself. Here the public discussion all over the world about the status of the venues, the Olympic village and other things was huge. Sometimes athletes were frustrated because they feared to lose the chance to get the outcome of the years of preparation. This influenced athletes emotionally, but also influenced the training.

In addition to general aspects, there was the question of each
individual athlete if the own venue would be ready and of the expected standard. Positively and from a retroactive point of view, all of this did not have a negative influence to the achievements of the athletes participating in Athens.

The Games 2004

The best way to transfer the Games to the Olympic city is clearly the torch relay. The torch relay to Athens in 2004 was the longest in history; the flame was carried all through the world, through all continents and former Olympic cities. The torch saw enthusiasm where it appeared. The flame, that is one of the most important symbols of Olympism, touched the hearts of all those who were open. Later Olympic medal winners were torch bearers before. Because this was mainly home or at least in the homeland, the athletes perfectly helped to transport the ideals of the Olympic movement to the world.

Looking back, the way to Athens can obviously be viewed differently. The Games themselves were not very different to recent Games if only the sports were taken into account. The programme did only change slightly; there were no new sports and only a few new disciplines. The level of athlete’s performance has developed slightly compared to Sydney and correspondingly to the development of the world society in general. This means that the specific power of athletes is probably relatively constant. The knowledge about training has changed, materials have changed, and the meaning of sport in our world has changed. This last argument does probably show the most significant change of the sport.

In the ancient Games sport had a completely different meaning; it was open to a small group of people and there was very little communication. In these days it was moreover the victory that was important. This has changed in modern Games. Although the victory
(or the medal) is still of importance, it is the record that makes a hero. The Games of Athens produced many records. First of all there was a new record number of 201 NOCs sending athletes. Obviously the athletes of Athens represented the athletes of the world as never before. For everybody participating in the Games this is of huge importance. This is what makes the Games different. Even if in the own sport of an Olympian there are, e.g. due to the international qualification, fewer nations competing, it is nevertheless the complete group of athletes who celebrates. Every athlete is interested in other sports and is enthusiastic about other events. The athletes are a very close group with intense exchange of thinking and feeling. In Athens they had the great chance to fully express this within the Olympic village. This is the most important place for an athlete besides his/her own venue. The access to other people is never better than here. And Athens provided one of the best villages ever. Most Athletes lived there and prepared for their competitions. Medals were given to 75 NOCs, and these were not only the classic, strong Nations. Medal winners are spread all over the world. And all over the world people were watching the Games. We assume that up to 3.9 billion people were at least once watching an Olympic event.

There is no explanation necessary about the difference to the ancient Games. Today communication is one of the biggest influences in our world. A fast publication of results is essential for the success of the sport. Even the biggest hero has normal friends at home who desire to hear results. Results about both success and failure. Athletes want to be close to the people outside, and people outside want to be close to athletes.

Athens produced so many stories that it is impossible to show them all today. There were many Olympic -and World- Records. Representing all these a few should be mentioned: Michael Phelps, who won 6 Gold in swimming, Birgit Fischer as the first athlete to win 2 medals at 5 Games each in Kayak, or the Argentinean soccer team winning without scoring a goal. Besides these and many other
public records, there were so many sometimes hidden records. These often do have a different meaning from country to country. All this shows the ambivalence in which Olympic athletes live. The athletes of Athens came from completely different sports, from different nations, different personal background, different education and religion. In Athens they were fighting together, crying together, celebrating together. When they come home, they multiply their experience, and this is what can change the world. Probably this is the biggest legacy of the athletes of Athens 2004.

**Legacy**

The athletes were a mayor part, the basis of the legacy that Athens got. This legacy is much more than new venues or great pictures for the future. There are many areas of legacy. The Olympic Games provide an economical benefit. Greece showed its power, and the city of Athens developed. Also the sports themselves had the chance to develop. For each sport it is of central importance to be an Olympic sport. This allows access not only to funding but also to attention. For example, the sports that were suffering most from the delay of the preparation or other specific venue problems probably developed best because they had to face tough conditions. There is also a political legacy that is obvious during the ceremonies for the opening and the closing of the Games.

But the biggest legacy was created by the athletes. It were the athletes who were developing the dream of a never ending story. This legacy is about existence and continuity, a legacy of non-material goods. There were scandals at the Games; there have been unfair conditions caused by competitors, judges or spectators. But the athletes were facing them. For example the big majority is actively fighting against doping, the plague in sport. Allowing urine and blood test during training and competition and providing
personal information to allow controls are a big concession. Although a few scandals were dominating the public discussion, the athletes of Athens achieved one big thing: people all over the world believe in fair and clean sports. People have trust in our sport. This trust is of such a value that must be classified of highest importance.

The historical places of Athens and Greece allowed and moreover stimulated the consciousness of the original values of Olympism. The Olympians inspired a new generation of athletes. It is the spirit of the athletes that came out and was distributed. Apart from all the big stories, it was the dignity and passion of athletes that made Athens special. There is nothing better when athletes encourage other athletes to become best in a specific sport. «Citius, altius, fortius», swifter, higher, stronger still does express this in a perfect way. In addition to all the records and victories, a vision has been continuously developed. This is the vision of Olympism where sportsmen give their best and also respect the rules of fairplay and solidarity.

Having discussed many heavy items, a look inside the athletes that was not mention yet, should be the final aspect. The reason why people are active in sport, should be and mostly is «fun». All the public attention and the big meaning of the Olympic movement sometimes make this simple approach forgotten. Athletes start a sport because they enjoy it. Even the hardest competition can be fun. Not every athlete in Athens won a medal -this is not possible- although it is obvious from many conversations with athletes competing in Athens that everybody had fun. This should never be forgotten. Fun is the most important aspect of sports, and Athens 2004 provided lots of athletes having fun.
It is my humble honor to discuss with you today my reflections regarding Olympians with disabilities and the 2004 Athens Games. I will also share with you some ideas and possibilities about the future with respect to athletes with disabilities, Olympism and the Olympic Movement.

In presenting my perspective, I will address the athlete triumphs of the Games, the invisible challenges of the Games and the key opportunities for the future of the Olympic Movement. Throughout the paper I will pose and articulate positions intended to examine conventional thinking and status quo conceptions regarding athletes with disabilities within the Olympic Movement. It is my aim to present an educational and ethical framework for thinking about people with disabilities in the context of Olympism and the Olympic Movement. Based upon and growing from the ideas presented in the lecture, I hope together we can have an interactive dialogue that will foster inclusion and equality of persons with disabilities around the world.
Who are Olympians with Disabilities?

Before presenting a reflection on the Athens Games, I would first like to call attention to my use of the term Olympians with disabilities. Who do I mean when I say Olympians with disabilities and why do I use this term?

Olympians with disabilities are the athletes with disabilities who compete in the competition known as the Paralympic Games. The athletes in these Olympic Games compete in sports for persons with disabilities.

Sports for persons with disabilities are sports organized specifically for persons with disabilities, and hinge on the basis of providing equitable and fair categories, based on ability and disability, in order to provide level playing fields. Similar to women participating or competing with other women in women’s sport, people with disabilities participate or compete with other people with similar abilities and disabilities.

Olympians with disabilities compete at the highest level in their appropriate category of sport. This standard is no different than that applied to Olympians without disabilities. Just as there are appropriate and accepted male and female categories of able-bodied Olympic sport, sports for athletes with disabilities are categories of sport. For example, wheelchair basketball is a category of the sport of basketball alongside able-bodied men and women’s basketball. If one views sport for athletes with disabilities as one of the categories of sport, it is then possible to recognize athletes with disabilities in the Athens Games as Olympians. I will further develop this concept throughout this lecture.

What were the triumphs of the Athens Games?

The Games in Athens became a place to celebrate the triumphs of great athletic achievement. Olympians with and without disabilities
were able to excel and achieve as well as struggle and overcome. The performances of the athletes were the true triumphs of the Games. Olympians with and without disabilities came together from all corners of the world to compete in appropriate categories of sport.

The Olympians with disabilities in Athens displayed their sport to the best of their abilities no different than the Olympians without disabilities. These athletes with disabilities showcased their years of training and preparation and were granted the right that every athlete should have – to be a champion through commitment and effort, to see the results of years of hard work, be it a gold medal or a last place finish. Athletes celebrated in the joy of competition and the harmony of international peace and community.

For the first time in the history of the Olympic Movement, Olympians with disabilities were able to demonstrate their athletic abilities and talents at the site of the ancient Games. The Olympians with disabilities performed against the backdrop of the history of Greece and the origins of the Olympic Movement. Olympians with disabilities were able to excel and achieve in such a way as to display the fact that they are Olympians on par with non-disabled Olympians past and present.

The Games became a vehicle to foster value and recognition for people with disabilities as having athletic capabilities and athletic potential. Given the external and internalized physical and social barriers confronting people with disabilities, the Games served as a tool to transform the social conscience with respect to stereotypes and stigma surrounding people with disabilities. It was powerful to see the role of the Olympians with disabilities, similar to the role that female athletes have had at Olympic Games, where sport has served a function as a vehicle for social change.

The athletic achievements of Olympians with disabilities showed the world that sports for persons with disabilities are categories of sport and part of the fabric of the Olympic Movement. The
Olympians with disabilities triumphed in their efforts to make their mark and make a statement through their athletic performances.

**What were the challenges of the Athens Games?**

The invisible challenges of the Athens Games related to the separation of Olympians with disabilities from the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement. In my opinion, the invisibility of athletes with disabilities as part of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement presented the greatest challenge in Athens.

Although the performances of the athletes were very much Olympic, the link between the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games did not present a consistency and coherency of two competitions both Olympic Games and both part of the Olympic Movement. For example, a separate Olympic symbol, motto and anthem, a separate Opening and Closing Ceremony, and a separate medal count divide the two Games. The days between the actual Games create a construction of distinct Games and distinct Movements, when in fact they should be one in the same.

The Olympic and Paralympic Movements were indeed connected through the Organizing Committee as well as through the fact that the Paralympic Games followed the Olympic Games in Athens. Although it is very important to recognize the progress that has been made to intersect the Olympic and Paralympic Movements, it is equally important to recognize the current framework of «separate but equal» and to identify this as a challenge to the overall Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Movement has not fully grasped how the principles of the Olympic charter, such as equality and non-discrimination, apply to athletes with disabilities.

Article 5 of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism reads: «Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on the
grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is inco-

compatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement».

In many respects, sports for athletes with disabilities are not fully

valued as a legitimate form of Olympic sport. Disabled athletes may

be pitied but are not understood, recognized and celebrated as valued

athletes. The current mindset views athletes with disabilities as a

separate population outside the Olympic Movement. An able-bodied

conception of sport has framed the Olympic Movement without

attention to the invisibility of disabled athletes as a significant

challenge within the Olympic Movement.

I further believe that the Paralympic Movement has not fully

promoted the conception of sport for athletes with a disability as a

fundamental component of the Olympic Movement. For example,

the Paralympic Movement, separate from the Olympic Movement,

recently announced a new logo and a new motto. The Paralympic

Movement has also not publicly advocated for increased inclusion

within the Olympic Movement. Perhaps the Paralympic Movement

has internalized some of the able-bodied views that disabled athletes

are not a part of the Olympic Movement. Are Olympians with dis-

abilities PARALLEL to the Olympic Movement or are they IN the

Olympic Movement?

Likewise, the Paralympic Movement has not embraced fully the

concept that sport for persons with disabilities, like women’s sport,

is simply a category of sport. Sports for persons with disabilities,

like women’s sport, should have a valued identity, but these cate-

gories should exist within the Olympic Movement and not external
to it. What would happen if a separate Female Olympics was

established? Would this be acceptable?

The current frameworks utilized by the Olympic and Paralympic

Movements maintain a connection of the Movements but not a full

synergy of a single Olympic Movement. With a fuller application of

Olympism, a paradigm shift can occur, such that people with
disabilities become vital members of sport and society, and an Olympic Movement fully encompasses Olympians with disabilities.

**What are some future opportunities for the Olympic Movement with respect to persons with disabilities?**

The Olympic Movement has an exciting and dynamic opportunity to apply the Fundamental Principles of Olympism to persons with disabilities. The ideology of human rights, diversity and non-discrimination are frameworks that historically have overlooked the population of persons with disabilities.

Article 4 of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism reads, «The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play».

Given the emerging global understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities, Olympism and the Olympic Movement have a unique opportunity to lead the way towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, particularly within the Olympic arena.

I am currently engaged in working on the development of the United Nations Human Rights Treaty on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. There are United Nations Human Rights Convention Treaties on the Rights of Women, Children, Racial and Ethnic Minorities, and now a similar Treaty applicable to Persons with Disabilities is in development. I am contributing to the drafting of the provisions of this Treaty addressing Sports, Recreation, Leisure and Play. A critical component of this section on Sport is the understanding that sport can be a powerful vehicle for development and social change for individuals with disabilities. Sport can lead the way towards advancing increased opportunity and participation of individuals with disabilities around the world.
In addition to recognizing the role of sport, the sport section of the United Nations Convention Treaty on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will help to define and articulate the rights of individuals with disabilities at all levels and all avenues of sport, particularly addressing recreational, scholastic and competitive opportunities. Olympism and the Olympic Movement –from Sports for All to the Olympic Games– provide a coherent and comprehensive framework to recognize and value persons with disabilities in sport and in all areas of daily life.

As the Treaty affirms, individuals with disabilities have the right to be valued as having athletic potential. Past views and assumptions that it is OK for persons with disabilities to be sidelined and excluded from sport are no longer acceptable. The idea that people with disabilities are to be pitied and receive charity is a norm to be challenged. Further, the perception that sports for persons with disabilities is not of value, and not a category of sport, is no longer an acceptable mindset.

From the perspective of human rights, non-discrimination and diversity comes the important and transformative realization that there are shared experiences between marginalized groups in sports – particularly women, racial and ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. In the same way that the Olympic Movement seeks to achieve gender equality and to also end apartheid in sport, there is the critical need to promote inclusion and equality of persons with disabilities within the Olympic Movement. The connecting of disability with race and gender provides a mode of thinking that allows for a necessary advancement of Olympians with disabilities within the Olympic Movement.

A framing of athletes with disabilities within the Olympic Movement presents the opportunity for symbolic and linguistic aspects of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement –such as the Olympic rings, motto, and anthem– to become directly relevant to athletes with disabilities. Additionally, all medals could be Olympic
medals and valued the same way. As outlined in this lecture, the disabled athletes who qualify for the highest level of competition in their appropriate category of sport could rightly be named Olympians. There could also be the possibility for the Games for Olympians with disabilities to be an Olympic Games. The Games for non-disabled Olympians, and the Games for Olympians with disabilities could be embraced by a single Opening and Closing Ceremony.

The creation of an inclusive Olympic Movement would be a significant step and an incredible opportunity. This evolution would likely and inevitably change the world. Persons with disabilities who have been segregated and invisible in society will emerge as equal participating members with equal rights and equal value.

**What will be the legacy of the Athens Games with respect to Olympians with disabilities?**

The Athens Games was a magical event at the site of the ancient Olympic Games. The Olympians with and without disabilities showcased their athletic potential and athletic capabilities. Athens will be remembered as the first time Olympians with disabilities competed at the site of the ancient Games. I believe that the historic energy realized from Athens will allow Athens to be remembered as the place that initiated the recognition of inclusion, equality and human rights for Olympians with disabilities. A reflection on the site and spirit of the Athens Games will lead to a future where individuals with disabilities are embraced and included as part of the fabric of Olympism and the Olympic Movement.

Sport for persons with disabilities has developed significantly in recent years, yet the full recognition of such sport as a category of sport integral to the Olympic Movement has yet to be achieved. Given the growing awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities
around the world, the time has come for full recognition and valuing of Olympians with disabilities as key members of the Olympic Movement. As the place where the Olympic Games originated, Greece can serve a long term and powerful role to advance the inclusion and human rights of persons with disabilities in and through sport.

In closing, I would like to re-state my hope that my remarks produce an engaged dialogue that addresses Olympians with disabilities and the future of the Olympic Movement. I hope we can continue to explore the meaning of the athletic performances by Olympians with disabilities, and continue to examine the legacy of the Athens Games for persons with disabilities around the world. I very much look forward to our discussions together here at the Academy.
Global overview
«The Olympic world and TV»

Mr Philippe Blanchard (FRA)
Director, IOC Information Management Department

Introduction

When we discussed the subject of this paper with President Filaretos and the Dean, they had asked me to present a global overview. So far, we have heard several interventions, which have been focusing on ethical and philosophical aspects.

For my part, I will be sticking to facts and maybe during the discussion that we are going to have together, we could come back, based on these facts, to some broader concepts.

Increase of TV rights

This is how television rights have developed these last few years. A number of comments will have to be made here.

Rights have appeared rather late

We can see that before Rome 1960 there were practically no rights for television coverage being sold. It is true that TV rights had
appeared for the first time in London in 1948, but it was only in Rome, in 1960, that television started showing some real interest in the Olympic Games.

What is worth noting is that progressively but definitely much slower than the growing popularity of television, these rights rose to the first peak that you can see, which corresponds to the Games of Moscow 1980.

The reason for the strong rise of TV rights during that period is President Samaranch’s intervention, which introduced a number of principles, in particular the resolution to involve the IOC as an organization more closely in the negotiation for these rights. Before,
these negotiations were carried out by each summer and winter Organizing Committee. It was difficult for them as they lacked experience of what had taken place before and as a result it was not very easy for them to get a good deal.

A second inflexion can be observed in 1992 at the Games of Albertville and Barcelona. Why is this interesting? Because this was the year when the Summer Games were separated from the Winter Games. This separation was decided because financiers, American television in particular, felt that from the point of view of advertising revenues, the fact of holding the Summer and Winter Games in the same year drained the advertising market and thus brought less significant income to the IOC.

The stroke of genius—or one of President Samaranch’s strokes of genius—was this separating of the Summer from the Winter Games, which was clearly more interesting in terms of revenue, but also with respect to the organization of the Games, since the IOC and the OCOGs had a little more time to work together and move ahead.

**Broadcasting strategies: encourage public access**

For the purposes of this analysis, there are, in my view, three other elements that need to be emphasized in relation to the negotiation of TV rights.

The first element is that President Samaranch has always wanted—and President Rogge after him— that these rights should be given to open television channels, which means that he rejected the principle of pay-TV. Let me mention the example of Wimbledon, which opted some years ago for immediate returns by deciding to sell the rights to private television; the result was that its audience was significantly reduced and today they find it very difficult to become once again a major international competition, for television anyway.
So, this was the first stroke of genius: to demand that negotiations be conducted with open channels.

**Centralize negotiations**

The second stroke of genius contributed to the soaring of IOC’s revenues. You probably remember that for a long time, until Moscow, the IOC relied mainly on philately and numismatics for funding, having no other sources of income.

By making the IOC the negotiating partner, a fundraising system for the whole Olympic Family was put in place. International Federations and NOCs were now assisted by the IOC when looking for sources of financing.

Two days ago, one of you was asking about the distribution of wealth. The precise figure is that 93% of revenues collected by the IOC (TV rights and TOP sponsors rights) are redistributed to the Olympic world.

Why is this a stroke of genius? Because it was then that the Olympic Family concept was clearly understood: for the IOC to do well, it was imperative that its partners, the Federations that support the athletes’ efforts and the NOCs should also do well. For me, this is a most important element.

**Guarantee the ownership of animated image**

The last, very ingenuous element was the conclusion of a contract under which all films shot at Olympic competition venues or at non-competition venues that are, however, Olympic venues would from now on be the property of the IOC.

There were effects, which we shall consider together, mainly as regards the repatriation of old films, but the fact of designating the
IOC as the sole holder of animated images led to a spectacular increase of these amounts and revenues.

**In financial terms**

In financial terms for Athens, the setting up of television coverage represented a big, a very big project.

The first aspect I would like to mention is that the revenues paid by the IOC to the Organizing Committee were about € 580 million, a little more than the revenues from local and international sponsoring (€ 536.7 million). As you can see there is a significant difference from ticketing income (€ 194 million).

We can compare such revenues to production costs: the production of the television and radio signal amounted to approximately € 170 million and was handled by an organization that I will be presenting to you further down and which was called AOB at the time.

**Impact of TV on the organization of the Games**

The first element, as I told you, was the separation of the Summer and Winter Games.

Then, you should know that television coverage has its advantages of course, but there are also requirements that need to be met. When building venues, it is much more difficult to design venues that can accommodate television crews under good conditions.

A few examples:

- In Athens, there was an Aquatics Center that was truly marvellous, but at the last moment, relatively quite late, the decision was taken not to build the roofing. The impact on television was very strong since new positions and equipment had to be found in order to be able to artificially correct reflection on water.
- When scheduling events, instead of holding them under maximum
heat, which would have been hard on the athletes but also not so good for image quality, a number of events had to be postponed until the afternoon or early evening.

- Impact on architectural design and construction: you should know that in Athens, in addition to the normal electricity grid, which had been strengthened for the requirements of the Olympic Games, there were three additional networks installed (production of signal, processing of signal, air conditioning and other TV crew equipment). These networks were there as a back-up in case of a general power failure.

- Overall organization of the Games: you know that it is important, especially for publicity agents and television managers to spread out the events’ popularity. This is the reason why, during the Summer Games, a balanced approach is used: first week, swimming preferably; second week, track and field preferably.

Positive contribution

Television’s impact on ceremonies has been very beneficial. After Barcelona and especially after Albertville, whose opening ceremonies were highly televised, there was a lot of thought and consideration given to the staging of the opening and closing ceremonies.

The organizations responsible for TV coverage

How is the signal produced and what are the different bodies involved in TV coverage?

1. The Host Broadcaster

The **host broadcaster** is the first partner or organization involved. It is an important organization since it will be responsible
for putting together, starting from scratch, all the television crews that will be working during the Games.

To show you how complex this is, let me tell you that to be able to shoot a football match, a water polo competition or an archery event, requires very different skills and expertise. This is the reason why the host broadcaster’s first requirement will be to identify worldwide the best talents and skills for the sports on the Games’ program.

As an example, let me mention that Italian television is famous for its coverage of football, the Australians for swimming, the US for basketball, South Korea for archery...

The first obligation of this organization will therefore be to put these teams together.

2. The Broadcasting Center

In parallel to the choice of crews, there is a number of technical issues that need to be handled, the venue layout, the installation of cables and all this is rather complicated. It involves a second organization, the International Broadcasting Center, IBC, which will be receiving the signals coming from the different Olympic competition venues and where many TV crews from various countries or from the big networks present on the spot will be producing their own signal.

3. Image promotion: the IOC and OTAB

Then you have two other entities that are involved: the IOC and the OTAB, Olympic TV Archive Bureau.

The IOC is of course involved because it negotiates TV rights, but also because it is now responsible for the long-term management of Olympic images, a subject I will be dealing with later on.

Here we have the physical, technical infrastructure for television coverage. Let me open a parenthesis here: we talked about the Para-
lympic events a moment ago, this same infrastructure is used for the Paralympic Games.

On the upper left corner, you see a competitor who is running and, connected to this athlete you see a facility that is responsible for timing. The athlete is being filmed by several cameras, more or less sophisticated, conventional cameras, slow motion cameras, which make it possible to break up the movement, underwater cameras sometimes, aerial cameras and the signal from these cameras, as well as the results signal will be relayed to a first unit, an OB venue, where all these signals will be aggregated and syndicated to produce a signal linked to the sports event.

4. Overall organization

I do not know if you are familiar with the technical infrastructure of television production: a kind of orchestra director with about
twenty screens in front of him who, depending on the images he sees, will pick out this or that image to prepare the broadcast. The competition signal will be supplied by the OB venue, which will also collect all statistical information. For example, when you watch tennis, there are many statistics linked to the number of aces, double faults. These statistics will be integrated here.

A technical link allows the signal to be transmitted locally to a station that will make all signals from the Olympic competition venues available and will then relay these signals to the International Broadcasting Center to create what is called the international flow.

In addition to the signal that is sent to the IBC, parallel signals are instantaneously transmitted to the commentators and press teams to allow them to comment the events.

The signal is also partly retransmitted to the giant screens that you sometimes see in the stadiums.

The IBC is therefore the heart of this whole system where the signals from the different sports venues are received and the international signal is produced. A few TV channels will also be producing their own signal. At the Athens Games the NBC network produced 40% of the images that it broadcast to the United States.

So you need big antennas that will send the signal by satellite link to each of the TV networks that negotiated television rights.

This organization is something you find in other competition venues, as well as non-competition venues (IOC Session or other public meetings venues).

The other actors

Who are the different actors involved in this organization? First and foremost, the Organizing Committee and the IOC’s Olympic Games Department, about which I will not talk, however.
1. «Marketing»

There is also an IOC organization now called IOC Television & Marketing Services S.A. This organization is run by a new Director, Timmo Lumme.

It is responsible for negotiating TV rights and sponsors rights and for handling a number of other issues. For example, because television is present at all venues, certain requirements have emerged regarding the venues' «look».

So, now there is a program called Look of the Games and Look of the City. One remarkable thing at the Athens Games was the organizers' ability to design a visual identity, which they developed in a variety of ways, at the Olympic sports venues and also at the level of the city. Marketing teams are responsible, in liaison with the Organizing Committee, for these aspects of the Look of the Games and the Look of the City.

2. The future OBS facility

A second facility, which you probably do not know yet, was legally established recently and will be fully operational for the Beijing Games.

The manager of this organization is Manolo Romero, the creator of Olympic television since the Barcelona Games in 1992. He has acquired a truly unequalled experience and was therefore asked to set up this organization, which will be from now on an IOC subsidiary.

Manolo’s responsibility is to produce the signal. As I explained before, people have to be recruited. In addition to recruiting, you need to have those people working together, you also need to provide accommodation for them and the OBS will therefore handle visas, accommodation and hotels.

It is no longer a complicated project, therefore it is a highly complex project. Behind the visible tip of the TV signal production iceberg, there is a huge administration work that needs to be done.
A few figures about Turin

I was showing to you a few moments back the technical organization plans. This is how it will be in Turin 2006: fourteen different Olympic competition venues, where about thirty mobile units will be working, making it possible to produce 900 hours of broadcast. For your information, in Athens there were 3,200 hours of broadcast on international signal. What is interesting in the case of Turin is that we will see the arrival of a new technology, high definition and this will be the first time at the Games, at least based on the new standards, that high definition cameras will be used. There will be mixed HD television – standard television crews. (For the Beijing Games, in 2008, only high definition television signal will be used).

150 video recorders: on the spot, at the IBC, where the international signal is produced all images to be broadcast worldwide are recorded so that the IOC can recover all these images afterwards and use them.

Information Management Department – IMD

The last Department involved has three major responsibilities.

- The first responsibility is to acquire, manage and preserve films, photographs and documents produced by candidate cities and organizing committees, in addition to the IOC’s own documents.
  - In the case of physical documents, we are talking about nearly 1 million pieces. Were we to pile all these books, all these photos, all these paper documents, one on top of the other, we would get a pile almost six kilometres high.
  - The teams involved are the library people, with whom you work some times; among you there are researchers who regularly work with the library, archive photographs, archive films
and another thing we shall be talking a little more about: knowledge bases.

- To manage all the above items and of course to manage electronic documents, we have to use new technologies and new procedures for the IOC’s internal operation and of course also for its link-up with Organizing Committees.
  - Presently we have a few major document management projects under way, a very big film and photo management project and we are also working on other things, such as the Olympic Family’s directory, which lists 54,000 people.

- Last responsibility: content analysis and creation. Every day we monitor the international press by receiving nearly 500 different press sources and we daily produce a press analysis and, at regular intervals, cross-sectional analyses. We are also responsible for content production, together with the documentation center and for those who know us we also run the Olympic Studies Center that will be delighted to welcome you in Lausanne whenever you wish.

**IMD and TV links**

We have to liaise with television

- for the reception of the host broadcaster signal
- for steering OTAB (sale of Olympic footage)
- for buying back old Olympic films

We shall have to develop the necessary tools in order to manage the 24,000 hours of film presently in our archives, the 4,000 hours we have received from Athens and which have not yet been indexed and the 9,000 hours I mentioned before, which will be produced during the Turin Games.
What are the prospects and challenges for the future?

What we need to know is that, from now on, during the negotiations for TV rights, the IOC will guarantee to the rights-holders, the television channels that have acquired the rights, availability of all old Olympic images since this gives meaning and allows them to do cuttings and parallel editing during their broadcasts.

We realize that, if we look at all the Games, coverage is less or more efficient. One of the first challenges we have to meet is to recover old films and once they have been recovered to start indexing them, so that we are able to find again the images we are interested in.

Another challenge for the IOC and its different partners: the management of multimedia assets. It is rather easy to manage text, it is much more difficult to manage images and managing images aimed at audiences with a different cultural background and history is even more difficult.

Today, we are working on a terminology: we have identified a number of keywords, which tell us how to handle images. On the other hand, when we work with Asian or Latin American countries in particular, they want us to use other keywords, so that they can locate more easily the images, which they are interested in. The problem for the IOC will be how to satisfy the requirements of our different partners practically everywhere in the world. This work on terminology will also be important when we look at the films that are produced in the context of the Games because we see that we mostly have information on competitions; everything else, the opening ceremony, the cultural program, events in the city, all these tend to be disregarded.

It is therefore a strong challenge for the IOC. In 1900 Coubertin was saying that sport without culture is just a military exercise and I think he was right. One of the challenges for the IOC will be to understand that non-sporting images are also very valuable and that
we need to set up an organization that can process and make them available.

A complex project related to high definition TV. Another project related to digitalisation …

In conclusion, what I officially want to propose to the IOA is that from now on, when we work on content productions, that this content be systematically made available to the IOA to allow you, when you come here to Olympia, to have access to these images and these films for your research, so that you can prepare stuff that will be useful for your NOCs when you go back to your country.
The Olympic education programme
of Athoc 2004
and the Hellenic Ministry of Education

Dr Kostas Georgiadis (GRE)
Dean of the International Olympic Academy

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to present the Olympic Education programme that was implemented in Greece during 2000-2004 with the opportunity of the Olympic and Paralympic Games of Athens 2004.

The planning and implementation of the Olympic Education programme was the outcome of a cooperation project involving the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games «ATHENS 2004» and the Greek Ministry of Education. In addition, other organizations such as the IOA with its 45-year experience of Olympic education issues, the Pedagogical Institute of Greece, which is responsible for all school publications, the Olympic and Sports Education Foundation, a private body that is active in the field of Olympic education in Greece and the Department of Science, Physical Education and Sport of the University of Thessaly gave their assistance for the completion of the programme. The National Olympic Education Council chaired by the Deputy Minister for Education each time was responsible for the overall supervision of the Olympic Education Programme.
Olympic Education programmes have been implemented before by other Organizing Committees and National Olympic Academies. The most recent are those of Sydney, Atlanta and Nagano.

The Sydney 2000 National Olympic Education Programme targeted approximately 10,000 school communities in Australia and more specifically children from kindergarten up to the age of 12 (Susan Crawford, 2001, Helen Brownlee 2001). The school children in New South Wales were those more directly involved in the different individual projects. At a national level, the number of students participating in Olympic Education programmes was 431,403 (not including the programmes of the Organizing Committees of the Olympic and Paralympic Games).

The Organizing Committee of the Atlanta Games published three volumes on Olympic Education. The third volume in particular, «Olympic Day in the schools. The Olympic Spirit: A Worldwide Connection», was of very high quality. Through the «Youth and Education Programme» in the state of Georgia schoolchildren from kindergarten to the 5th grade were able to improve their knowledge about the international community by approaching the idea of the Olympic Games already since 1995.

The Nagano Organizing Committee introduced an original idea for teaching Olympic Education with the help of the «One school-One country Programme». Seventy-six primary and secondary education schools adopted from one and up to three countries and the children would then study their history and culture and learn about the way of life of the people, children at school, the Olympic and Paralympic team and other information about each country.

Several National Olympic Academies have developed Olympic Education programmes in the past. The German National Olympic Academy was one of the first to publish a handy manual. Its contents are readjusted every two years to take into account the Summer and Winter Games and it is then distributed to all schools in the country.
In Greece, the first timid attempts to train teachers in Olympic education and Olympism were made by the IOA in the 70s. A few hundred educationists from all over Greece attended seminars to learn about Olympism. The isolated responses from the schools, mainly on the teachers’ initiative, were not enough to support the IOA’s pioneer work to introduce Olympic Education in the school curriculum in Greece.

In 1989 the IOA, in cooperation with the Secondary Education Directorate of the district of Elis and the regional authorities, launched an Olympic Education programme in its facilities aimed at selected students. Each year, 100 pupils, 14-16 years old, are still attending even today the 7-10-day seminars. This particular Olympic Education programme has often been associated with the environmental education programme.

Athens bid first for the Centennial Games of 1996 and later for those of 2004 has rekindled the interest for introducing Olympic Education in the programme of Greek schools. In 1995, the Olympic Education manual «Keep the Spirit Alive» was published in English to serve as an education manual for National Olympic Academies.

Following the awarding of the 2004 Olympic Games to Athens, in September 1997, the IOA had its first contacts with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs for the introduction of Olympic Education in the schools. Some time later, the «ATHENS 2004» Organizing Committee, through its Olympic Education Directorate, took over coordination among the different bodies involved for the implementation of the programme in Greece.

Olympism as an educational idea

The Olympic Charter (2004) represents today the fundamental
text for an educational approach to Olympism. In the first paragraph of the fundamental principles of Olympism we read that: «Olympism is a philosophy of life». This statement emphasizes, in the most eloquent way, the fact that Olympism is a life experience. Olympism is the practice of theory, not the theory of practice. The contest in the context of Olympism is the educational «path» to form man’s virtues thus leading to the ideal of «kalos kagathos».

In his texts, Coubertin often emphasizes Olympism’s holistic educational approach. For him as for the ancient Greeks, the body and the mind are one and this is why he recommends an educational system that takes this principle into consideration.

The fundamental principles also contain a reference to the social principles of Olympism. These principles underpin the educational «path» that leads from the contest to the feat and turns the athlete into a hero. The labors of Heracles, founder of the Olympic Games and patron of the athletes clearly symbolize man’s heroic progress for the benefit of society.

The individual who has cultivated his qualities through participation and contest and has gone beyond the limits in any area of life will become a small or a great hero. These heroes are role models; they give the good example and their feats (objectivizing behavior as a result of a psychosomatic process for the benefit of society) are the constants that guide humanity on its evolutionary course.

Today, under certain conditions, which are artificially created for that purpose, Olympism tries to achieve, in the most universal and profound way, something that appears impossible, fraternal coexistence among people.

Cultivating a multicultural conscience combined with the truce as a source of spiritual and moral inspiration and not as a political act is Olympism’s pedagogical «path» that leads to universality and forms a global family.
Olympic pedagogy

The main goal of Olympic Education is to show how the principles of sport and Olympism can be applied in practice during teaching. This is one of the most essential issues for those responsible for the development of educational material and its use in the field.

According to Girginov V. and Parry J. (2005), Olympism is an anthropological philosophy, an idealistic approach to and perception of the human being. The power of the human mind’s creative imagination is the source that gives birth to his ideals and his social and intellectual elevation. The anthropological philosophy of Olympism describes the ideas, the constants that ideologically will guide man in his search for perfection. So, we have the ideas and what we now need is a theory of Olympic Pedagogy. However, in order to arrive at an educational proposition for Olympic Education, these ideas will have to be organized and condensed within the context of an educational ideology, so as to conform to the curriculum, improve the physical education programme with new elements and be ideas that the children can understand.

Since the beginning of the last decade, after a period of educational experimentation and enquiry, the fundamental principles of Olympic Pedagogy are now being systematically presented. Apart from a few minor deviations, the views of the main proponents of Olympic Pedagogy coincide (Grupe 1997, Müller N., 1998, Naul R., 2004, Girginov V., Parry J., 2005).

The basic ideas of Olympic Pedagogy that guide the Olympic Education programme in Greece can be summarized in the following proposals:

- Balanced and harmonious development of the intellectual and mental and physical virtues of man. Integrated training of the individual.
- The idea of moving from Agon to Athlos: overcoming man’s irrational and antisocial tendencies.
The idea of truce as a life attitude.

The idea of multiculturalism: a civilization of cultures.

The idea of voluntary disinterested participation.

The idea of the festival of the youth of humanity.

The idea of shaping a democratic conscience.

This is an Olympic Education project that includes: a) the Olympic principles of the Olympic Charter, b) the historic and educational foundations of the Olympic Ideal and c) modern lifestyles and contemporary social context (cf. Naul 2004).

The objectives of the Olympic education programme in Greece

Its main goal being to create a school open to society, the Olympic Education programme that was implemented in Greece wanted to reach and include all those involved in the education process, students and teachers, Parents and Guardians Associations. Furthermore, it also wanted to raise consciousness and mobilize school-children and young people in Greece and those of Greek origin living abroad, to the importance of developing behavior patterns, promoting cooperation, self-sufficiency, critical thinking and empowerment.

Structured around the main slogan «Be aware, participate, learn, create», the programme aims at:

- Providing information to pupils and young people on the Athens 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Promoting understanding of the ideals of Olympism and its educational value.
- Enhancing the quality and efficiency of physical education.
- Infusing and developing in the young a special philosophy of life and a positive attitude, which blends education with sport and culture.
- Strengthening voluntary contribution.
• Making students and teachers aware of the issues of multiculturalism, equality and truce.

The educational material

The Olympic Education Department of the ATHOC 2004 and the Hellenic Ministry of Education had already in 1999 set up a working group of experts in Olympic education issues from institutions like the IOA, the Pedagogical Institute, the Olympic and Sports Education Foundation and the Ministry of Education, to develop the educational material. They also worked with a number of non-governmental and private organizations for the preparation of Olympic education programmes.

The outcome of this cooperation was unquestionably outstanding. The educational material that was distributed to all the schools in the country included:

• Books
  - Olympic Games 2004 Activity Book (for 6-9 year olds)
    A work notebook, which helps the children, mostly through activities in the form of games, to approach the thematic units selected for this age group. Through the notebook’s activities, the child discovers the athletes of ancient Greece, learns about the Olympic symbols, gets acquainted with modern sports, becomes an Olympic victor, obtains information about the Olympic Games of 2004. These activities provide recreation, whilst turning learning into an active process. It was translated into English, French and German.

  - Olympic Games 2004 Activity Book (for 10-12 year olds)
    This is also a work notebook. Its layout, the large variety of
topics and information it contains and the activities in the form of games respond to and satisfy a modern need: to make schoolchildren aware of Olympic issues in a pleasant and amusing way. As the children work with it, they are given the opportunity of taking initiatives that will further stimulate their interest and creativity. It has been translated into English, French and German.

«Olympic races» (Game)
A board game, which comes with the Olympic Games 2004 Activity Book and has been translated into English.

- Olympic outlook (for students 13-16 years old)
The photo album «Olympic Outlook» puts the emphasis on the content, the ideas and the values of Olympism. Through these teaching subjects, the students can discover for themselves the concepts and values of Olympism and become acquainted with the Olympic Movement in relation to the other parameters of present-day reality (historic, economic and cultural). It has been translated into English, French and German.

- Olympic Sports
The book «Olympic Sports» contains information on the sports of the Olympic Games, in the form of a small encyclopedia. Teachers and students can thus learn about the sports, their history, rules and venues.

Olympic Sports (Videotape)
This videotape, which comes with the book on «Olympic Sports», contains 3-minute presentations of each Olympic sport. At the beginning of the presentation, the expected educational objectives are listed. Each 3-minute presentation includes the name of the sport, 20-second highlights from the 2000 Olympic Games, a description of the sport and, finally, cards with the main points of the rules for its staging. The composer Vangelis Papathanasiou was responsible for the
videotape’s music score and editing. It has been translated into English.

- **Olympic Education, From Theory to Practice (for teachers)**
This book presents the theoretical framework of the Olympic Education programme and its thematic units, which cover 120 hours of fully developed activities with emphasis on artistic and physical work.

- **Olympic Games, References – Receptions (for teachers)**
The contents of this book cover a series of subjects directly related to the history of the ancient Olympic Games, their revival, the modern Olympic Games, the problems, their social dimension and the Olympic Games of Athens 2004.

- **Proposals – Perspectives for Teachers of a) primary, b) lower and higher secondary education**
These two publications provide teaching support for all the books of the Olympic Education programme, analyzing their philosophy and goals. They also include useful proposals for implementing Olympic Education activities.

- **Despina and the Dove**
A tale for young and old by Eugene Trivizas, which presents the principles of Olympism in narrative and easily understandable form. It has been translated into English, French and German.

- **ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games. Activities for pre-school children**
This manual proposes a number of activities for children of pre-school age, divided in five teaching courses, with the view to stimulating the children’s imagination about the Olympic
Games. This is the first time worldwide that an educational resource has been published in this form.

- **All the Earth’s children together at the Olympic festival**
  A story and game written by Olga Ioannidou for children of pre-school age, starring Phoivos and Athena, the two mascots of the Olympic Games. This is the first time that an educational resource has been published in this form on the history of the Olympic Games.

- **The Paralympic Games from 1960 to 2004**
  An outstanding educational publication on the Paralympic Games that was prepared in collaboration with the Paralympic Committee and contains:
  
  - Texts by specialized scientists and members of the International Paralympic Committee on the Paralympic Games (sports, categories, right to participate, etc.)
  - Developed physical, artistic and theoretical activities that can be performed inside and outside school.
  - Information pages (the Paralympic oath, emblem, hymn, etc.)
  - Presentations by disabled Greek athletes.
  - A proposed bibliography for further research on the issue of sport for the disabled.

- **The sports of the Paralympic Games (Videotape)**
  This videotape comes with the book «Paralympic Games from 1960 to 2004» and has also been translated into English.

- **«Paralympic Games from 1960 to 2004» (Game)**
  An educational board game, which comes with the book of the same title. Translated into English.
- **Activities for schoolchildren with educational needs**
  A manual with activities that attempt to provide stimuli for a multifaceted and creative educational intervention including:
  activities for pupils with mental retardation,
  activities for pupils with motor disabilities
  activities for pupils with development disorders
  activities for pupils with vision impairment
  activities for pupils with impaired hearing.

- **Special publications**
  In the context of the information and awareness campaign aimed at the public and in particular at the visually and hearing impaired, as well as people who cannot read, special publications and productions were designed for the first time in the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games with information material on the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- **Learn, be aware, participate**
  This is information material in Braille aimed at providing equal information to the visually impaired. This material was designed and produced in cooperation with the Blind People’s Association of Greece and comes with a sound CD for those who cannot read Braille.

- **Olympic and Paralympic Games ATHENS 2004 Sports and Athletes (in sign language)**
  Two videotapes on the Olympic and Paralympic Games in sign language, which include 3-minute presentations of the Olympic and Paralympic sports. Each 3-minute presentation includes the name of the sport, 20-second highlights of the Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2000, a description of the sport and cards with the main points of the rules for its staging.
• Educational material published in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and independent bodies

- **Young volunteer**
  The Ministry of education, in collaboration with the Greek Girl Scouts Association has designed an educational programme for primary school children entitled: «Young volunteer». With the help of enriching activities, children acquire live experiences that encourage volunteering and are gradually recognized as young volunteers in their school, neighborhood, city, in Greece, Europe and all over the world, with children with disabilities.

- **«The European Convention on Human Rights»**
  This book is the outcome of the cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the non-governmental organization Open Horizons – Council of Europe. This is another outstanding publication that presents, in simplified form for educational purposes the European Convention on Human Rights, by means of information and activity sheets.

- **«Children of the World. Citizens of the World»**
  Education material published in collaboration with Action Aid, which includes an activity guide, a booklet with fairy tales and 15 photograph-cards that can be used as part of the course. The above educational material of the three non-governmental organizations has been distributed to all primary and secondary schools in Greece, the organized schools of Greeks Abroad and Cyprus schools.

- **Cooperation with the International Centre for Olympic Truce**
  Publication of educational material on the subject of the Olympic Truce, in order to make the teachers community more aware of the issues of peace and cooperation among people, as well as the revival and introduction of a Truce during the
Olympic Games. Three hundred thousand copies of the 45-page material aimed at lower secondary school students and six thousand copies of the corresponding 25-page publication have been distributed to the pupils and school libraries.

- **Albert Mayer Album (Olympic Games of 1896)**
  Published by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Benaki Museum, this publication contains a series of slides with texts and photographs from the Albert Mayer Album and a game with cards. Its purpose is to familiarize children with the sociopolitical and historical conditions, which led to the revival of the Olympic Games.

- **Earth, Man and challenges for a sustainable future. We are the environment**
  Two publications produced in cooperation between the «ATHENS 2004» Organizing Committee and the N. Goulandris Museum of Natural History. Their objective is to make school-children aware of issues like ecological balance, quality of life and sustainable development through the activities of «ATHENS 2004» for the protection and enhancing of the environment. The 5,000 copies provided the necessary educational support for the students’ visit to the exhibition area of the GAIA Center for Environmental Research and Education. This is the first time that educational material about the environment has been published on the occasion of the celebration of the Olympic Games.

- **YOUTH 2004 (Website)**
  The educational Website of the «ATHENS 2004» Education Directorate was designed with the view to a) supporting the Olympic Education programme and b) providing information to the people who visit it. It contained a wealth of information (historic data, sports, educational material, useful details about
Implementation of the programme

Organization

The programme was implemented as a pilot project in 30 schools in the 6th primary grade during school years 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. During school year 1999-2000, the first 134 physical education teachers were trained and the Olympic Education programme was then extended to the last three grades of primary schools throughout Greece. For the first time, the Pedagogical Institute in cooperation with the Olympic and Sport Education Foundation distributed educational material to educationists. During school year 2000-2001, the Ministry of Education recruited 1,000 physical education teachers and the programme was implemented in 3,000 primary and secondary schools in the whole country with the participation of 450,000 pupils.

From 2001 to this day, the Olympic Education programme is being implemented in 7,500 primary and secondary schools all over Greece with the participation of 1,000,000 pupils.

The recruitment and appointment of 2,000 physical education teachers in the schools as Olympic Education teachers during that period was a world first for public education. 64 Regional Officers were appointed in all the regions of Greece for the programme’s follow-up and coordination.

Training seminars were conducted in 2001-2004 for the 2,000 physical education and the 60 special needs education teachers. The purpose of these seminars was to introduce physical education
teachers to the Olympic philosophy and the method for teaching Olympic Education.

At the beginning of school year 2002-2003, the programme was extended to private education with the participation of 150,000 pupils. The private school teachers who took part in the programme were trained in the course of two seminars held in November and December 2002.

In April 2002, the «ATHENS 2004» Education Department began a «journey» to the Greek communities and the 2,000 Greek schools abroad in order to inform them about the Olympic and Paralympic Games and present the educational material. The Ministry of Education trained for that purpose education coordinators and the teachers of the schools abroad who implemented the programme. Seminars were held in Munich, Toronto, Sidney, London and Athens.

The training of all physical education teachers was based on the project method. The planning and implementation of the project was done by the pupils themselves. This is a flexible learning process, centering on the students, which requires the active participation of both pupils and teachers.

**Events – Actions**

The Ministry of Education and «ATHENS 2004» already since 2001 had designed and launched an operational action plan focusing on the following main themes:

- Sport
- Culture
- Multiculturalism – Eliminating social exclusion
- Olympic Truce
- Volunteering

The actions relating to «Sport» aimed at turning schools into sport education cells and promoting the educational, social and recreational importance of sport.

The actions focusing on «Culture» attempted to enhance the
cultural features and heritage of the country in association with the return of the Olympic Games to their birthplace. Music, painting, literature, comics and sculpture were the core activities.

The actions focusing on «Multiculturalism – Eliminating Social Exclusion and Racial Discrimination» included educational activities aimed at bringing different cultures closer and promoting social solidarity towards marginalized individuals or social and ethnic groups.

The programme’s section on «Olympic Truce» was intended to provide information, increase awareness and mobilize the teachers’ community in favor of the idea of instituting the Truce during the Olympic Games. Furthermore, it sought to develop a «Culture of Peace» through Sport and the Olympic Ideal.

The actions related to «Volunteering» aimed at making teachers and students aware of voluntary contribution, community service and environmental protection, as well as improving the children’s social, communication and professional skills. One of the programme’s priorities was to promote the role of the «active citizen».

**Encouraging initiatives in the context of the Olympic Education Programme**

In 2002, the Ministry of Education sent four different circulars to the schools for each of the programme’s main themes. The schools either alone or in cooperation with other schools chose one of the themes and submitted their proposal to the Ministry of Education, which then financed the best action-initiatives at a national level with a total amount of € 4.140,000.

1381 proposals were presented by all the districts of the country, involving a total of 3258 public and private schools, i.e. 40% of the schools where the programme was implemented. These proposals were supported by contributions in cash or in kind by local associations.

275 action proposals were selected in which participated 939
schools. The process of participating in the programme helped teachers to become acquainted with modern teaching methods and techniques for time and budget scheduling.

**Implementation of Actions in the context of the Olympic Education Programme (2003)**

The programme focused on the production of a theatrical-dancing performance, the promotion of archaeological routes associated with ancient athletic sites, as well as interventions aimed at regions or population groups suffering from social exclusion.

632 proposals were submitted individually or in cooperation by 1153 schools from all the country’s districts and all the levels of public and private education. 513 actions (968 schools) were selected for funding with a total budget of € 3,438,000.

**The Olympic Education Park**, was created in one of the most central squares of Athens, the Pedion tou Areos, from the 13th to the 17th of May 2003; actions from the Olympic Education programme were presented with the participation of 590 schools, 274 primary schools, 316 secondary schools and 60 special needs education schools. It included:

- An exhibition of school material (publications, electronic, models, etc.) in 80 stands (20 stands for each theme)
- An exhibition of pupils’ paintings, with the presentation of works that had obtained awards at pan-Hellenic art contests and related to the four themes of Olympic Education.
- A programme of artistic events, theatrical performances, choruses, in especially designed indoor or outdoor areas.
- School cinema with the projection of 330 short films from the «Let’s go to the movies» programme on subjects related to the four themes of Olympic Education.
- Sports events in the facilities of the Hellenic Gymnastics Association where Olympic and Paralympic sports were presented.
11th Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean

The Ministry of National Education, in the context of the Olympic Education programme organized in the «Environmental Awareness Park» the 11th Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean on 6-11 June 2003.

The Biennale as a cultural event that promotes cooperation and fair competition among countries of Europe and the Mediterranean, is indivisibly linked to the spirit of the Olympic Games. Its objective is to showcase the work of young artists and support their artistic production.

«Adopt a sport»

This educational project is part of the Olympic Education programme and is based on the educational material for the Paralympic Games. The project targets schoolchildren of the 4th, 5th and 6th primary grades, all the grades of lower secondary school and the 1st grade of higher secondary school.

The project’s goals were to encourage children to:
- Familiarize and inform themselves and become aware of issues related to the preparation and celebration of the Paralympic Games.
- To focus on similarities and not differences between people.
- Get to know Greek disabled athletes and accept these people as equal and active members of society.
- «Adopt» two Paralympic sports so as to be able to learn about and watch the Paralympic Games as spectators.

School events

At the end of the school year, many schools organized mini-Olympics in major sports venues all over the country (Kaisariani Stadium 30 schools, Haidari Stadium all schools of Western Athens,
Alexandroupolis Stadium the lower and higher secondary schools of Alexandroupolis, Joint Event of the Pallini Lower and Higher Secondary Schools and the Associations of the Disabled).

Activities after 2004 are keep on being carried out through the Programme of the General Secretariat for the Olympic Utilization, on the subject: *Open Stadiums. Places of celebration, a way of life!*

**Evaluation**

The Olympic Education Programme is evaluated at the end of each school year by the educationists who implemented it and the schoolchildren who followed it. The scientific analysis of the evaluation results was done by the Department of Science, Physical Education and Sport of the University of Thessaly. The conclusions of this analysis were taken into consideration for the review of parts of the programme.

Internal evaluation was performed by means of questionnaires, which were completed by the Olympic Education teachers and the pupils at the end of each school year.

External evaluation was conducted by the regional officers in charge of the programme by means of reports and questionnaires, which were completed by the scientific team of the Department of Science, Physical Education and Sport of the University of Thessaly following visits to the schools.

**Financial data**

An annual amount of approximately € 22,500,000 was spent from the state budget for the salaries of the Olympic Education teachers. An additional € 23,477,000 were allocated from the Culture Ministry’s Public Investments Programme to the Ministry of Education for the Olympic Education programme. Most of the money
was spent on school funding, educational material, training, the Olympic Education Park and the 11\textsuperscript{th} Biennale of Young Artists from Europe and the Mediterranean. The above amounts do not include the Olympic Education budget of the «ATHENS 2004» Organizing Committee.

Conclusions

The Olympic Education Programme in Greece has:

- promoted the significance of Physical Education in schools,
- extended the boundaries of school education. The educational innovations (inter-thematic, experience-based approach) have contributed to the cooperation among teachers in the schools,
- provided an opportunity to all young people in Greece to become acquainted with and talk about the educational values of Sport and Olympism and experience them through specific procedures,
- prepared society to welcome the Olympic Games,
- promoted the training of teachers and opened up new vistas for schools with subjects that arouse the children’s interest,
- made education richer by blending it with sport and culture,
- encouraged and motivated the development of teaching manuals containing innovative ideas for both teachers and pupils,
- encouraged cooperation with disabled people and the organization of joint events with their associations,
- encouraged the use of new practices and technologies in education.

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**Olympic Education Material**


Sport, Olympism in particular seen as a social phenomenon and an essential element of culture, is characterized by its timeless and all-human nature. The concept of Olympism was born in Ancient Greece the land where from very early the view that the parallel development of the body and the mind was a prerequisite for creating fulfilled human beings had prevailed.

In the context of a wider conceptual approach we can observe that culture and Olympism generate two sub-concepts –if I may be allowed to describe them as such– education and ideal.

My more than 30 years experience of sport and education has taught me that Education, which encapsulates the individual processes of teaching, culture and training, is not static but follows and adjusts to the ever-changing aspects of life within society and is therefore related, from this point of view, to the Greek word «politismos» (civilization) thus reflecting the sum of each society’s intellectual and cultural achievements; the «ideal», on the other hand is inherent as an idea, as something exceptional, unparalleled, exemplary, wonderful, something that expresses perfection, which only the mind can perceive, i.e. absolute, perfect.

The worldwide acceptance of these concepts goes well beyond
any ideological or political convictions or oppositions, whilst their uniqueness reflects the interdependence, which exists between nature, civilization and each individual’s personality.

Participation, effort, objectivity, the distinct features of sport, can be demonstrated in society’s hard and testing arena.

In this sense sport:

- represents an inalienable right of all citizens, without any kind of discrimination;
- constitutes a significant and multifaceted activity, which furthers communication, understanding and cooperation among all the people of the world;
- recognizes the contribution of all those who can and wish to serve it, rejecting any form of political and even more so of partisan interference;
- contributes to the development of a balanced personality, offering to people of all ages, a way out from the stress of daily life;
- contains principles and values that strengthen friendship and respect for others;
- through the observance of rules it becomes a way of thinking and not just a mode of behaviour defined within the frame and the limits of fair play.

Until the middle of the 20th century, the predominance of amateurism and sports practice in general, leads us to the conclusion that sport during that period was mainly a social and above all a leisure-time activity.

Today, however, in a society that is characterized by mass consumption, the interest for more sports activities is rapidly growing while at the same time access to and involvement in sport of all citizens, through a variety of organizations, is becoming institutionalized, on the basis, however, of a steadily expanding professionalism.

Undoubtedly, sport as a concept finds its full expression as one of the strongest forces of «good», in an imperfect world of course,
which seem to clash with reality and threaten to abolish or at least to weaken the ideals of Olympism.

We can all see whether the archetype form of the Olympic Games has been preserved, whether the spirit of the games has been adulterated and symbols have been violated. The crisis of the world sports movement is obvious and those who stay in Jerusalem realize that:

- The core philosophy of the ancient Greek spirit has been pushed aside and its place taken by excessive commercialization thus converting sports fans into uncontrollable followers, athletes into super-professionals and sports clubs into commercial companies with billions in capital.

- Performances in most cases do not demonstrate physical and intellectual abilities, nor their harmonious coexistence, but constitute a means for promoting dubious interests, often of a political, almost always of a commercial and some times of a racial nature.

- Probably intentionally, available means for controlling violence, doping and excessive commercial exploitation of sport are not used.

Carried away by the idea of supremacy, the Olympic Movement disregards the fact that participation is much more important than victory. This shift towards super-professionalism does not at first sight appear to be a problem but in reality it leads with absolute certainty to abuse and misdeeds on the part of athletes and to very serious long-term psychological and biological injuries.

The unbearable pressure to achieve victory and supremacy pushes athletes to resort to illicit means while top performers find it incredibly difficult to respond to the role that society expects them to play as models of the sporting spirit.

Excessive emphasis on the outcome of a sports competition inhibits instead of promoting the application of the moral and spiritual ideals of Olympism. The negative effects of this practice have been confirmed by the research findings of Russian Professor Vlatislav who has noted a statistically significant trend toward non-ethical behaviour on the part of athletes, particularly during the last decade.
Creating conditions for understanding and applying the rules of fair play, accepting the opponent, fighting against the scourge of doping and limiting finally if not eliminating excessive commercialization of spectacular and pointless sports competitions, as well as the unfair proceeds of third parties who have nothing to do with sport, should be the major concern of all those who work with young people, while the act of putting theory into practice should be guided by the three maxims, which the ancient and classical Greek civilization have handed down to us:

- **a healthy mind in a healthy body**
- **the important thing is not to win but to fight fairly**
- **and always be the best and surpass the others.**

The development of the sporting spirit is based on the same spiritual foundations, which underpin all the other cultural values of Greek civilization. First among those is man’s liberation from any form of despotism, whilst religious faith does not deprive him of his sense of responsibility. This spirit of faith in the human being, physical vigor and world peace and love is mostly expressed through the Olympic Games and their true meaning.

After many years of efforts during which all types of reasoned arguments had to be used, the IOC was finally convinced that the birthplace of the Olympic Games should and could be entrusted with the organization of modern Olympic Games.

I was lucky to be able to work with the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games of Athens. I was specifically responsible for putting together the competitions program, that is where, when, etc. the 37 sports and numerous events would be held, with maximum precision.

The person in charge of this area of activity needs to provide information to all other departments, including the world networks that will be broadcasting the games. At one of these briefings a
change to the program was proposed, which would facilitate the media representatives but would create problems for the athletes. When I referred to the problem, which the athletes would have the answer I got was very clear … we do not care about the athletes … they are paid to do what they do.

Today, it appears that those who practice sport are prisoners of their activity. Sport alienates them and binds them with its mechanisms. With the lifestyle that is proposed today, in an indirect but clear way, sport deceptively represents a socially acceptable model of integrated existence, a fact that makes it a political and commercial instrument.

It should of course be noted that this phenomenon of alienation by sport cannot be part of the efforts of those who dream of reforming sport and should not be associated with the harmful effects of today’s sports practice and its deplorable excesses.

This ideology of sport, just like any other ideology for that matter, aims at providing a «mythified» answer to the social problems of its time, by integrating the huge mythification of «leisure-time culture» as the French writer Jean Marie Brome typically suggests. It clearly diverts a justified demand by giving it an ideological content, its substance being never to question again its function and the framework of this tormented society. It has become a major ideological factor for peaceful coexistence between countries with different social systems, to use the standard expression.

In a world tormented and undermined by its terrible contradictions, sport and Olympism in particular, have quickly become the remedy for fraternization among people and world understanding.

In a developing capitalist society, top performance sport reveals a fundamental structural analogy, which becomes apparent in the organizational and functional structure of a given type of function, which is nothing else than «efficiency derived from profit».

According to sociologists, Lukac in particular, commercialism as the dominant form of business within society, has a decisive impact
on all life activities. Trading takes place according to a quantitative relationship, i.e. time and quantity that materializes through money. By means of comparison it is then possible to arrange values along a two-way chain, i.e. for the commodity, working time and for the top athlete, physical performance.

If we accept the above view, we will then tend to agree that modern sport, in the sense of a doctrine, looks at man with the eyes of industrial mechanization, a way of thinking that does not differ much from Descartes’ views when he formulated his definition of animal-machines.

The promotion and especially the financial benefits that sports practitioners can reap today, lead them, with mathematical precision, to acts, which are not compatible with the true Olympic sports ideology and maybe also with their ideological beliefs and most dangerous of all they cause them to self-destruct both their health and their personality.

The stress associated with the extreme effort of remaining within the permissible and ideological limits, is increasing more and more, the result being that they can no longer function easily within a healthy social environment.

In a world dominated by individualism and alienation, where humanitarian values have been pushed aside, Olympism as a theory and practice offers a sense of belonging by promoting fair play, equal opportunities, fraternization, cooperation and expectation, in the face of future challenges.

Greece, far from remaining indifferent to today’s world challenge, is actively expanding and intensifying its efforts towards a «lifelong Olympism».
Women in the Olympic movement
«Towards gender equality at the Summer Olympic Games»
Athens 1896-2004. Myth or Reality

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Introduction

Pierre de Coubertin, who is considered to be the founder of the Olympic philosophy and the reviver of the Olympic Games, was fascinated by the history of ancient Greece and the Olympic Games of antiquity. Convinced that a good education should not only strengthen ethical behavior and sustain faith, but also build healthy bodies and create brave men of sound character, Coubertin began to study the different educational systems of his time and in particular that of Thomas Arnold1. Believing that Great Britain’s power and wealth were mainly due to an educational system that was unique in the world, a school system focusing on sport, Pierre de Coubertin made a series of visits to England to familiarize himself with school

1. Dean of Rugby College in England from 1828 to 1842.
life «wishing to associate my name with a major educational reform» (De Coubertin, 1908, p.2).

The quest for this ideal had given birth to one of the widest movements in the whole world: the Olympic Movement. This Movement represents the permanent school of the Olympic philosophy, the spirit of chivalry and the idealization of man, combined with the teaching of the principles of Olympism so that they can become a living reality.

Coubertin proposed the staging of the Olympic Games giving them an international scope, with the addition of events and sports, the voluntary participation of amateur athletes, the promotion of friendship, peace and cooperation among people, the abolition of racial discrimination and, finally, the establishment of an International Committee that would be the trustee of Olympism. Coubertin had worked persistently in order to impose the Olympic Games, at which only top athletes from each nation could compete.

Women’s experience in the Olympic Games, the quadrennial celebration of the Olympic philosophy, is by no means the same as men’s. Thus, during the first Olympic Games, men enjoyed the privilege of practicing all sorts of sports without any opposition. Women, however, did not share this privilege. Women played the role of those who applaud and crown the victors.

Women though were always present at the Summer Olympic Games since 1900, in speed and dexterity sports, but were not allowed to compete in endurance and power sports. Their participation was very reluctantly accepted by some sports administrators and officials and by Pierre de Coubertin above all who never failed to voice his opposition to women’s participation in the Games.

For Coubertin, sport was a man’s business. Women who are an «inferior» race, sentimental, spontaneous and childish, should be pro-
tected by men. The roles and duties of each gender need to be separated. «We must stop this ghastly fashion of admitting women to competitions that are restricted to men. This is not just a problem of hygiene, it is a cultural prejudice, an ethical issue»³.

It took decades for people to accept that the concept of competitiveness should apply to the whole of the human species and for women to obtain the right to practice any physical activity. Women’s participation in the Olympic Games is a fact today. From one edition of Olympic Games to the next, we witness an increase in the number of women’s sports and events on the Olympic program. Indeed, the widening of the list of Olympic «women» sports with the addition of tae-kwon-do and the triathlon, the opening of sports like weightlifting and pentathlon to female competitors, as well as the inclusion of new women’s events such as hammer throw and pole-vaulting in athletics, the 500 m. in cycling, the trampoline in gymnastics, water polo in swimming and other events certainly confirm the acceptance of women athletes.

However, the situation of quasi-equality between the genders and women’s image in Olympic sport are nothing less than the outcome of a long process of conflicts and oppositions. Although equality is close, there are still sports and events that are restricted to men.

Women and the Olympic Movement

The history of women and sport

At the first Olympic Games of modern times, in 1896, there were no women. Today, men are still the majority, but women are gaining ground. As an example let me mention that at the 26th Olympic Games in Atlanta, 3626 of the 10,629 athletes were women and

at the 27th Olympic Games in Sydney, in 2000, 4,069 of the 10,651 athletes were women. During the Games of the last Olympic Games in Athens in 2004, 4,306 of the 10,568 athletes were women, which is 40.74% of all competitors.

The movement aiming at improving these figures has been slow and uncertain and there are still many obstacles to women’s full participation in world and Olympic sport. At the time when the modern Olympic Games were established, women’s participation was already the subject of animated discussions.

**Coubertin and women’s sport**

Pierre de Coubertin was opposed to women’s competition in sport. In France, at the end of the 19th century, only women of the aristocracy and upper middle class practiced sport. These women could have a go at some tolerated sports (riding, tennis, swimming, bicycle), but only in private, never in public. At that time, «sport was just a healthy past-time for the idle» for women who were well educated and highly cultivated, but also hidden from the world. In a nutshell, women enjoyed a certain amount of freedom only within their home.

This is the woman’s image that Coubertin adopted and made his: «that of the mother and wife, beloved, respected, but submissive».

In order to consolidate his ideas and confirm his image of women, Coubertin relied on the status of Athenian women during the Hellenistic period in ancient Greece, the period when the Olympic Games were at their peak. Women then were not allowed to attend any of the Greek festivals, either as spectators or competitors. They remained throughout their life under the rule of a guardian (father,

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5. Ibid.

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husband, son, or if they did not have one, a male from their husband’s family).

Everything was thus clear for Coubertin. Sport was a man’s business and women should be kept out of it in order to preserve their physiological, moral and sentimental qualities that man must protect.

On this issue, he stated in 1910: «... it doesn’t matter how strong a woman who is a sports fan may be, her body is not made to resist certain shocks. Her nerves dominate her muscles this is how nature wanted things to be. In the end, the egalitarian discipline, which focuses on male opponents for the good order and beauty of the event, runs the risk of being influenced and made inapplicable because of women’s participation»⁶.

An admirer of ancient Greece and the citizen-hero, Coubertin was all in favor of a male Olympism: «The only true Olympic hero, I have always maintained, is the individual male adult»⁷.

In 1900 and 1904, women step into the games’ arena through the back door and against the baron’s will. They competed in golf, tennis and then in archery.

At that time, Coubertin admitted that women could be allowed participate «if this was felt to be necessary» in parallel tournaments, outside the stadium’s «sacred enclosure».

In 1908, always against his will, the number of women was growing and they competed in three sports (skating, tennis and archery).

To counteract this rising participation of women in the Games, Coubertin seized the opportunity of the IOC Congress during the

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Stockholm Games to write: «[...] A female Olympiad would be impractical, uninteresting, unaesthetic and improper».

Coubertin’s stand was approved and supported by the leadership of the American National Olympic Committee who were against the costume of women swimmers and therefore also against their presence in the swimming events. So, women were accepted in certain sports and banned from others. Coubertin would write on this question in 1912: «We feel that the Olympic Games should be restricted to men... As the saying goes: a door must be either open or closed. Can women have access to all Olympic events? No... So why allow them to participate in some and ban them from others? And more specifically, on what basis could we draw the line between the events that are allowed and those that are not? We are not just talking about women tennis players and swimmers (they are already in the Olympic Games). There are also women fencers and riders and in America there have also been women rowers. It is quite possible that we will have women racing or playing football. Would such sports practiced by women provide an edifying spectacle for the crowds attending an Olympiad? We do not think that such an affirmation can be made.

... This is not our idea of the Olympic Games for which we have tried and should continue to try to achieve the following definition: the solemn and periodical celebration of male sport with internationalism as its base, loyalty as its means, art as its setting and women’s applause as its reward».

After the First World War where women were able with heroism to take men’s place in factories, public opinion evolved and women obtained right of access to the Olympic Games. But there was still

a long way ahead; the battle was just beginning. Only thirteen women took part in the Chamonix Winter Games (1924). They were able to compete in the Nordic ski events only thirty-two years later, thirty-six years later in speed skating and forty years later in the luge events\(^\text{10}\).

At the Amsterdam Games in 1928 track and field opens for women who compete in five events. During that same period, Coubertin condemns the decision of the Barcelona congress saying: «Regarding women’s admission to the Games, I am strongly opposed to it. It was against my will that they have been admitted to a growing number of competitions»\(^\text{11}\).

Until the end of his life, he obstinately refused to reconsider women’s participation in competition sport and he stated his views clearly on the subject in the Réforme de la charte sportive (The reform of the sports charter): «We must put an end to this appalling habit of allowing women to take part in competitions that are restricted to men. It is not only a problem of hygiene, it is a cultural prejudice, an ethical issue; sport is a passion that may generate havoc [...]. Well, such havoc is not made for women [...] superiority among mankind has been granted to the gender that is capable of killing not to the gender that procreates»\(^\text{12}\).

His quotations and his own words allow us to see that Coubertin was clearly and evidently a confirmed opponent of women’s participation in the Olympic Games, particularly when he declares, with reference to antiquity, that this would be contrary to «the greatest manly ideal, which was, whatever we might say, that of ancient sport, which truly triumphed in Olympia»\(^\text{13}\).

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11. Coubertin P. (de), The Olympic idea, p. 106.


Detailed analysis of women’s participation in the Olympic Games: Athens 1896-2004

Evolution of women’s participation

Total evolution

With the exception of the first modern Olympic Games of Athens in 1896, where women had not been invited and putting aside the years when the number of participants had dropped, as well as the three Games that were not celebrated because of the two World Wars, women are more and more present at the Games and their numbers never stop growing.

The number of women athletes in the course of a century (1900-2000) has risen from 19 to 4069, i.e. an increase of 2131% and 38.20% of the total number of participants. During that same period, the number of male competitors has increased only by 522%.

It would be interesting to note that women’s participation in the Olympic Games is marked by slight fluctuations, but mainly by two clear peaks:

a) The Amsterdam Games of 1928: the increase in the number of women competitors can partly be explained by the introduction of athletics and gymnastics which join swimming on the women’s program at the Games.

b) The Montreal Games of 1976: the second peak corresponds to a rise in the percentage of women from 14.86% in 1972 in Munich to 20.64%. This peak was mostly due to the drop in the number of male athletes following the boycott of African countries (with the exception of Senegal and the Ivory Coast).

c) The Atlanta Games of 1996: At these Games that celebrated the centennial of the Olympic Games women athletes for the first time represented more than one third with 3684 accredited female competitors. This number is due to the gigantism that was the trademark of these Games, which reached an almost universal dimension with 197 NOCs present.
d) The Athens Games of 2004: These Games were the first to be celebrated after the election of the new IOC President, Dr Jacques Rogge. 4,306 women participated in these Games, a figure that represents 40.74% of the total number of competitors.

**Comparison of women’s versus men’s participation**

**Comparison of the numbers**

Although it is still very far from the number of male competitors, this graph shows us that women are gaining ground and their numbers are getting closer to those of their male counterparts.

Women competed for the first time in 1900 at the Paris Games with 19 competitors, a figure that barely represented 1.79% of the number of male competitors, which was 1059. More than one
century later, at the Sydney Games, the number of women athletes was 4069 versus 5582 men, i.e. 61.82% of the number of their male counterparts. This rate indicates the increase in the number of women participants compared to that of the men. The day when this percentage will reach 100%, equality will have been achieved. Women’s participation, however, has shown less fluctuation than the participation of men.

**FIGURE 2**

*Women’s participation in the Summer Olympic Games 1896-2004*

![Graph showing women's participation in Olympic Games](image)

**Comparison of proportions**

Since women’s first participation in the Games, the proportion of female competitors has been rising steadily. Indeed, from 0.80% at the Paris Games, it has reached 40.74% of total athletes entered for the Athens Games in 2004.

The office of the different presidents of the IOC also coincided with a number of peaks in women’s participation. This was the case in 1928, when Coubertin, who was known for his opposition to
women’s participation, was succeeded by the new President, Henri de Baillet-Latour; during his term of office women’s participation rose from 4.6% at the Paris Games in 1924 to 10.1% at the Amsterdam Games in 1928.

**FIGURE 3**

*The share of women’s participation versus men’s participation from 1896 to 2004*

During Lord Killanin’s presidency (1972-1980), women’s participation grew more rapidly with their share rising from 14.86% at the Munich Games in 1972 to 23.04% at the Los Angeles Games in 1984.

Samaranch, the last IOC President, introduced during his term a policy for promoting women’s participation at the Olympic Games and as a result, women’s share reached 38.2% at the Sydney Games.

**The progress of women sports during the 1900-2004 Olympic Games**

*Opening of sports to women*

It took a lot of time for women to be accepted at the Summer Olympic Games in certain sports that were originally restricted to men.
TABLE 1

Dates of introduction of women sports in the Olympic programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Years before introduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowing</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightweight</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>1904</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe slalom</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian sports</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythmic Gymnastics</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handball</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judo</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diving</td>
<td>1904</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synchronized</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water-polo</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Pentathlon</td>
<td>1912</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1904</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triathlon</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach volley</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Centre of Olympic Studies
Average number of years before introduction 39.6
Standard deviation 38.31588008
Max 108
Min 4

On average, it took 39.6 years before sports were «opened» to women athletes. Some took longer than others to admit women. The spread around this mean is 38.315 years.

With the exception of those that were included at the same time for the two genders, certain sports needed more than one century before the first women were allowed to compete. These are essentially the sports that are considered as requiring strength. Along that same logic, certain events were closed to women because they were considered as masculine events. We can mention the example of water-polo, which was on the program of the Olympic Games since 1900 and opened for women only one century later, in 2000 or weightlifting, which is also considered as a man’s sport and for which it took more than one century for women to be admitted. Finally, the last sport, which opened for women 108 years later, is wrestling.

FIGURE 4
Increase of women’s events share versus men’s events
1900-2004
The share of women’s events in total events is steadily increasing and gaining ground compared to men’s events. From a mere 3% in 1900, this share has gone up to 44% in 2000 to then reach 44.9% in 2004 in Athens. If this growth persists, we can expect parity between men and women in the events in a few years’ time.

**Rise in the number of NOCs taking part in the Olympic Games 1896-2004. Overall increase in the number of NOCs**

If we analyse the growth in the number of NOCs participating in the Games with or without women competitors, we can see the place of women’s sport in the different countries.

**FIGURE 5**

*NOCs participating in the Olympiads 1896-2004*

The increase in the number of participating NOCs has been marked by five important events that have led to exceptional reductions in the number of delegations.

In 1904, the total number of NOCs fell from 19 to 13. This drop is due to the fact that the Games were staged in Saint Louis, which
meant that the Europeans had to travel for 11 days by boat to get to America and then a few more to reach the host city.

**TABLE 2**

*Number of NOCs with women athletes compared to the total number of NOCs participating in the Olympic Games 1896-2004*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>NOCs with women athletes*</th>
<th>NOCs without women athletes</th>
<th>Total NOCs**</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>NOCs with women athletes*</th>
<th>NOCs without women athletes</th>
<th>Total NOCs**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>58</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>140</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>199</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>201</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: *Int. Cooperation Dept. IOC ** Center of Olympic Studies*

In 1932, in Los Angeles, the number of NOCs dropped from 46 to 37. This was probably due to the world economic crisis, which broke out at the end of 1929, as well as to the significant expenses, which the long journey entailed and the increase in accommodation costs per person and per day at the Olympic Village.

The Montreal Games also witnessed a fall in the number of NOCs
from 121 to 92 because of the boycott of 27 African delegations at the side of Iraq and Guyana.

At the Olympic Games of Moscow in 1980, 29 countries boycotted the Games in protest against the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan. However, a number of NOCs resisted their government’s pressure and went to Moscow under the Olympic flag.

If we exclude the years when the total number of participating NOCs was smaller, we can see that the number of participating NOCs with women athletes has never ceased to rise from one edition of Olympic Games to the other.

This increase was particularly significant at the Olympic Games of Los Angeles, in 1984, where President Samaranch mobilized all available means to prevent a new boycott and to encourage NOCs to participate with more women athletes. The number of participating NOCs with women athletes thus rose from 54 to 94, an increase rate of 74%.

This policy of encouraging a stronger presence of women at the Olympic Games proved successful. As a result, since 1988, the number of NOCs with women athletes has been constantly rising, whilst the number of NOCs without women competitors is steadily dropping.

**Prospects of women’s participation in the Olympic Games 1900-2004**

**Smoothing of women’s participation in the Olympic Games 1900-2004**

By smoothing women and men’s participation we can obtain hypothetical time series, which reflect the progress of these participations, all things being considered equal and after neutralizing all situation-related effects.
The comparison between real and hypothetical participation as obtained from smoothing allows us to evaluate the sensitivity of real participations to external events. Figure 4 presents a graphic collation of the different real and smoothed participations. The purple and pink curves relate to women’s participation, while the dark and light blue curves show the participation of male athletes. The comparison shows that men’s participation appears to be more sensitive to external events. In other words, women’s participation is more constant as the real and smoothed curves are very close, almost coinciding, in contrast to the men’s curves where the gaps are often significant. The impact of external events (boycott, change
of President, etc.) appears to be less strong on women’s participation than on men’s.

A detailed examination of real and smoothed women’s participations reveals certain differences at the following Games:

a) Saint Louis Games 1904

The real number of women competitors was 6 at those Games, while it should have been 21 according to the time series. The celebration of the Games on the American continent, in Saint Louis, is the cause of this drop in the number of athletes as women competitors were exclusively American.

b) Amsterdam Games 1928

The real number of women athletes is 290. It is higher than the hypothetical number of 186 according to the time series. The return of Germany to the Games, linked to the introduction of athletics and gymnastics, which joined swimming on the program, led to this increase, thus making it possible to now speak about women’s participation.

c) Los Angeles Games 1932

The upward trend is broken. The real number of women athletes is 127, while it should have been 264 according to the time series. The remoteness of the Games venue, once again on the American continent, in Los Angeles and the limitation of the total number of competitors in individual events to three per country, was one of the reasons for this drop in the number of women athletes whose events did not increase (14 events).

d) Melbourne Games 1956

The real number of women athletes is 384 when it should have been 513 according to the time series. However, the drop in the total number of participants because of the boycott of the Melbourne
Games and Popular China’s withdrawal from the Olympic Village due to the presence of Nationalist China led to a decrease in the number of women athletes. The decrease in women’s numbers is once again linked to a drop in the total number of participants in the Games.

e) Moscow Games 1980

The real number of women athletes is 1125 when it should have been 1308 according to the time series. This is obviously explained by the boycott of the Moscow Games and the resulting drop in the number of participating NOCs, which led to a decrease in the total number of competitors and therefore also of women athletes.

f) Atlanta Games 1996

The real number of women competitors is 3684. It is higher than the hypothetical number of 3473 according to the time series. The Games of Atlanta were the last Games of the century, celebrating the centennial of the modern Olympic Games. For this reason, 197 NOCs were present in Atlanta with Olympic Games achieving universality.

g) Sydney Games 2000

The real number of women athletes is 4069. This number is higher than the hypothetical number of 3975 according to the time series. In fact, 199 NOCs participated in the Sydney Games, among which only 9 NOCs did not have any women athletes in their delegation: British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Brunei Darussalam, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Liechtenstein.

It is important to note that in Atlanta, in 1996, only 169 NOCs included women athletes in their delegations.
General conclusion

The first input of this paper was the adoption of a chronological approach that makes it possible to retrace the progress of women’s participation in the Olympic Games, starting from the initial reservations regarding this participation until women’s rise to the highest function in Olympic hierarchy.

The second input of this research was to arrive at a diagnosis of women athletes’ progress in the Olympic Games. A detailed analysis, from an exhaustive database on participation in the Olympic Games, allowed us to closely follow the development of women’s participation in terms of numbers, sports and events in which women athletes compete.

Even though total parity between men and women has not yet been achieved, the trend is definitely moving in this direction. Indeed, from year to year, women have gained access to a growing number of events and the gap, which existed between the men and the women’s program is gradually disappearing.

However, despite the fact that the trend towards equality in the number of events open to both genders is becoming stronger, there are still a few sports, which are restricted to men and banned from women. Moreover, certain biases still remain.

The IOC has taken a number of steps in order to increase the number of women athletes and to promote women’s position in national and international sports organizations. It was thus decided that to be included in the Olympic program any new sport should compulsorily have women’s events. Furthermore, the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees, the International Olympic Federations and the various national and international sports organizations have launched development programs to allow women to practice as many sports as possible competition sports in particular.

The results of the detailed analysis that was conducted in the
The context of this research shows that the work that has been done to promote women’s sport has been successful as regards the number of women athletes who compete in the Olympic Games. It is, however, clear that the increased participation of women athletes does not go hand in hand with the number of women in the administration and sports organization of the Olympic Movement. The access of women to these leadership positions will give them the financial resources and decision-making powers, which until now mostly remain the prerogative of men.

Although the IOC is really anxious to involve women in the decision-making bodies of sports organizations (NOCs, IFs) there are still very few women both among IOC and International Federation members. Similarly, the number of women in National Olympic Committees remains very low. The absence of women in decision-making positions is obviously an obstacle to the promotion of women athletes. To remedy this situation, the IOC decided in 1996 to give to women 10% of posts in all decision-making bodies by the end of 2000. This percentage is expected to increase to a minimum of 20% by December 31st, 2005.

The third input of this research was the elaboration of an explanatory and predictive analysis, which has made it possible to identify the variables that appear to have the greatest impact on women’s participation on the Games. The use of exponential smoothing by time series has revealed that the progress of women’s participation remains constant, even though it is not linear. In fact, this participation has suffered the effects of geopolitical events (games boycott, wars), but has never stopped growing. Moreover, a step by step multiple regression has made it possible to highlight the most important factors that explain women’s participation, i.e. the number of NOCs and the number of events. Although the explanatory factors chosen for the regression are only quantitative, the results provide some indications on the actions that need to be taken in order to promote women’s sport. Over and above the
number of NOCs, which has reached its limits, actions should rather focus on improving facilities, training, technical assistance and psychological support for top performance women athletes in NOCs with low women participation.

To this end, the IOC has initiated assistance programs for athletes, coaches and administrators through Olympic Solidarity, which offers scholarships for athletes practicing an individual Olympic sport and show a lot of potential, for young, hopeful athletes to allow them to improve their performances, and for coaches to help them improve their general skills at technical and scientific, as well as teaching level, thus enhancing their qualifications.

Furthermore, the IOC has been following for a number of years now a policy of promoting women at all the levels of sport. To this end, it has decided to award every year the trophy «Woman and Sport» to a woman, a man and/or an institution, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the development, promotion and strengthening of women and young girls’ participation in sport, as competitors or coaches, as well as in administrative and decision-making bodies at a national, regional and/or international level.

There are, however, certain limitations to this research. For example, women’s growing involvement in the Olympic Movement has only been considered in terms of sports participation in the Summer Olympic Games. Women’s position in the Olympic Movement could however, also be assessed on the basis of their decision-making power and the posts they really hold in the different Olympic bodies. The Summer Olympic Games were chosen because we wanted to analyze women’s participation at a world level. Moreover, these Games unquestionably constitute the event that best expresses the Olympic Spirit.

Another limitation refers to the choice of using only quantitative variables for the analysis. The database that was created integrated the following variables: number of men and women participants, NOCs, sports and events. The choice of variables can be justified
by the fact that these are the only data, which are available for all
the Olympic Games. The integration of qualitative variables would
have made it possible to extend the analysis to socio-cultural,
economic or political factors encouraging or hindering women’s
participation in the Olympic Games. To achieve this, numerous talks
with the different actors of the Olympic Movement (officials, admi-

nistrators, coaches and athletes) in various places and covering a
range of periods in Olympic history, would certainly have been
enriching.

To overcome these limitations, one area of research could be a
psycho-sociological study on women’s sport, based on a comparative
approach between countries by women athletes at the Games and
those less represented. Such a study would allow us to analyze in
more depth the economic, political and socio-cultural factors, which
determine women’s sports performance.
Results or participation?
Reconsidering Olympism’s approach to competition

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Presumably, what draws so much attention to the Olympic Games is not merely its competition but the vision inspiring and framing them. Pierre de Coubertin, the rénovateur of the modern international Olympic Games, called this vision Olympism. Unfortunately, Coubertin’s ideas were marred by inconsistencies, which were bequeathed to his notion of Olympism and challenge its understanding and implementation. One such challenge relates to the role and significance of the results of Olympic contests. Frequently cited Olympic phraseology seems to be contradictory in this regard.

Consider the Olympic creed and the Olympic motto.¹ On the one

hand, the Olympic creed proposes that in the Olympic Games, «the important thing is not winning, but taking part»\(^2\). On the other hand, the Olympic motto reads « Citius, altius, fortius » (faster, higher, stronger)\(^3\). It could be argued that by stressing participation, the Olympic creed primarily values the process of contesting. More importantly, it explicitly diminishes the significance of results. Conversely, it could be argued that the Olympic motto highlights not only the results of contests, but the perpetual strife for records.

Even if Coubertin envisioned the Olympic creed and the Olympic motto as compatible, the lack of articulation of this vision and the focus on either the process of contesting or the outcome of this process belied their reconciliation. Given this ambivalence, it is not surprising that the value of results in Olympic competition has been a contested issue. Thus, in the remainder of this presentation I will investigate the role that results should have in Olympic matters and, more broadly, in an enlightened sporting life. To do so I will first evaluate the Olympic creed and Olympic motto approaches to results. I will finish by arguing that an approach to the sporting and Olympic worlds worth accepting is one in which the process of contesting and its ensuing results come together to form a meaningful unity.

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The Olympic Approaches to Results

The Apollonian and Dionysian modes of being in the world, so forcefully used by Friedrich Nietzsche in relation to art, are suitable to characterize and analyze the different approaches to results, and consequently competitive sport, represented by the Olympic creed and the Olympic motto. This is so because, as Sam Keen has argued, the Apollonian-Dionysian typology «reflects the radical alternatives that seem to confront the young: ... either work or ecstasy, either discipline or freedom, either abiding commitments or spontaneity» 4. The Olympic creed and the Olympic motto, basically Dionysian and Apollonian respectively, seem to confront sportspeople with a similar dichotomy: either participation or winning; either contesting or results.

In classical Greek thought Apollo and Dionysus are nearly opposite but complementary gods. Apollo is the god incarnating the ego, order, discipline, control, reason, and beauty. For Nietzsche, Apollonian creativity requires that people discern between the possible and the impossible, which implies an evaluation of one’s potentialities and limitations. That is why self-knowledge occupies such a crucial role in an Apollonian mode of being in the world. Nietzsche wrote that along with «the esthetic necessity for beauty, there occur the demands “know thyself” and “nothing in excess”» 5.

Only those who know themselves can accomplish their goals. Apollonian consciousness therefore glorifies individual responsibility and presumed obligations to manipulate, discipline, and repress tendencies that might divert people from their goals. The Apollonian «gives us the power of vision» 6, what one considers worth pursuing

and from which one is not to deviate. According to Keen, modern culture is dominated by an Apollonian consciousness, most conspicuously through science and technology⁷.

The Apollonian consciousness is quite visible in the Olympic motto, which captures the «modern obsession with quantification in sport»⁸. Its adoption by Coubertin represents the consolidation of the scientific worldview in Western sport. «Citius, altius, fortius» illustrates an immutable faith in systematic increases in human performance and ultimately athletic progress. This attitude, which emphasizes the ideology of homo faber and its resultant embrace of utility as well as dismissal of activities pursued for their own sake, demands what Keen has called the Apollonian alternative to life: work, discipline, and abiding commitments.

For Coubertin, it was records that give sportspeople «the power of vision» a goal to aim at for which one needs the discipline to work hard. The successive records Coubertin referred to also highlight Apollo’s faith in the surpassing power of the individual—the principium individuationis. Pursuing records requires order, self-control, dedication, and a reasoned plan. This complicated pursuit calls for, or even demands, self-knowledge, probably one of the main Apollonian characteristics. The latter was so important to Coubertin that for him the ancient ideal know thyself was «the be-all and end-all of physical culture, summarizing its requirements and objectives»⁹. This Apollonian principle was extremely important to materialize excellence in terms of records.

Due to the differences in their emanating source, Apollonian tendencies are in opposition to Dionysian ones. Dionysus was the

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god of wine, fertility, and agriculture. He was a god that did not give people visions, but pleasure. Dionysus’ world was ruled by fascination, joy, pleasant sensations, and even intoxication. Nietzsche described the disparate nature of the Dionysian and Apollonian worlds stating that in the former, «The individual, with all his restraint and proportion, succumbed to the self-oblivion of the Dionysian states, forgetting the precepts of Apollo. Excess revealed itself as truth»10. This license for excess expresses and embodies the Dionysian exaltation of «ecstasy over order, the id over the ego, being possessed over a possessive orientation»11. In short, a Dionysian mode of being-in-the-world requires openness and impels people to passionately embrace experience and cavort in its nuances.

The Dionysian consciousness clearly reverberates in the Olympic creed.

Coubertin’s adoption of the phrase «the most important thing is not winning, but taking part» indicates the primacy of participation and the process of contesting at the Olympic Games. Moreover, the Olympic creed explicitly suggests that results are neither the most relevant factor in the Olympic Games nor a primary value of Olympism.

Coubertin, who is usually portrayed as an advocate of moderation, tranquility, and order, valued Dionysian tendencies. He highlighted the passion, ardor, self-indulgence, exhilaration, intoxication, and sense of drunkenness brought about by letting oneself be captured by sport.12 Only those who give themselves up to sport can experience this. There is no doubt that in some respect, what was attractive for Coubertin was not the outcome or consequences of participating in sport but the doing itself, the experience of partici-

participation. He also stressed the idea of sport as an end in itself. In 1935 Coubertin celebrated the idea «of effort opposing effort for the love of the effort itself»13. In another graphic passage, Coubertin despised moderation in sport affirming that sport «cannot be made fearful and prudent without compromising its vitality. It needs freedom of excess»14.

It is evident that Dionysus found his way not only into the Olympic creed but also into Olympism. Indeed, one of the fundamental principles of the Olympic movement articulated in the Olympic Charter establishes that «Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort»15. It is, however, one of the very few identifiable Dionysian elements in the largely Apollonian governing document of the IOC. The Dionysian invitation is one to love sport for what it is, to appreciate its uniqueness, to explore its depths without concern for its results or effects.

**Evaluating the Olympic Approaches to Results**

The Olympic motto can be criticized because in emphasizing the quest for results, most conspicuously, records and winning, it does not properly stress how athletic challenges are met and solved. This criticism suggests that the Olympic motto fails to properly highlight the process of contesting and how it makes winning and the setting of records intelligible and meaningful. That is, the testing and contesting of skills so central to the definition of each sport and,

consequently, to the establishment of results are seen as secondary to the process of contesting itself. Lists of records and results do not necessarily speak to or at minimum fall short of exposing the vibrant stories behind them.

In response to this argument, it can be pointed out that since Coubertin’s adoption, the Olympic motto has been articulated and defended as a call to strive for athletic excellence. Under this interpretation, records are conceived as the archetypical manifestation of such excellence and, therefore, the ultimate expression of a commitment to the defining skills of a sport. One criticism to this position is that whether the Olympic motto intends it or not, conceiving of records in this way leads to an unwarranted focus on winning and the end product of competition. The underlying logic is that results give the sporting world an objective and reliable way to establish and compare athletic excellence and progress. Even if understood as a call for self-perfection rather than absolute athletic excellence, the Olympic motto inevitably highlights results.

A second criticism is that excellence is neither the prerogative of record-setters nor of winners. That is, failing to set records or losing are not necessarily signs of athletic mediocrity. Critics would argue that if the Olympic motto is a metaphor for athletic excellence, the overemphasis on records and winners is unwarranted. For them, there is more to athletic excellence than the results of competition. More important, and here resides the core of the criticism, in the sporting world results do not necessarily correlate with excellence.

On the other hand, the Olympic creed has not met the criticism of the Olympic motto. This is the case because the Olympic creed is usually understood as a principle that moderates the overemphasis on competitiveness, winning, and results. It could be argued, however, that by stressing participation over winning, the Olympic creed disregards not just results but also concerns for excellence, which also insinuates a failure to take seriously the logic of competition. Indeed, participation per se does not necessarily lead to excellence.
Moreover, sportspeople may have a wide array of reasons to participate in the Olympic Games other than achieving excellence. For instance, political, social, or commercial agendas to name only a few possibilities, may be the driving force of such participation.

Despite the criticisms assessed to the Olympic motto and the Olympic creed individually, there is a more fundamental critique that cuts across both Olympic principles. By emphasizing one or the other, the Olympic motto and the Olympic creed detach results from participation. Olympic phraseology places these two elements as opposites and in so doing at best implies and at worst establishes a rigid and damaging dichotomy. The most important element of Olympism becomes an either-or affair. It is either the results of contests, specifically records and winning, or participation, the process of contesting. Whatever side of the binary scheme comes to enjoy the prevalent position, it relegates, by virtue of the nature of the phrases, the counterpart to peripheral status. This separation between results and the process by which they are established is perplexing to say the least.

For one, lived experiences of sport suggest that the end product of competition is inextricably tied to the process of contesting. Most athletes are aware of the connection between arriving at an end point and the necessary steps involved in –and in a sense permitting, conditioning, and determining– such arrival. That is, results and performance are usually not perceived as divorced. The connection between results and performance is not a claim based only on the experiences of athletes. Rather, when the central purpose of competitive sport is taken into account, it is fundamental in a logical sense. What I am going to argue in my concluding remarks is that to live sport to its fullest, sportspeople have to understand the complexity and subtlety of the structure and purpose of sporting contests, which neither the Apollonian Olympic motto nor the Dionysian Olympic creed approaches to sport accomplish independently.
Reconsidering Olympism and Its Approach to Sport Contests

It should be clear that the Olympic motto’s and the Olympic creed’s distortion of the complexity and richness of the practice at the core of the Olympic Games indicates that the issue at stake supersedes that of results versus participation. The relevant issue is what view should prevail in Olympic and sport competition. Of course, such a view requires much more than simply arguing that both results and process are equally relevant. I believe that a reasonable and principled view has to keep competitive sport at the center of the analysis.

The logic of competitive sport requires that and is achieved when sportspeople engage in the same game in order to determine their relative abilities. While keeping the game at the forefront, the move from its basic test to the contest requires not only a shift from

singularity to plurality but also a commitment to improve the performance of everyone involved in the competition. This means that a contest is a competition of the particular set of skills (testing abilities) constitutive of a sport and that contestants share a primary interest in this set of skills. Genuine contestants are devoted to the defining skills of their sport and to comparing and evaluating their proficiency in these skills.

This line of reasoning allows for the identification of the key elements in the view that should prevail in Olympic and sport competition. Genuine contestants should understand in theory and honor in practice how the basic test of each sport informs the contest. To accomplish this, a number of commitments based on the logic of competitive sport have to be met. Genuine contestants should be interested not only in how competition reveals their abilities as test takers but also in how their abilities compare with that of a fellow test taker. Genuine contestants should be devoted to the cultivation of the set of skills that make their sport what it is.

This leads to the issue of winning and, therefore, results. Genuine contestants do not argue for competition while disregarding concerns for winning and results. Rather, they value winning and results by keeping them in proper perspective. This perspective requires that sportspeople «do not appreciate a victory for its own sake but as a reflection of a process by which contestants find worthy opponents, agree to create the best possible test, and attempt to overcome the challenge faced». There is a healthy circularity at play here; results (including winning) are meaningful in so far as they embody athletic excellence, which in turn refers to proficiency in the set of skills that

17. For a thorough description of the move from test to contest see Kretchmar, «From Test to Contest: An Analysis of Two Kinds of Counterpoint in Sport»
19. Ibid., 149.
define a sport. Genuine contestants are concerned with how sport is played. In this sense, results are not detached from but are intimately connected with the quality of the contest and, therefore, of the contestants as well. The degree of athletic excellence displayed in a contest appears then not to be just the product of the efforts of a single individual but the manifestation of collective effort.

It should become evident that, for genuine contestants, results and participation are inextricably intertwined. When viewed from the logic of sport’s central purpose, results are not a crass product and participation is not an end in itself. From this perspective results and participation or the process of contesting come to form a meaningful whole. And this whole is intrinsically meaningful. Embodying a sport’s skills and contesting them with a worthy opponent for evaluative and comparative purposes, through which results and records are established, is exhilarating in itself. Excellence can be appreciated in results but it is lived out, felt, embodied through the contest radically connected with them. This whole, this interconnectedness between one’s own and one’s opponents’ performances, that entails the complexity and nuances of sport competition, is what makes it a project worth pursuing.

In summary, neither an Apollonian nor a Dionysian approach to Olympic and sporting competition is sufficient to properly account for the uniqueness of competitive sport. Although elements of both approaches can be distinguished in the view I have defended, an enlightened view of competitive sport is more complex than putting the two on equal levels. Indeed, I have argued that a reasonable and principled view of sport competition has to keep at its center the logic and central purpose of competitive sport. In a nutshell, properly honoring competitive sport, and therefore athletic superiority, requires the cultivation of the test as well as caring about those whose dedication to the same test make the contest possible. This, of course, demands that sportspeople focus on excellence by always trying their best. This is very difficult to do if one distances results
from performance, caring only about participation in detriment to results, or vice versa.

The understanding of competitive sport defended in this presentation does not dismiss the Olympic creed and the Olympic motto altogether but rather redeems them. It does so by underlying the fact that participation in a sporting contest entails a concern for excellence, relative abilities, and therefore some result. In turn, striving for results is always moderated by rules and the challenge that determine each sport, and requires a dedication to the set of skills that create excellence in each sport. The problem with the Olympic creed and the Olympic motto is that they are misinterpreted or misapplied because, as seen above, they have been typically disconnected from each other.

The view proposed in this presentation appears to be required in a sound formulation of Olympism. Moreover, I would argue that all other aspects of Olympism have to be illuminated by and articulated in a way that does not contradict the logic and central purpose of competitive sport. To do otherwise is to misunderstand what resides at the core of Olympism.

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The media coverage of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games

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Athens 2004 was the object of a media campaign, qualified as "negative and unfair" never seen before in the history of the Olympic Games. A number of major international media – New York Times, Washington Post, Le Monde – American as well as French used many kinds of often diverging arguments in order to question and even disqualify Greece’s ability to organize and stage Games that would be worthy of the event’s reputation.

This forceful and systematic denigration campaign naturally was a source of surprise, perplexity, non-understanding and often exasperation for the Athens 2004 OCOG, which was compelled to provide endless explanations on certain problems relating to the organization of the Games that were real in some cases but certainly did not justify the brutality of the media’s attack: the progress of the work on facilities and infrastructure, the security of Olympic venues, protection against Islamic terrorism, etc.

The subject drew my attention because Mr Filaretos asked me (as you probably suspect) to deal with it, but also because it inaugurated an exceptional manner of handling a major event, the Olympic
Games, in the new world environment, which has taken shape\(^1\) in the aftermath of 9/11, the war in Afghanistan and the invasion in Iraq, events that have deeply changed the geopolitical and geostrategic\(^2\) stakes in the field of collective security in the world, by generating a feeling of vulnerability and insecurity among American, as well as Western leaders.

These Olympic Games of Athens 2004 were held in a context of fighting against doping, making sport healthier and restoring the moral integrity of the sports movement as a whole: athletes, officials and coaches at the highest level, as well as members of the International Olympic Committee, involved in corruption scandals.

Finally, these Games because they had returned to Greece had a very special interest, of a historic and symbolic significance in particular, that was strongly promoted by the Athens OCOG, which true to its slogan organized Games «on a human scale» as Jacques Rogge himself kept repeating.

The processing of about 1200 articles selected from a few major international media – *New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today*, as well as *Le Monde, le Figaro, Libération, l’Equipe*, for the period extending from the end of the 2000 Sydney Games to those of Athens in 2004, has helped me to highlight:

- The political, economic and international conditions, which led to this particular treatment of the Athens Olympic Games by the media;
- The themes that were developed, which reveal the major concerns of the time and the areas where the stakes are, clearly defined.

The deliberate choice of the major international media, from which I will only be quoting for the purposes of this paper the French and American written press, allows us to collect a set of textual data

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based on which it is then possible to cross-compare and place into systematical perspective the positions of France and the United States on issues as varied as security and terrorism, the fight against doping and cheating in sport, corruption, the environment, the facilities and, finally, the Games’ tag and social cost for the Greeks.

The aim of this article will be to show that the analysis of the media coverage of the Olympic Games cannot be dissociated from:

a) the international context of that period, marked by growing insecurity worldwide, after the attack of 11 September 2001, which resulted in the «policy of fear» initiated and kept alive by the United States as a reaction to this terrorist attack;
b) the geopolitical influence, the economic weight and the sports reputation of Greece among developed nations and its ability to undertake an organization of such scope;
c) finally, people’s perception of Greece and the city of Athens some time before the Games, considered to be, rightly or wrongly, one of the most polluted cities in the world.

Theme 1 – The imperative need for security and the fight against terrorism

A climate of terror generated by a «policy of fear»

Xeno Mueller³ used all possible means to obtain the American nationality before the Athens Games. When he succeeded, in April, there was a last formality to complete before going to Greece: he had to take part, at the end of May, in the traditional American rowing qualifying events. However, this rower of Swiss descent, living in the United States since 1991, an Olympic gold (1996) and silver (2000) medallist in the single sculls event withdrew just before the

final, preferring to watch from the bank as a spectator this race for which he was the favorite.

«I have responsibilities as an athlete but also towards my family in California», he explained to the American Rowing Federation. Recent news on television are depressing and I believe that all this becomes clear at a time when you feel most vulnerable. In my case this is just before the start of a race».

The allusion to the security issues surrounding the Athens Games was barely disguised, but many American athletes do not share Xeno Mueller’s sports record or his turn of mind. We should, however, note that most American athletes preparing for the Games will blindly trust the organizers as regards security issues or will simply refuse to discuss this topic with the press.

«To say that we are not concerned about the threat of terrorist attacks against our athletes would be a big lie», admits Chuck Wielgus, Executive Director of the American Rowing Federation. «We are of course afraid, because we know that the United States will not be received with open arms in Athens. Our athletes, are used, however to being booed all over the world. They prefer to focus on their sports goals because they know that the American government has spent a fortune in order to guarantee their security».

«Many competitors are terrified by the risk of attacks» stated Bobby Brewer, Manager of the Premier Management Group, a sports marketing company that manages the career of many star swimmers. For example, the Anna Kozlova – Alison Bartosik duet in synchronized swimming. Two months ago, these two ballerinas participated in a competition in Athens. Their analysis of the situation is unequivocal. «The climate of terror that prevails at these Olympic Games is taking alarming proportions», Alison Bartosik told the Chicago Tribune. «On the one hand, the Olympic Games symbolize the ultimate goal for which I have been preparing all my life. On the other hand, I clearly feel the potential danger that surrounds the event». And her partner of Russian origin added: «Ma-
Many people do not agree with the foreign policy of the United States. As athletes we unfortunately run the risk of having to deal with the consequences of this and we shall be followed by bodyguards all the time».

According to an opinion poll conducted in the middle of April by Associated Press–Ipsos in the United States, more than 50% of respondents are convinced that the Games will be a target for a terrorist attack. «This is not surprising», Mark STARR chronicler of the Newsweek weekly and former war correspondent in Latin America, ironically commented, «half of my fellow citizens have always had precise ideas on what is happening anywhere in the World [without ever having being there]». But he adds: «In connection with the Olympic Games, American public opinion has never been so concerned about the security issue. The New York Times journalists who will be covering the Games have even gone through a military type of preparation training…».

Other nations also feel that such preparation is not unnecessary. The Australian government, which sent 2000 military in Iraq, will have two aircraft stationed at Athens airport during the Games ready to take off and evacuate the Australian delegation in case of a disaster.

Aware of the risks, the officials of the American Olympic Committee entrench themselves behind a pragmatic statement. «We shall ask our athletes to be careful when they take a walk in the city, not to wear their official uniforms when they are outside the competition venues and to refrain from engaging in political discussions with strangers».

Means of control commensurate with a real or presumed threat

According to the Greek Minister of Public Order, George Voulgarakis, at the end of a talk with Interpol’s Secretary General Robert
NOBLE, there was not terrorist threat against the Athens Olympics. He stated in fact that: «I am very happy that there is no intelligence from any place in the world that would put the Olympic Games at risk». To grasp the meaning of this statement we need to look at the resources, which were marshaled by the Greek government and the OCOG Athens 2004.

Indeed, Athens had put together security arrangements that were unprecedented in the history of the Games. The very tense international situation –terrorism, attacks, the situation in Iraq– had placed the Athens Olympic stage at the center of security concerns.

The security system became operational as of July 1st, 2004. A little before that, there was a violent discussion going on about the Greeks’ capacity to organize safe Games. On this question, a European official referred to the huge challenge which organizing these first Games in the post 9/11 era represented:

«In Salt Lake City, we staged the Games to challenge terrorism. We were still recovering from the attack against the World Trade Center and in the end, fear obliterated the Games. In our memories, Salt Lake City will always remain as an arena surrounded by barbed wire. In Athens, we will have learned to live with 9/11. The organizers really wish the Games to be a success, they do not want the festival to be overshadowed by security measures. The symbol is very strong».

The security figures:
- € 1,2 billion – total cost
- 70,000 – the security forces mobilized from the police, the coastguard, the army and the fire fighters.
- 1,200 – the cameras installed in Athens and the Olympic Villages,
- 1 – the airship chartered by the American company SAIC responsible for the Games’ electronic surveillance.

• 10 – the number of police and army helicopters flying over the Greek capital city
• 200 – the number of terrorist attack scenarios considered,
• 8 – the number of NATO AWACS on surveillance missions in Greece
• 213 – the number of Olympic hotels under maximum surveillance, with the Athens Hilton, the IOC’s HQ and the Grande Bretagne, the residence of Heads of State and monarchs at the centre of the system
• 66 – the number of VIPs, including Jacques Chirac and King JUAN CARLOS who had already expressed their wish of staying in Athens during the Games.

«The Greeks have done every thing that was humanly possible for the security of the Games» President Jacques Rogge once again repeated on his arrival at Athens airport. It is up to them to show us now how to reconcile this deployment worthy of a country at war with Games, which they have promised to be «on a human scale».

Theme 2 – Fighting against doping and cheating in sport

With more than 213 of a total of 826 articles published in the French press in the summer of 2004 dealing with doping, this topic occupied or rather monopolized the media’s interest. On this occasion, the IOC sent a very strong political signal on the issue of antidoping as the Athens Games of 2004 were, by general admission, a turning point in this field. We can mention at random the «Kenteris and Thanou\(^5\)» case, the scandal of the American runner Tyler Hamilton described as the «Athens bug\(^6\)», the return of EPO (erythropoietin) and the anabolics, which validated the thesis of a

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rich man’s doping, much more effective and well ahead of control procedures and a poor man’s doping.

Over and above the raw data, we should note that more than 3,000 controls were performed in Athens triggering off a real «disarmament race» and the exclusion of 23 competitors among whom three Olympic champions. All this was made possible thanks to the adoption of the World Antidoping Code, which made procedures clearer, more effective and quick and put an end to the confusion, which existed in Sydney. It was thus possible to uncover more cheaters in Athens than during the 3 previous Olympic Games: the IOC’s firmness has marked the beginning of a new era.

The action of the IOC and its President Jacques Rogge that symbolizes this new era has certainly contributed to it given the support offered to WADA since its establishment in 1999.

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8. Discipline olympique, l’Equipe, 31 August 2004
I. Introduction: Athens Wager

The Olympic Games of Athens were special and unique in certain ways and this is what I will be talking to you about today during this presentation, briefly, clearly and as simply as possible.

These were the first Olympic Games of all times to be organized on European territory under a system of full application of EU legislation.

As you all know, any development, any initiative and any decision takes place and develops within a specific legal sphere. This legal sphere may be either that of international law, when it is derived from international treaties and international institutions, or that of Community law, that is produced by the institutions of the European Union and mainly consists of EU regulations, directives and the decisions of European courts or, finally, the sphere of national law, which is created and enforced within the framework of each country’s national sovereignty and self-regulation. In most cases of course the circles of these international, Community or national rules intersect with the obligation for the country, which organizes any sports,
political, cultural or other events, to implement all the above rules in order to ensure the event’s legality and success, not only from a functional and effective point of view, but also from the point of view of legal safety.

For 2004, Greece wanted to organize the most successful and unique Olympic Games, the first Olympic Games that would be celebrated in conformity not only with its internal, national law, but above all in conformity with the rules of EU law, which member states, like Greece, are obliged to comply with.

After it undertook the commitment of staging the Olympic Games of Athens Greece laid a major wager, which was to make the Olympic Games of 2004 a model of how Olympic Games should be organized with legal safety, not only in Greece, but in Europe, i.e. within an organized system of values, rights and principles.

This wager was even more difficult for Greece because she had to take into consideration two important poles, two major systems of action and direction, the first being the Olympic Movement and the second the European Union. The reason was that both the Olympic Movement and the European Union seek by different means to extend a set of rules, which do not deal exclusively with sport or the freedom of movement of goods or people. Both the Olympic Charter and the Charter of the European Union lay down rights, which refer to values and concepts of wider interest.

Athens had thus to prepare to welcome the Games not just as a city of Greece that would be staging a sport competition, but to be at the center of interest for Europe and the whole world, during a period when the European Union is striving to play a greater role on the international scene.

For the second time in the history of the Games, Athens would be hosting the event. The first time was in 1896, when the Olympic Games were revived after many centuries and the values of Olympism were once again brought to the forefront. The second time, was just
one year ago, when Greece organized the first Olympic Games of Europe. I wish to stress the fact that this was the first time for Europe because the previous Olympic Games on Community soil was that of Barcelona in 1992, twelve years before at a time though when the process of European integration had not been completed and we cannot therefore speak of an obligation to comply with Community rules and binding European principles.

The sectors of the 2004 Olympic Games, which Greece organized in compliance with the rules of the Olympic Movement and those of the European Union are many and extremely interesting.

However, in order to help you understand the elements on which Greece relied in order to erect the edifice that is called Olympic organization in United Europe, I will describe two of these representative elements with the help of two examples:

1. How the organization structure operated, i.e. the way in which the country was organized in order to meet the requirements of the Olympic Games.

2. The way in which the numerous and modern Olympic facilities, which would host the Olympic sports during the Games of 2004, were designed and built.

II. The «European» organization structure and the operation of the Athens Olympic Games

The EU’s influence was particularly strong in the organization sector, i.e. at the level of the organizations, which took over the responsibility of successfully carrying through a number of critical issues related to the Olympic preparation. Greece, through its governments, in order to respond to the demands of such an important undertaking had proceeded to distribute the competences for the preparation of the Olympic Games among the following major institutions:

1. The Ministry of Culture and Sport, which renovated the existing
sports facilities such as for example the Athens Olympic Sports Center (OAKA) and built a large number of new sports and other projects such as the Olympic Equestrian Center, the Weightlifting Indoor Hall, the Olympic Rhythmic Gymnastics Center, for the International Broadcasting Center, etc. At the same time, however, the Ministry of Culture as the representative of the Greek governments was entrusted with the overall responsibility, supervision, coordination and follow-up of all public and private bodies involved in the organization of the Games and was also responsible for supervising and coordinating their activities together with the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games – Athens 2004. Finally, the Ministry of Culture was also responsible for coordinating the preparation, drafting and presentation to the Hellenic Parliament of all the new legislation that needed to be passed, so that Greece could implement the procedures, which it felt to be essential for the successful organization of the Olympic Games.

2. The Ministry of the Environment, Land Planning and Public Works, which also constructed a number of Olympic venues, such as the Olympic Rowing Center, the Olympic Tae-kwon-do Center, the Hellenikon Olympic Center which hosted the sports of basketball, volleyball, fencing, etc. The Ministry was also responsible for the construction of the necessary road projects, transport links, etc.

3. The Ministry of Transport, which was responsible for building the infrastructure for the mass transit of visitors and citizens.

4. The Ministry of Health, which was responsible for the construction and modernization of the hospitals that would provide the necessary health services to visitors and citizens during the Olympic Games.

5. The Ministry of Labor, which built the Olympic Village that was
used at the end of the Games to provide housing for working people who did not have a home.

6. The Ministry of Tourism, which modernized the country’s hotel facilities that would cover the accommodation requirements during the Games.

7. The Ministry of Merchant Marine, which modernized the country’s port reception facilities for the ships, pleasure craft and boats used as accommodation for visitors.

8. The Ministry of Education, which undertook to introduce in Greek schools special Olympic education programs, so that Greek students could familiarize themselves with the organization of the 2004 Olympic Games.

9. The Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games – Athens 2004, which was the official interlocutor of the International Olympic Committee, as well as the official partner of the Greek governments during all the preparation stages and finally the country’s liaison with the International Olympic Committee.

The above bodies and their powers have been enumerated for only one reason which is to clearly show the relationship that developed between the state organizations that were separately responsible for one sector of the preparation for the Games, in conformity with European requirements.

As you know, European requirements aim at the introduction of common legal rules on the territory of the European Union, the promotion of the economic union principles and the avoidance of unfair competition between member states.

According to the provisions of EU legislation, public authorities of EU member states, like the Greek ministries for example, as well as the legal entities that are controlled by the state, are subject to the procedures laid down by the European Union, without any possibility of exemption, for the studies, services and projects which they award on their territory.
Consequently, both Greek ministries and the Organization Committee for the Olympic Games – Athens 2004, because of their nature and responsibilities are compulsorily fall under the regulating scope of EU legislation as *contracting authorities*, especially when the services and projects they have contracted, which were related to the Olympic Games, had a contract price that was equal to that defined by EU law as the mandatory limit.

As a result, all Greek agencies had to comply not only with the provisions of Greek law, but principally with those of EU legislation. Practically this meant for Greece that the awarding of a study, service or project had to follow the tendering procedures laid down in EU regulations and directives and this applied not only to the ministries, which in all cases constitute and represent the Greek state as the medium for exercising public authority and therefore as a contracting authority, but also to the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games – Athens 2004.

In the particular case of the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games – Athens 2004, that was established by virtue of a law passed by the Hellenic Parliament in 1998, the following «strange» thing happened: The Greek lawmaker, when providing for the establishment, constitution, operation and powers of the Organizing Committee, took care to endow it with a number of legal characteristics that would give it more flexibility for organizing the Olympic Games. Let me mention a few of these characteristics:

1. It had the legal form of a *société anonyme* operating under commercial law provisions, as all private companies, which carry out their business activities in the sector of the economy and development on national or EU territory.
2. It had been exempted by an express statement of the Greek legislator from all arrangements and procedures applicable to Greek public sector and general government.
3. Special procedures were laid down for the contracting and
performing of services, projects and procurements and the signing of relevant contracts, by derogation to the provisions, which are mandatory for the Greek state.

4. A special system of audits by qualified judicial officials and scientists was set up for checking all the Organizing Committee’s expenses in order to ensure sound management of the public funds that were allocated to the company by the Greek governments, as “seed capital”.

This is, however, where the countdown begins for the legislative advantages enjoyed by the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, as the official organizing authority of the Olympic Games of Athens, always in the context of its relationship with the European Union.

Specifically:

1. «Athens 2004» was entrusted with the management of public funds for the purpose of beginning preparations for the staging of the Olympic Games during the initial period when its revenues from the event were expected to start coming in several years later (from sponsoring, radio and TV rights, etc.)

2. The Organizing Committee’s Board of Directors would be appointed by decision of the Prime Minister, while it would be operating under the supervision of a special committee composed of the relevant Greek government Ministers. This Inter-ministerial Committee was chaired by the Minister of Culture for the period 1998-2003 and by the Prime Minister himself in 2003-2004.

3. Finally, the Greek lawmaker defined the organizing committee as an entity operating in the public interest, since the organization of the Olympic Games was a public interest service linked to the country’s domestic and foreign policy.

These three elements, i.e. subsidizing by means of public funds, the company’s management appointed by the State and the public interest object it pursued for the seven years of preparation for the
Games, included the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games of 2004 in the definition of a contracting authority according to EU law thus compelling it to strictly comply with EU procedures for the hundreds of calls for tenders it would publish.

III. The «European» dimension in designing and constructing the Olympic Sports Facilities

As you all know, the International Olympic Committee always envisions the host city, the city that is, which is entrusted each time with the organization of the Olympic Games, as a city full of sports facilities, with no pollution and environmentally sustainable.

The host city contract of 1997, i.e. the contract that was signed between Athens and the International Olympic Committee, after the latter’s decision to award the Olympic Games of 2004 to the city of Athens, contained a very large number of commitments regarding environmental protection and the country’s preparation for hosting the Olympic Games. In any event, the Olympic Charter itself expressly refers to the concern of the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Movement for the environment.

The protection of the environment is considered as the Olympic Movement’s third pillar and the International Olympic Committee has already accepted Agenda 21 and its commitments. On 23 October 1999, the International Olympic Committee had convened its 3rd World Conference on Sport and the Environment, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during which Agenda 21 was adopted by the Olympic Movement and a declaration issued on sport and the environment. According to this declaration, the Olympic Movement’s Agenda 21 is an instrument that defines the actions to be taken for a more effective contribution of the Olympic Movement to environmental protection and sustainable development. All the members of the Olympic Movement and all those who participate in sport and sports
organizations are invited to comply with Agenda 21 in the best possible way, respectful of their culture, traditions and convictions.

At the same time, the European Commission published a series of directives and regulations on environmental protection. Under these regulations and directives, member states must take a number of measures and follow specific procedures in order to protect the environment, the reason being that the European Union considers the protection of the environment not as a separate requirement for each country separately, but as a single good that extends over the whole European territory and therefore requires special protection on the part of European institutions.

The Olympic projects as designed by Greece were linked to the concept of environmental protection in an integral way, on the basis of laws that constituted in fact a land planning and urban organization plan reflecting principles and perceptions compatible with both IOC and EU principles.

When planning the Olympic and sports facilities for the Athens Games, Greece took into very serious consideration the environmental constraints, which existed in many of the regions that would be hosting Olympic events.

Regions with environmental problems and had to be protected for environmental purposes were not selected by Greece both when preparing its bid and later when the location of certain sports facilities had to be changed.

Indeed, when in 1999 the basic choices of the bid had to be qualified, Greece voted a fundamental law, which identified the location of Olympic projects in Athens. Although introducing rules of national application, this law fully respected the EU principles regarding environmental protection. It adopted European values and considered all aspects on which the European Commission might disagree, whilst taking into consideration the European legislation as a whole.

For this reason, the first law on the location of the sports facilities
that was passed by the Hellenic Parliament was accompanied by special scientific reports, something that is not usually the case in Greece when passing legislation. Until then, laws accompanied by detailed and well documented studies by environment experts, town planners, land planners, civil engineers, archaeologists and other scientists had almost never been voted in Greece. This happened for the first time on the occasion of the organization of the 2004 Olympic Games with the view to evaluating the European environmental protection principles, together with the voting of the law. For example, according to a standing principle of EU legislation, you may never integrate a project in the environment before examining first all possible alternative location solutions. In this way, before the final decision on the project’s site, you will have assessed its impact on the environment. This is precisely what these studies and reports had considered, on the basis of environmental and town planning criteria.

Even before the start of construction work on sports facilities for the Games of 2004, all the procedures required by the European Commission were also followed so that citizens could be informed about the size and features of the Olympic projects and given the opportunity to present their opposition, objection and opinion about the projects. We are talking about the famous publicity rules, which are very important under Community law, since all citizens need to be informed and given the opportunity to express the views on any project undertaken by the state, especially when we are dealing with large and complex projects like those of the Olympic Games.

There were of course a few cases, like the building of the rowing venue, which was in very close proximity to a sensitive protected fauna and flora area and for this reason the European Commission invited the Greek authorities to Brussels for further explanations as it felt that the construction of the rowing venue might have a negative impact on biotope’s environment. Greece undertook to adopt specific
measures in order to prevent any damage during the Olympic and post-Olympic period.

IV. Conclusions: change in Leadership

Our country is convinced by now that the above legal commitments and procedures it had to follow were one of the reasons for the delay in completing the Olympic and sports facilities, for which Greece got such a bad press abroad. I cannot, nor am I competent to make any comments about any other reason for this delay. But for six years (from 1999 to 2004), as legal advisor to the Ministry of Culture and Sport, which was mainly responsible for the organization of the Olympic Games, I was able to follow all the stages of the preparation. Unfortunately, all legal procedures followed were hard and stringent and therefore also time-consuming. I will just tell you this: The Olympic projects as a whole were released from the procedures followed and from the area of jurisdiction of the country’s highest courts in 2003 when the last construction phase could really begin.

By the way, let me just mention that until the completion of the Olympic projects, about sixty (60) trials took place before the country’s supreme court of appeal on different legal grounds and about hundred (100) trials before the civil courts in order to award damages to citizens in cases of compulsory purchase of private land, in addition to public land, for the requirements of Olympic projects and infrastructure. In one third (1/3) of these proceedings, the courts ordered construction work to stop until their final ruling on the case, which would be issued 3 to 12 months later!

Even Greece’s choice to cover the Athens Olympic Stadium with the famous roofing by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava had to go through the legal ramifications of EU rules. With this roofing, Greece wanted to add a modern design to the venue of the opening
and closing ceremonies of the Olympic and Paralympic Games thus contrasting the modern Olympic spirit of the 2004 Games with the ancient spirit of the games in Ancient Olympia. In conformity, therefore, with a special provision of EU legislation on the contracting of studies and services, including architectural services, only the state as the contracting authority can award a project directly, without a call for tender, when this project is considered to be one of exceptional or unique cultural or artistic value. In order to cover the Olympic Stadium with Santiago Calatrava’s roofing, Greece needed to prove, by means of the testimonies of expert University professors, that this was a project of high artistic value, which does not fall under the obligation of going through specified tendering procedures, by virtue of the special provision in the relevant EU directive.

I was given the opportunity to discuss the issues related to the implementation of EU law during the preparation for the Olympic Games that we are discussing today together, just a few years ago with my Italian colleagues who faced similar problems when the city of Torino was preparing to host the Winter Games in 2006. They confided to me something I will share with you today: they contacted the EU authorities in order to discuss with them the chances and conditions for departing possibly from the strict rules of EU law in specific sector of the organization of the Winter Olympic Games. The European Union refused to consider this possibility for two reasons: a) because such an exception to the obligation to comply with Community rules would be a precedent for similar exceptions and derogations in the future to other countries, and b) the reason that it was for the Olympic Games that was invoked was not sufficient since Greece, the previous host country had never requested such an exemption.

You understand therefore that, on the basis of the data available so far, the organization of the Olympic Games by a European country
gives rise to huge legal challenges. The next valuable experience for legal and other experts of the Olympic Games is just beginning for London.

The choice of Athens certainly carries many symbolisms and meanings. As in 1896, today too the Games of Athens introduce something new. At the time they celebrated the revival of the Olympic Games and today the organization of the first «European» Olympic Games. In 1896, the Games were a wager, which ought to dispel the causes that had led to the abolition of the Games in 393 A.D.; in 2004, they were again a wager that needed to prove that Greece had acted successfully within the context of United Europe.
Olympic games of Athens 2004:  
Ethical and legal parameters of doping

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In today’s sport, and especially at high competition levels, athletes make every effort to reach the best results possible. In their pursuit of excellence, they have various ergogenic aids at their disposal. Most of these aids are allowed and even indispensable to their sports, such as equipment or rigorous training methods. However, there are certain aids, such as drugs or specific procedures that are prohibited.

But how does this prohibition work and does it have an ethical justification?

The law is just one of the resources available in order to ensure life within a specific society. It isn’t even the most important tool, but it is, without any doubt, necessary.

The law and the legal system in general, have their own goals and functions, but they require the help of other sciences in order to identify the values they should protect. And this is where philosophy, sociology, anthropology, criminology and other disciplines make their contribution.

But, how does the legal system work?

The need of living together, condensed in Freud’s idea that society frustrates but at the same time satisfies individual human needs, presupposes the protection of this coexistence. And as a logical consequence, society is only possible through the protection of this coexistence. For that purpose, the members of a society transfer part of their human faculties to the state, that undertakes the task of ensuring and guaranteeing the harmonization of its members’ interests.

The tools the state uses to canalise its member’s behaviours are known as norms or rules, and among them we can find the juridical norms (related to the Latin word IUS), whose special feature is its coactivity (the possibility to use force to make people obey them). These coercive orders (legal system) work avoiding violence among the members of a society, assuring everybody a place where they can develop and improve themselves.

So, when society identifies what is necessary for human beings’ self-improvement and their life in society, it appeals to the law for reassurance. These fundamental and basic conditions needed for the welfare of human beings are known as goods or values, becoming legally protected goods (juridical goods), when their compliance can be enforced.

At this point, it is important to mention that this legal protection
is not only a material protection, but it also seeks to provoke a
general feeling of safety called legal security or, in other words, the
assurance of having what is necessary to live, to be healthy, to work,
to raise a family, to educate our children, to enjoy aesthetic values,
to speak out what we think, etc.

The whole legal system has an ethical aspiration: to ensure social
life. In this sense, the law tries to prevent actions intended to damage
what is considered a juridical good or a value. A general prevention
is sought by the imposition of sanctions aiming to repair the injuries
suffered (civil indemnifications). However, when these sanctions don’t
meet such general prevention and the attacks keep repeating
seriously affecting social coexistence, the system appeals to what is
known as special prevention, which consists in providing a different
kind of penalty to those damaging attacks. And this is the field of
Criminal (Punitive) Law. Consequently, the only legal coercion that
fundamentally aims at preventing future attacks is the punitive
coercion (Criminal law).

In our times, a society ruled by law and social principles can justify
the use of such a punitive system only in order to prevent future
attacks to its more important values. Other kind of injuries should
be repaired exclusively by civil law.

It is evident that punitive coercion is repressive, because it abrid-
ges the rights of a human being, in part satisfying the victim’s irra-
tional interest. However, this doesn’t mean that punitive coercion
should look for such a satisfaction. The criminal law as part of the
legal system, cannot renounce the educational goal it has in our cul-
tural tradition since the ancient Greek polis. Punitive repression is
not one of the goals of the punitive system, but a necessary conse-
quence of the same preventive objective. Repression that is not based
on prevention is not justified and doesn’t contribute to a general
sense of security in society. Instead, it satisfies an obscure vindictive
wish. So, if the penalty is imposed without a fair justification, the
punishment itself would be immoral.
**Functions of the legal system**

The legal norms work protecting juridical goods and, at the same time, encouraging individuals to stop damaging them. So, it has a double function: to protect and to motivate.

**a) Protective Function**

The main difference between this kind of law and the others is the special gravity of the means used to reach its goals and the fact that it just intervenes in the most serious attacks to peaceful community living.

In other words, we certainly understand that the punitive law has the purpose of protecting certain goods and consequently preventing the repetition of intolerable actions. This implies a socio-ethical aspiration: to stop actions that are considered undesirable for society and its members. Punitive coercion tries to materialize this ethical aspiration, but it is not a goal in itself; its purpose is to prevent future attacks to society’s values. Criminal law doesn’t establish a social ethics, but is based on an ethical view that guarantees the conditions considered necessary for the development of human beings.

**b) Motivational Function**

In order to get legal protection for such important values, some psychological processes are needed in order to build the necessary respect for these rules. These psychological processes are part of a complex phenomenon called *motivation*.

From the theories that have explained the motivational phenomenon of the human behaviour, no one has done it better than the psychoanalytical theory. According to Freud, the human psyche develops a control organ since childhood that checks emotions and rules men’s behaviour in relation to environmental demands. This organ is known as the *super ego*. The formation of the super ego is very complex and starts with the *introjection* of the father’s role
in childhood and continues with the *introjection* of social authority during the whole life. Authority in general and particularly the authority of the state shows through Punitive Law its most dramatic aspect, which is internalised through the *super ego*. This motivational process has its origins in various factors, for example religion and economics. Of course, one of these factors is the law, the juridical norm (legal rule), whose special feature is precisely its coactivity. This characteristic exists somehow in other factors, but in none of them is so organized and institutionalised as in the legal system.

Punishment, the main legal coercion tool, intends to motivate certain behaviours in individuals. So, the punitive law achieves its motivational function by threatening with a penalty the actions considered not desirable. However, this motivational function can only be understood placing the punitive system in the wider context of *social control* (the control of human behaviour in society).

Within social control, the legal system has a secondary place, meant to confirm and assure other more effective and delicate mechanisms. Punitive law doesn’t create either more values or an autonomous system of motivation. On the contrary, these rules only make sense if they are considered the continuation of a set of public and private institutions (family, school, etc.), whose task is to socialize and teach individuals desirable behaviours, through the *internalisation* of certain behavioural norms.

The differences between the punitive system and other social control systems reside in the gravity of the sanctions. The punitive system is neither the only one nor the most important. Criminal rules are insufficient and too weak to maintain a society’s value system. The moral consciousness, the *super ego*, and social ethics are built since childhood in reference to other people. And it is only at certain developmental stages that moral consciousness is influenced by the legal rules. This is why everybody knows that killing and stealing are bad, but first this knowledge is acquired as a social rule and only later as a criminal law provision.
So, it is clear that the motivational function of the punitive rule can only work if it’s preceded by the motivational function of other social control mechanisms. However, these mechanisms don’t work well if they are not confirmed and reassured by the law. Thus, from my point of view, the elimination of punitive systems at the present time wouldn’t mean any advance in terms of more freedom but a contrary effect. This is so because the punitive law function would surely be assumed by other social control mechanisms, which are more difficult to supervise.

**The case of Doping**

Being that performance enhancement is one of the main goals of competitive sport, the will to win and the strong investments in technology have been the most important factors in the development of several doping methods and substances. Although they allegedly help athletes improve their performance, they breach the laws that protect what is considered fundamental in this activity.

Further on, we will review some philosophical approaches, but for now I will start from the unavoidable fact that almost all societies and organizations strongly believe that doping should be prohibited and must be sanctioned by sport punitive legislation.

The search for a shortest way to reach sport success is as old as competition itself. However, it was not before the 60’s, with technological and pharmaceutical advancements, that this situation started concerning different sport organizations.

In 1967 the IOC Medical Commission was created in order to achieve three main goals: a) protect the athlete’s health, b) defend medical and sporting ethics, and c) provide the same opportunities to every athlete at the time of competition. In Mexico 1968, the IOC started the doping control on athletes, and since then, several sport organizations have been developing different programs in the
fight against the use of this kind of enhancing substances and methods. This is not the right place to review the history of the fight against doping; however, the events that shook the cycling world in 1998 were an important factor which accelerated the work in this regard. Right after this, the IOC convened the World Conference on Doping in Sport, in Lausanne in February of 1999. In this conference the Declaration on Doping in Sport was submitted, providing the creation of an international independent agency to fight against doping to be fully operational in Sidney 2000. So, the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) was created on November 10th 1999, as a Swiss foundation, under the initiative of the IOC with the cooperation of different intergovernmental organizations, public authorities and other private and public entities, to coordinate and promote the international fight against Doping in Sport.

After a long debate, the World Conference in Copenhagen in March 2003, approved the Anti-doping Code. The Anti-doping World Program in sport is based on this code, which intends to harmonize the principal elements in the fight against doping and ensure athletes are treated in the same way by governmental and sport organizations in subjects related to this matter.

The punitive system specified in the Code is intended to protect mainly one of the intrinsic values in sports: fair play, which is considered indispensable for the existence of sport itself.

Since we do not have time to make a deep legal analysis of the Code and the entire sport legal system, I just would like to underline two important issues. The first one is that the system rightly avoids the use of a definition of Doping, since such a definition would be the centre of never-ending problems, due to the use of terms such as «artificial» or «non-natural». Therefore, like in many other legal sy-

2. WADA has already issued four additional International Mandatory Standards: the Prohibited List, the Standards for Laboratories, the Standards for Testing and the Standards for Therapeutic Use Exemptions.
stems, the Code simply specifies the circumstances and actions that are considered against the anti-doping rules, imposing a penalty to anyone that fits in any of the cases provided. So, we need to emphasize that the Code penalizes violations to the anti-doping rules, which are many more than just the attempt to use or the use of a prohibited doping substance or method. It also includes evading sample collection, tampering of the samples, the possession, administration or traffic of prohibited substances or even the failure to provide the whereabouts information in the case of out of competition tests.

The second issue is the mandatory acceptance of the anti-doping rules in order to take part in the Games. And in the same light, the Olympic oath was modified to include the phrase «committing ourselves to a sport without doping and drugs». Today, athletes have a real legal obligation to comply and respect the rules in order to take part in the Games.

So, now that we have a punitive law and a clear legal duty to respect its provisions, when an athlete falls into one of the cases provided, he or she will certainly receive the respective penalty prescribed in the code.

The penalties in sport, as in any other legal field, have a double function: a) to repair the damage caused and b) to prevent more aggressions to the protected values. The first aim is reached with the disqualification of the athlete’s individual results, therefore re-establishing the order breached. As for the second goal, the special prevention, the imposition of a period of ineligibility that can go up to a life ban is the consequence selected by the system3.

Finally, as we mentioned above, the only ethical justification for

3. The penalties Code range from a warning up to a life ban, depending on various matters, such as:

a) The type of anti-doping violation committed. The Code refers to 3 types of violations: 1) The presence or use of forbidden substances; refuse or fail to submit a sample collection; tampering with doping controls. Penalty from warning up to a life ban. 2) Failure to provide whereabouts information and missed test in the
such penalties is, and must remain, the prevention of future aggressions, having in mind that the suspension period should serve the re-socialization of the athlete, which is supposed to be reached with the mandatory rehabilitation and educational programmes he or she has to take before re-entering competition.

The imposition of penalties

Under the Code’s provisions, every sport organization is obliged to follow its main principles and standards in order to guarantee the athletes the right of a free defence, the fundamental principles of a fair trial and the right to appeal the decisions to an independent body.

In the international field, the responsible institution for resolving the challenges to penalties imposed by sport organizations is the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), located in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The jurisdiction of this high International Tribunal, created almost case of out-of-competition controls. From 3 months up to 2 years ban. 3) Administration or trafficking prohibited substances. From 4 years up to a life ban.
b) The circumstances of each individual case. There are three situations the Tribunal can consider: 1) No fault or negligence in the Athlete. 2) No significant fault or negligence. Penalties reduction up to the half of the minimum penalty provided and no less than 8 years in life bans. 3) Assistance of the Athlete or his/her personnel in the discovery of any violation. Reduction up to the half of the minimum and no less than 8 years in life bans.
c) Specific Substances. The second part of the prohibited list has certain specified substances that are particularly susceptible to unintentional violations because of their general availability in medical products or are less likely to be successfully abused as doping agents.
d) Repetition of a violation. Normally the repetition implies an aggravation, but when an athlete had committed a second fail, without being notified by the sanction of first one, only the punishment of the most serious fail will be applied.
20 years ago under the promotion of Juan Antonio Samaranch, has been accepted by most International Federations. From its approximately 50 annual cases, almost half are related to disciplinary issues and most of them are related to doping.

During the Olympic Games, the CAS operates an ad-hoc panel, which settles any dispute arising from or connected to the Games within 24 hours. Five cases were solved out in Atlanta, 14 in Sidney and ten in Athens. The panel was conformed by a President and 12 arbitrators of different nationalities, who stayed in Athens throughout the Games.

**Athens 2004**

The BALCO steroids scandal resulted in the Athens’ competitors being subjected to the most extensive anti-doping programme in history. The measures included checks at training camps around the world and an increase of more than 30% in the number of controls. The program was run by WADA, which shortly before the Athens Games launched a new test for the previously undetectable Human Growth Hormone (HGH). According to my information, no HGH case was reported during the Games.

All the athletes who participated in Athens 2004 were at the disposal of pre and post competition controls, both inside Greece or in any other country around the world. For the first time in the Olympic Games the standardized steps of the Anti-doping Code were implemented and strictly applied in order to assure its reliability.

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4. Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.
5. 1922 tests in Salt Lake City and 2815 in Athens.
6. The procedures conducted in Athens consisted in 8 different steps: 1) Notification of a test; 2) Identification formalities; 3) Urine sample collection; 4) A doping control form; 5) Analysis at registered Laboratory; 6) Result of an abnormal analysis; 7) Disciplinary Commission; and 8) Communication to the Athlete.
From the 2,815 tests conducted in Athens, 26 cases were recorded. From them, 12 were Doping cases (five medallists—one gold, one silver and three bronze), five anti-doping rules violations, two doping cases recorded following tests performed by HOC (two baseball players withdrawn from competition) and seven Doping cases recorded following the tests performed by the IWF.

Was this a new record in the Olympic Games? Mathematically, yes. But I invite you to consider another approach to these numbers. In doping, like in any other aggression to social values, the actions intended to prevent and repair are always in the back of the minds of the offenders. Or in another way, in most of the cases the system and society in general react to aggressive actions. So, I would rather say that in Athens 2004, 26 cases were detected. Even though this fight is just beginning, they did very good work.

I think the IOC and many other institutions are doing a great effort in the fight against doping. From a historical point of view, unfortunately no society has been free of what we can call anti-social conducts. However, what I am sure about is that the sanctions implemented cannot reach more serious stages; we are already talking about life bans. And even though we don’t have time, I can tell you that such long-term penalties are not the solution. I am sure that in the very near future we will see a change in the conception of the sanctioned time-periods chosen for this kind of action.

So, the only suitable way to reach more effective results in the fight against doping would be to reinforce other mechanisms of social control such as family, schools, and social circles. How? Through education and compromise.

The fight against doping is not only a task reserved to the authorities. If we as a society consider doping an aggression to our values, then each one of us has a responsibility and a role to play. Parents, friends, teachers, leaders, athletes, spectators, sponsors, businessmen; everybody has a role.

And finally, to finish this idea, I would like to underline the role
the media is called to play. If we take a look at the sport headlines, we will see winners, doping cases, cheaters and violence. Where are the athletes that competed and didn’t win? Where are the inspiring cases of fair play?

So, next time we start talking about doping cases, please do not forget the coaches, the officials, the leaders of the sport organizations, the sponsors, the media and ourselves, because it is also our responsibility as members of the society.

A philosophical review

I left the work of the philosophers for the end. And since unfortunately I am not one of them, I will just briefly review some of their most remarkable ideas.

Let me start by saying that even though doping has been one of the most discussed topics in sport philosophy in the last 30 years, nothing has been stated firmly from the philosophical point of view.

As sport competition is considered a constant search for excellence in performance, when it is achieved through great effort, time and strength, society recognizes and admires the athlete; however, when it’s reached by the use of performance-enhancing drugs (PED), a general condemnation is provoked.

We certainly know that in the legal frame, the topic is solved in a more or less simple way. On the contrary, from the ethical point of view the issue promotes long discussions. After all, this is where the major and more profound analyses should be promoted, since its conclusions will inform the legal science in order to modify or adjust the mechanisms used to reinforce the social ethics.

The question would then be, whether there are ethical bases to justify the prohibition of certain ergogenic aids, like doping.

Trying somehow to summarize the principal arguments on debate,
we can find the unnaturalness of the substances or methods, the unfairness and the harm principle.

However, for each ethical argument there is a valid counterargument. What at today’s high-level competition remains natural? Is the financial disparity of poor athletes in comparison to those who have sponsors or belong to wealthy organizations fair? Isn’t after all, the risk assumed a personal decision? Aren’t there enough proofs that the practice of football, hockey or boxing are more harmful than the alleged effects of such prohibited substances? Or finally, why should we forbid doping, and not other ergogenic aids with similar or worse effects?

Beyond the ethical issues of the right to make a decision, nowadays it is not possible to conceive a pure and free decision when the pressure is so high, that even millimetres or milliseconds make the difference between failure or success. Thinking that making a decision to assume the risk is free, is totally false. So, at this point, it’s appropriate to refer to Holowchak, when he says that assuming risks cannot be left solely to the athletes, due to the social role sport is called to play in our society, as part of its culture. Sport doesn’t only show social values, but it also contributes to the social or moral degeneration or improvement of society. So, when the risk is so high, the competition stops being a mutual quest for excellence among athletes and becomes a risky show without care for the contestants. Therefore, the ergogenic aids and even the competitions that promote risk, in detriment of athletic excellence, should be forbidden.

But this doesn’t mean the elimination of the freedom to choose; in a democratic society it is necessary that each member can have the choice of assuming certain amount of risk in order to develop oneself freely. So the problem comes to the point of figuring out the right limit of this harm.

I left for the end Simon’s proposal that sport is a mutual quest for excellence in which the participants are obliged to perform to
the best of their abilities in order to obtain the best from their opponents, thus presenting a challenge for their opponent. In this sense, if sport is a competition among persons, implying a necessary respect to the others, it is fair to say that the use of PEDs transfers the responsibility of the result from the athletic skills of the human beings to the efficiency with which our bodies react to such substances. I should rather say, that in this case, the results would be the outcome of an external factor, completely independent of the athlete’s will, which is the ability of our bodies to process drugs efficiently; a factor that has merely a contingent and accidental link to the athletic ability.

Even when every athlete uses such substances, they wouldn’t react in the same way, thus being this difference that determines the result of competition. In this way, the sport performance would not be determined by persons, but by the natural ability of each body to react to certain drugs instead. Then, if the ethical request that athletes respect their opponents as persons, is fundamental to sport competition, it would be justified to ban the use of drugs, because it protects the value called «respect others as persons».

Competing against the best athletes as persons represents the challenge of every single sport. According to what I have asked many athletes, they prefer to take part in competitions free of prohibited substances rather than just have equal access to such means.

We have to look closer at the progress of the philosophical debate, however, as members of the society we, in our different positions, have to take decisions every day. So, when the President said that the Movement counts on us, is because we can make a difference, we have the power in our hands. After all, big changes are made out of small contributions.
Modern Greece and the Olympics: Politics and sport

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The proposition that modern states routinely exploit sports, and major sporting events to further their own interests, is commonly accepted among students of the relationship between sport and society. The literature on this topic suggests that this practice is a characteristic of states irrespective of their particular form of government and ideology. A common feature is the affirmation and celebration of a particular national culture – sport becomes a vehicle through which states achieve their goals of nation building and consolidating national unity. Beyond that we can distinguish between more authoritarian and more benign manipulations of sports on the part of states. Authoritarian governments tend to favor a sporting culture that contributes to a regimentation of society, in contrast democratic governments use sports to achieve greater social and gender equality and inclusiveness.

Like all instrumentalist views of state policies, the proposition that governments manipulate sports can raise as many questions as it answers. It rests on the assumption that states are always in a position to construct and manipulate ideas and fashion them to fit
their own aims and needs. This view denies the autonomy of ideas, or in this case sporting cultures that may be deeply rooted in history and traditions and thus immune or protected from manipulation by political agencies. By the same token it does not allow for the possibility that alternative views, generated either by opposition groups, non-government organizations and even public opinion can modify or even resist the state’s version of the meaning of sports.

Assumptions about state’s ability to manipulate sport also require caution in the case of the international dimension. At first look, international competitions and the hosting of international events obviously offer opportunities for exploitation, either through winning or by achieving organizational success. Either of these can reflect positively on the entire nation-state. Yet here again the implications of this proposition are not universally true. International competition can have adverse outcomes leading to national humiliation rather than national pride. There have been many occasions when an overall poor performance at the Olympic Games has generated heated debate in several countries. This applies equally to nation states with strong sports and to usually medium or small sized nation states that do not have such a strong international presence. By the same token, hosting a major international competition, such as the Olympic Games may not always fulfill the expectations of providing the host city with a boost as Montreal learned in 1976 and as Atlanta did, twenty years later on.

This presentation illustrates the ways the cultural and historical significance of the Olympic Games for Greek identity have circumscribed Greece’s ability and its wishes to exploit this sporting competition for political and status purposes. It argues instead that Greece always limited its temptation to exploit its unique relationship with the Olympic Games for two reasons. The first is that the Greeks consider the Olympics and in fact the entire body of Ancient Greek civilization not only as its own heritage but also as the heritage of
western, indeed global civilization and a means through which Greece is an integral part of the West and of the community of nations worldwide. The issue of continuity between Ancient and Modern Greece may be something that can be debated vigorously in academic circles, but in terms of Greek public opinion, a form of continuity is the cornerstone of Greek identity. To be sure, for many, this sense of continuity is understood not in biological or literal terms but in a more indirect, symbolic way and is connected with the continuity of language forms and living in the same geographical space as the ancients.

There is also a more practical reason for Greece’s unwillingness to exploit the Games strictly for its own purposes. Greece can be characterized, at best, a medium sized country, certainly one that does not possess the type of influence that the world’s great Powers or superpowers have been able to wield in the international sporting arena. Even if it had wanted to treat the Olympics in an introvert, exclusive way it is doubtful that it could have succeeded anyway let alone the risks of international isolation that such a policy would carry.

In order to support its main argument about the limited nature of Greece’s ability to exploit its relationship with the Olympic Games, we will briefly outline Greece’s special relationship to the modern Olympics and Greece’s international policy goals in very general lines, and then proceed to illustrate the main argument by focusing on several key events in Greece’s role in the Olympic movement, beginning with the first modern Olympics held in Athens in 1896 and ending with the Athens Olympics of 2004.

Prior to this, it should be noted that we are assuming here a close connection between politics and sports and, in particular, politics and the Olympic Games. It would be futile and idealistic to do otherwise in view of the interrelationship between sport and society over the past century. Sport is a central and important leisure activity in modern societies so it is inevitably connected to politics. Rather than
Piously wish that politics leaves sport alone, it would be more realistic to regard sport as means of achieving the type of political goals that will ensure the wellbeing of the greatest number of people. This can be achieved by consciously pursuing policies designed to maximize the inclusiveness of sports and ensure the greatest possible gender, social and racial equality globally.

Modern Greece enjoys a special relationship with the Olympic Games because it is considered the heir of the Ancient Greek civilization that spawned the original Olympic Games and it is also the birthplace of the modern Olympics. This is a commonly accepted view, reflected in several policies pursued by the International Olympic Committee. The role Greece plays in the international Olympic movement is a rare example of a medium-sized country being accorded a position of some influence and importance in an institution with a global reach. It is difficult to find parallel cases – one obvious one is the role that historically neutral Switzerland has played in the context of international relations. The Greeks accept this role willingly – they regard themselves as heirs of the Ancient Greeks and the Olympics as part of their heritage. And by doing so, Greece placed itself –potentially, at least– in a position to exploit the Olympics to further its own national interests.

Greece’s national interests, however, are shaped by the country’s international position. From the moment it was established as an independent state in 1830, Greece pursued a policy designed to achieve progress and modernization that would enable it to catch up with the more advanced nations of Western Europe. To be sure, up to 1922 Greece was also focused on achieving the «Great Idea» the dream of incorporating, within its borders, all the historically Greek lands and populations that remained under Ottoman rule. But this policy never overshadowed the European impulse, indeed Greece shaped its claims against the Ottomans in a way that would gain the sympathy and support of the Western European Powers. And after 1922, or, more accurately after 1950 –a moment that brought an
end to three decades of domestic upheavals– Greece resumed its quest to become more integrated into the western political, military and economic alliances. We can think of Greece as a poor relative of the club of the powerful western nations, recognized as the heir to an ancient civilization with global significance but considered nonetheless as a relatively backward state. Throughout its history Greece has tried to gain full recognition as a full member of Western Europe – and one could argue it continued to do so even after formally joining the European Union in 1981.

With the pursuit of its major national goals dependent on the goodwill of the western powers it would have been unlikely that Greece would take advantage of its position in the international Olympic movement in a way that would undermine its standing in the eyes of the West. After all, its position of privileges afforded it an excellent opportunity to prove to the Western Powers that it was a credible heir of the ancient traditions that it was committed to the international dimension of the Olympics and was able to serve the movement efficiently and capably.

Greece undertook the extremely risky hosting of the 1896 Games very conscious that the occasion offered it an opportunity to impress the Great Powers and assert its place among Europe’s more developed nations. Dimitrios Vikelas, who had attended the meeting in Paris where the baron Pierre de Coubertin had launched the modern Olympics, as Greece’s representative, told Greek students at the Sorbonne that participating in the revival of the Olympics Greece was becoming part of Europe. Hosting the first Games challenged Greece to show the world a modern face. «Abroad, there is great confusion about Greece» wrote the Athens daily newspaper To Asty «and instead of thinking of Greece as a promised land where miracles occur, foreigners believe it is a land of bandits and evil doers.» By organizing the Games efficiently, the newspaper added, Greece could dispel those misunderstandings.

Indeed, the Greeks did just that and there are many contemporary
sources that confirm the special treatment foreigners received in Athens. Even in the stadium, the Greek spectators cheered for foreign athletes even if they had defeated a Greek competitor. Such was the case when the American Robert Garret narrowly beat Panagiotis Paraskevopoulos in the discus. A first hand witness, Miss Maynard Butler described the scene as follows: «There is for a moment an uncomfortable silence, and then, with their accustomed politeness and never failing kindliness the Greek crowd joined the American cheers». And she added: «Let every nation represented at this first international contest in 1896 remember this lesson in courtesy taught them by the Greeks».

All this does not mean that Greece was always able to place international concerns above national ones, and at the end of the 1896 Olympics, Greece’s king George I proposed that Greece becomes the permanent site. This threatened to undermine the international character of the Games and was probably conceived in order to bolster the standing of the royal family in Greece. Not surprisingly, Coubertin rejected the idea. What is interesting to note, however, is the lack of any persistence on the Greek side – they knew very well that they could not push Coubertin and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) too hard, lest they lose their privileged position in the movement and all the advantages it offered. In fact Vikelas worked very hard to bring about a rapprochement between Coubertin and the Greeks.

The eventual compromise between Coubertin and the Greek side yielded the interim of Olympics of 1906 in Athens, an event that is not considered an official Olympic Games by the IOC. Most contemporary observers and most scholars, agree nonetheless that the success of those Games rescued the Olympics from an early demise following the poorly organized Games of 1900 in Paris and 1904 in St. Louis. This was another risky undertaking that could have diminished Greece’s reputation in the case of failure. The 1906 Olympics were successful, thanks to the great efforts the
Greeks made to secure international participation and organizational success. Working without the support of the IOC, the Greeks managed to stage a truly well run sporting event in which rather than Greece’s role the emphasis was on the universalism of the Olympic Games.

This is what James Sullivan, the leader of the American delegation had to say about those Games: «The Olympic Games of 1906 will go down into athletic history as the most remarkable festival of its kind ever held... The scenes and incidents and everything in connection with the Olympic Games of 1906 made an impression that will never be forgotten and it is hoped that future Olympic Games will be up to the standard of the ones in 1906». Sullivan, it should be noted, was not predisposed to salute the Greeks and their hosting of the 1906 Games. He was not a philhellene or a Classics professor who would biased in favor of the Greeks, instead he was a tough New York City sports administrator who delivered praise only when he believed it was truly earned.

The 1920s and the 1930s were another period in which Greece would become involved in the Olympic movement in order to support the institution rather than use its role for its own interests. WWI that ended in 1919 had not only prevented the regular Olympics to take place in 1916, but also threatened the very existence of the Games. The brutality of the war shattered the idealism of a whole generation and questioned the very usefulness of the modern Olympics and the relevance of the Olympic spirit. The games were supposed to replace armed conflict by goodwill and sportsmanship, but there seemed little left of that vision in the wake of the carnage of trench warfare.

With the Olympics facing the worst crisis of their existence, Coubertin realized that the movement had to return to its roots and draw sustenance from its Ancient origins. What better way to respond to the cynicism of the modern age than by offering the timeless idealism of Ancient Greek civilization? Coubertin set about implementing this strategy by including a great deal of ritual and
symbolism that evoked Ancient Greece and its values. Given Greece’s post-war social upheavals, there was no question of taking the Olympics back to Athens, nor did Greece make any such request. Since Coubertin could not bring the Olympics back to modern Greece in order to recreate the Ancient Olympic spirit, he did the next best thing: he brought Greece to the Olympics.

The ways Coubertin incorporated Ancient and Greek symbolism into the Olympic Games in the 1920s included the following innovations: The 1920 Games in Antwerp included the oath of the athletes, a component of ancient Greek athletic competition – the Belgian athlete who took the oath in the stadium stood in front of the Greek team.

A new ceremonial element was introduced at the Paris Olympics of 1924: raising the Greek flag in the closing ceremony. The stadium where the Amsterdam Olympics took place in 1928 included another display of the classical Greek legacy of using fire in religious and sporting activities: the so-called tower of Marathon, atop of which a flame was lit. Coubertin and the Dutch hosts also came up with the idea of the Greek team marching first in the parade of national teams at the opening of the Games in Amsterdam, a custom that continues to the present.

In 1927, Coubertin returned to Greece and to Ancient Olympia as an honored guest. He had not been to the country since 1896 because of the tension that had existed, so this was an emotional return, both for him and his hosts. The Hellenic Olympic Committee did all they could to make Coubertin feel welcome. There was no question of raising issues such as Greece becoming the permanent venue or reintroducing the interim Games that had upset the baron. For its part, Greece was happy to contribute all it could in the inclusion of Ancient and Modern Greek symbolism - it made no claims of its own but cooperated with the International Olympic Committee’s initiatives. It did so yet again during the first torch relay
in 1936 which required a great deal of logistical preparation and work on Greece’s part.

Finally, let us turn to Greek statesman Constantinos Karamanlis’ proposal that Greece becomes the permanent venue of the Olympic Games. This could be considered a move designed to exploit Greece’s privileged position for domestic political purposes – 1976, when Karamanlis made his proposal was a time when Greece was experiencing a politically turbulent and divisive transition to democracy, following the collapse of the seven-year colonels’ dictatorship in 1974. There was also an ongoing dispute with neighboring Turkey over Cyprus and the Aegean sea. Yet upon closer examination this turns out to be yet another move by Greece designed also to support the interests of the Olympic movement as a whole. Similar views had already been expressed publicly in other countries. Most notably, Bill Bradley, a former New York Knicks basketball star and future U.S. Senator for New Jersey had already published a commentary article in the New York Times calling for the return to Greece as the only way that the Olympics could survive the threats posed by commercialization and politicization. We should bear in mind that the 1972 Olympics were marred by the terrorist attack on the Israeli team (that cost the lives of 11 athletes and coaches, five attackers and one policeman) and also remember that the Montreal Games of 1976 faced serious economic difficulties.

Karamanlis himself appears to have been reacting to Montreal’s problems that were compounded by a boycott by over twenty African nations and some other developing world nations, who were protesting New Zealand’s decision to send its rugby team to South Africa which was excluded from the Olympic movement at the time because of its apartheid regime. Indeed, Karamanlis’ proposal, delivered in the midst of the 1976 Olympics surprised even the Greek delegation to the Montreal Games, who had no idea that the Greek prime minister was planning such a move. Initially there was disbelief
internationally, precisely because there were doubts that Greece had the necessary resources to implement such a bold plan.

The spontaneity of this move notwithstanding, its subsequent planning on the part of Greece showed a serious degree of commitment. This was especially evident when it was resubmitted in 1980 as the western boycott of the Moscow Olympics became likely. This time, the proposal was widely and seriously discussed globally. Most remarkably, in thinking of ways to make his proposal more practical and acceptable, Karamanlis gave thought to creating an international free zone around Ancient Olympia if the modern games could be held there, with modern facilities built in the vicinity. It was a vision that raised complicated constitutional and legal issues, but here again one should retain the spirit of the proposal and its intended assistance to the Olympic movement.

Although the Greek proposal was ultimately put aside, many important figures in the Olympic movement recognized it as a symbolically important contribution to the survival and the strengthening of the Olympic Games. This is what Lord Killanin, the president of the IOC at the time had to say about the Karamanlis proposal: «The debate that this created showed that there are people, outside the movement, who are eager to see the Games sustained as a cornerstone of peace and goodwill. Because of that I am deeply grateful to Karamanlis for pursuing the concept».

Before closing, we must not overlook several aspects of the 2004 Athens Olympics that were part of Greece’s longstanding policy of working towards the international rather than the narrowly national scope of the Olympic Games. The decision to hold a world-wide torch relay rather than take the torch from Ancient Olympia to Athens – which would have been the shortest ever Olympic torch relay – is a very good example. It was a move that was welcomed throughout the world, especially along the route the relay took and it served to raise the profile of the Olympic movement globally. We should also mention Greece’s related efforts to promote an Olympic
truce, another example of how it is committed to promoting the universal dimension of the Olympic Games. Again, it was a move with a considerable dose of idealism, but one that offered a positive alternative to a war-torn planet. No doubt, both those initiatives also enhanced Greece’s international profile, as did the earlier ones outlined in this presentation.

This is in fact the nature of Greece’s relationship to the Olympics: it regards its own interests not being possessive and exclusive in relation to them but being identical with the promotion and strengthening of the inclusive, international character of the Olympic Games. Its initiatives within the international Olympic movement cannot be said to be entirely without their own self-serving purpose but they also seek to promote the movement’s wider interests as well. In the wake of the 2004 Games, and at least until the bicentennial of the Olympics, Greece’s role will be one designed to support those identical goals: the promotion of its national along with the Olympic interests.

**Bibliography**


OLYMPIC EXPERIENCES
G’day. I’m Suzy Balogh from Australia. I am the current Olympic champion in the sport of clay target shooting in the women’s trap event. I work full time as an agricultural advisor for my state government. I live four hours from a shooting range. Before Athens I had no corporate sponsorship. I grew up loving the Olympics; watching the spectacle of human endeavour on the TV. I placed Olympians on a pedestal. Never did I dream I would be one of them.

I followed my father into shooting. I have adequate hand and eye coordination and a fair bit of fighting spirit. This saw me make world championship teams. However shooting was really just an expensive pastime that I enjoyed and travelled the world with. I never set goals. I never knew where I wanted to go; UNTIL the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

I had narrowly missed out on making the Australian Olympic Team. I was disappointed but eventually came to realise that my challenge had helped make for stronger Australian competitors.

Good fortune reigned and I was asked to be a filler in the shooting events. 18 female athletes were required for the event but there were only 17. I was to fill the 18th place. But my score was not to be recorded. I could not make the finals and on the score board I was listed as «no name» and «no country».

I felt fortunate to be part of the Sydney games in a sport that I love. But I also felt excluded from the hype of the Olympics and the pride the athletes felt knowing they were Olympians. It was then
in 2000 that I set my goal to be an Olympian. I wanted a name. I wanted a country.

So began 4 years of spending every spare moment and every dollar chasing that goal. I juggled full time work with overseas competitions and training.

The Australian team trials were in January and February last year. They were the worst two weeks of my life. At the time I was Australia’s highest ranked female shooter on the international scene; I had won the quota for Australia to compete at the Olympics in that event, but still I could have missed out on going to Athens. I had a fear of failure. Through determination I won our trials and realised my goal of wanting to be an Olympian. I was going to the Athens Games as an Olympian.

Just three weeks after the Australian Olympic trials at a World Cup Event, I severely damaged two discs in my lower back, stretching just prior to competition. Recovery became my new focus. I had to learn how to walk again, how to hold a gun again and how to coordinate a shot again. Self doubt of whether I should be going to Athens set in. But I had a new fear, a fear of embarrassing myself at the Olympics, and in doing so also embarrassing my family, coach, friends and country. This new fear drove me to train as hard as ever I could, especially on technique. However my training scores were only around 60% of where I thought they needed to be, to be competitive at the Games.

The Olympics were only a few weeks away, I had to set my overarching personal goal for the biggest event of my life. It needed to be realistic, achievable and also a non-limiting goal. Considering my poor form, it ended up being «to compete the very best I could on the day with absolutely no regrets».

The trap shooting event is not one that relies on beating world record scores. The winner is the one who handles the conditions and the pressure the best.

My coach and I knew that the scheduling of my event at the
Olympics would coincide with the day likely to be the hottest and definitely the windiest of the entire year in Athens. In preparation I trained in the hottest and windiest part of Australia just prior to the Games.

By the time the day before my event at the Olympics had come around, my scores had improved only a little. On that day my coach had said that the way I had been shooting had become more technically correct. However, I was still disappointed in my low scores. My coach pulled me aside and said «Suzy, your disadvantages are that your scores are low and you are lacking confidence – but they are your advantages too. Tomorrow it will be even windier, the scores will be low, something which you are currently used to. So, do not panic if you miss a target – just think what you must do right for the next one. Just take it one target at a time».

That night for the very first time I dreamt of hitting targets. I woke up the next morning with a strange but quiet confidence knowing that I was going to win a gold medal, it was my job that day to not throw it away. The feeling was an amazing turn around of emotions and confidence for me.

The day of my event had come. It was so extremely windy that day that the rowing had actually been cancelled. On the bus to the range from the village I was so nervous that I cried most of the way – puffy red eyes are not a good thing when trying to shoot.

I wanted to shoot. I had never been keener to shoot before. Somehow, I had found the perfect mental zone of focus that I needed to perform my best. Again I had never felt this way before. Somehow, I managed to sustain this focus throughout the entire day. I paid no attention to the scoreboard. I just shot one target at a time. After the three qualification rounds I was to be in the final. I did not know the other competitors’ scores and I was surprised when I was to start the final from the leader’s position.

I did not know what my lead was or even if I had one. I was nervous, yet focused and acutely aware of everything around me. I
tried hard to ignore the crowd and the other shooters, at times unsuccessfully. However, I stuck to my routine. My routine is a mantra as well as my actions in preparation for a shot – determination, strength, aggression, control, focus, see the target, hit the target.

After I shot my fourth last target the crowd erupted – I was unsure what they were cheering for – whether for the Spanish girl next to me, or that I may have one medal of some colour or for something else, maybe even my victory. I was confused. I still had three targets to shoot. I became overwhelmed. I somehow shot those last three targets through tears. I think I felt them more than saw them. And then only when I looked at my coach the realization that I had actually won became clear. I had won by a margin of four targets, after a lead of one.

The satisfaction that we feel when our hard fought and planned goals are achieved is amazing. That moment will last with me forever. But I still smile when I consider that I am an Olympian. I was one of 10,500 athletes from a possible six billion for the Athens Games. I managed to compete the very best I could on the day with absolutely no regrets. Somehow, my focus and determination, taking one target at a time had turned a fear of being embarrassed into being an Olympic Champion.

It was wonderful that I could enrich the Olympic Experience for my family and friends. But again, I never dreamt that my shooting final would be broadcast live to Australia and viewed by 1 in 5 Australians, surpassing all other events.

I never knew my sport could have such an impact on others’ lives. Not long after the games I met a man whose arm was in plaster. He told me he had been rushing from milking the cows to watch my final on TV. He sat on the arm of his couch and fell off and broke his arm and dislocated his shoulder – he wouldn’t ring an ambulance until I had won.

I loved so many things about Olympic life, such as going to the dining hall, not for the food but for the spectacle. Where else in the
world can you sit down to a meal and look at 10,000 of the most awesome and also some of the most bizarre physiques in the world. I would try to guess the countries they were from and the sports that they played, more than often having to meet and ask them to satisfy my curiosity and see if I was correct. Where else in the world would you see a seven and a half foot tall Chinese basketballer walk in for lunch with a four and a half foot Romanian gymnast?

As soon as I had finished competing, I think I may have become one of the Olympics’ biggest spectators and also partiers. I watched athletics, hockey, waterpolo, swimming, tennis, beach volleyball, softball, baseball, gymnastics, trampolining, synchronized swimming and of course more shooting.

Since Athens my life has changed. It has been enriched by my own Olympic experience and everyday I try to continue to enrich the Olympic experience of as many others as I can.

It isn’t the gold medal that actually gives me the greatest satisfaction but knowing that I am an Olympian, knowing that I achieved a goal I put my whole heart into. The gold was an outcome of that process.
My Olympic Experience
Mr Pedro Miguel Aguirre (COL)

For me participating as an Olympic volunteer has been the most gratifying experience of my life. I never imagined that this job could be what it was, a valuable life lesson. To begin telling my experience in the Olympics, I will write a short summary of why I chose to apply for this job. First of all the passion of my life has always been sports and I have practiced different disciplines (equestrian, football, tennis, volleyball, basketball and athletics). Right now I am a competitive athlete and I represent the city of Bogota in different competitions as a high jumper. Before doing my trip to Greece, I worked as a volunteer performing different jobs helping the Colombian Athletic Federation and the Colombian Olympic Committee. In this job, I exceeded all expectations. At the end of May of 2004 I had the opportunity to be an Olympic volunteer, the organization accepted me and with a huge effort one of my dreams came true: to go to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

I was excited and hopeful for the things that were waiting for me; it was something I would have never imagined. I was very lucky because I knew a person that from the beginning of my stay in Athens helped me get organized and get to know how things were done. This person invited me to his house. He worked as a NOC assistant as well. The volunteer organization gave me different options to choose the country I would work for. I decided that the best option for me would be to work with my country’s delegation. (What could be more gratifying for a sportsman like me than being
part of the Colombian Olympic Team?). I also chose to work with my country’s delegation because I knew some athletes and some administrative people that were part of the team and that helped me take the decision.

I had different jobs: I could be a messenger or even a translator but in general I was the right hand of the mission chief. He constantly needed my services because for them it was very hard to communicate with others because of the language barrier. Thanks to the mission chief I had access to the big events and competitions. My duties before the beginning of the Olympics were organizational and I had to prepare everything for the arriving athletes.

The Colombian team offered me to parade with them in the Opening Ceremony. Afterwards some problems came and I couldn’t; I had to take the decision not to be with them in the parade. Anyway, I was there as a spectator; it wasn’t bad at all. It was amazing! The Colombian Team gave me a 950 euros ticket.

Colombia participated with 55 athletes; unfortunately without participation in any team sport. Historically, Colombia hasn’t performed well. On the record, we only have one gold medal and a few silver and bronze medals; that is why every time my country attends the Olympic Games, the delegation is always hopeful, anxious and full of enthusiasm.

Once the competitions began, the work became more difficult and harder; there were lots of athletes that needed assistance and sometimes they competed at the same time. Because of that reason I had to go very fast around the city. Anyway, it was exciting. The best thing was to cheer the Colombian athletes in the different disciplines. The days were very long; sometimes we stayed in the Olympic village or in some competition venues working until one or two in the morning. But sometimes when everything was over, there were options to go out with other volunteers in order to see another competition or to go out and have fun in the city; the next morning waking up early and working again as hard as always for the
Colombian team. It was really exhausting, but of course it was worth it. One of the most gratifying things was to meet people from all over the world and share what each person was living in the Olympics; it could be an athlete, a volunteer or a simple tourist or visitor.

The Colombian delegation had a lot of hope in some athletes, especially the ones who competed in weightlifting. And that happened; Mabel Mozquera won a bronze medal. With happiness, the entire country and the team received the news. Everybody was waiting with anxiety the participation of the Colombian athletes in cycling, boxing and athletics as well.

Day after day I was adapting in a better way to the city; I could go faster to the different sceneries. Sometimes it was a chaos because we were always in a hurry, so we made some mistakes and of course we got lost.

The Colombian media, in my opinion, was a big distraction factor for the sportsmen; constantly the journalists were seeking and bothering them. Although I can understand in a way that they are working in order to inform a country, the problem is that nobody calls their attention; so they did anything they wanted in the Olympic village and in the competitions.

The Olympics were ending. I had the possibility to watch lots of competitions such as: swimming, cycling, weightlifting, boxing, athletics, equestrian, diving, tennis, gymnastics, volleyball, football and basketball. I would have liked to see more but I couldn’t because of my work. I spent most of the time at the Olympic village where I ate and performed most of my duties. I also had the chance to meet some important athletes known by the entire world (Carl Lewis, Andy Roodick, Dream Team, Stefan Holm, Justin Gaitlin, Yao Ming and may others).

Now, I am going to tell what could have been my most important and impressive experience. There were only three days left. We didn’t expect another medal until we had a surprise; the cyclist Maria
Luisa Calle, who in the Women Point Race had the third place, got the bronze medal. There was enormous joy in the Colombian delegation. The closing ceremony was coming and I was preparing my things to go back to my country; so I went touring and shopping down town. I was coming back to the village when I received a strange phone call from a woman who identified herself as a member of the laboratories and the medical commission of the IOC. She was calling to tell me that the anti-doping test that had been done to the Colombian cyclist had been positive for the consumption of a heart stimulant called heptaminol. The woman explained that a series of paper work had to be done before the athlete attended the meeting where she was going to be judged. I didn’t know how to inform my team and obviously the cyclist. It had to be handled very carefully before telling the media. The organization gave us two days and afterwards they would tell the world media. What I did was to tell the new first to the mission chief because he was the person who had trusted me to deal with the most important subjects. Then, we told it to the delegation doctor who had accompanied the athlete during the competition and in the anti-doping test, and the trainer. Before telling the bad news to the cyclist, a report was given where Maria Luisa Calle appeared positive. The lady from the laboratories in charge of the analysis explained to us how they had arrived to this conclusion, the steps to follow and what was going to happen. The hardest part was coming; to tell the athlete and the team in general. Her trainer and the doctor were in charge of it. Very early the following day we were appointed to the meeting where the cyclist’s future was going to be decided. I never thought the Colombian delegation was going to count on me to participate in this meeting. I knew it was going to be an amazing experience but on the other hand as a Colombian I was very impressed and sad. The meeting with the disciplinary committee would take place in one of the official hotels; the bad thing was it would be the day after the farewell party at the Olympic village. I only slept an hour. I met
with the athlete, the trainer, the doctor, the mission chief and the NOC president before attending the meeting. The commission was waiting for us; a person like Sergey Bubka was one of the members, which surprised me, since I only knew him as the most important sportsman in the history of athletics. They decided to take away the medal and afterwards there was going to be another meeting where they would decide for how long she wouldn’t be able to compete. In her defense it was said that the medicine she had taken wasn’t heptaminol: it was neosaldina. The doctor explained a possible theory of the conversion of this medicine into the forbidden substance. After we finished the meeting we had to tell the media and the scandal began. Until today lots of things have happened and it is possible the medal to be returned.

I helped to organize in the village the departure of the delegations to the Olympic Stadium in order to parade in the closing ceremony. Afterwards, I slept 12 hours. Too much work and I was exhausted. Then, I rested in some Greek beaches. I left home with a lot of thoughts in my mind. I felt a lucky person to have been able to share all those moments of happiness and experience. This would be a very important issue in my life. I feel lucky again to be able to participate in the youth session of the Olympic Academy representing my country. I know I would have unforgettable moments.
My Olympic Experience
Mr Sylvain Paillette (FRA)

First of all I wish to thank you Mr President and the Dean for your idea to devote some time for the testimonials of volunteers or athletes who have taken part in the Olympic or Paralympic Games.

I had the honour of representing France at the Sydney Paralympic Games of 2000 in swimming. This unique experience has left an indelible imprint on my mind and remains the culminating point of my sports career. It symbolizes for me, in one single place and time, all the values of sport and therefore of Olympism and Paralympism.

The Paralympic Games are the counterpart of the Olympic Games for people with disabilities, but since the last few Olympic Games they have become almost equal to the Olympic Games. The Paralympic Games of Sydney were a big success with the public, with large crowds in the stands promoting the values of sport. Indeed, during the Paralympic Games, the spectators’ numbers and enthusiasm were the same as in the Olympic Games, demonstrating the importance and the place given to sport for the disabled.

We enjoyed the same status, the same training and competition conditions as in the Games. The events were held in the same atmosphere as the Olympic Games, celebrating fraternity among nations and extending the Olympic Truce for countries at war. The most striking thing at the Paralympic Games is that athletes from certain countries are former soldiers, who had been seriously injured and who a few years back were enemies; they meet during the games.
to share together the same moment of fraternization, around the values of peace, Olympism and Paralympism.

Participation in the Paralympic Games also allows us to realize how other nations approach sport for the disabled, with very different means depending on their culture. This blending of cultures is extremely enriching and certainly contributes to the recognition of sport for people with disabilities in all modern societies. We can see this in media coverage, beyond relations among athletes; the Paralympic Games condition changes in society and attitudes toward disabled people who are now perceived as fully-fledged athletes.

Just like the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games convey representations of a country and an image for which athletes are responsible, certainly through their performance and results, but through their attitude and behaviour as well. It is a very enriching experience for an athlete to participate in this unique event on which all attention is focusing twice for 15 days. The Games empower athletes and contribute to their fulfilment as human beings.

Finally, from my Paralympic experience I will underline the connection between UNIVERSALITY and DIVERSITY to summarize all my feelings and impressions. Universality in the sharing of common sporting values, irrespective of cultural background, the impression of doing the same thing, of practising the same sport beyond continents while being different. Universality in competition, whoever the athlete may be, he is just as motivated by victory. Universality as regards the development of sport and its values, but diversity in the resources which countries have (developed or developing countries). Whether they are Olympic or Paralympic, the Games remain the greatest universal festival of sport. It is both an honour and a pride to participate in them and surpass one’s self, abiding by sports rules and living moments of unique emotion.
My involvement in the Olympic Games
Ms Miki Ishii (JPN)

Since I have been working for the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC), I have a range of experiences with the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement. I have been working with the JOC for eight years, and during these years, I was fortunate enough to visit the Olympic facilities at the Sydney 2000 Games, Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games and the Athens 2004 Games. Before I go into details on my work at the JOC, let me briefly explain how passionate the Japanese people are about the Olympic Games. Japan has hosted the Games for three times; Tokyo 1964, Sapporo 1972, and Nagano 1998. Just like Italy and Austria, we have hosted two editions of Winter Games and one of Summer Games. Our TV rating for the Olympics is always high in comparison with other sports events. This is not only within our country but also around the world. We just love the Olympics. Everyone wants to know about the athletes - their results, their way of practice, their private lives. In Japan we even have sports newspapers mainly focusing on sports, and show business. Thus you can imagine how the media interfere with the athletes’ lives. It is somewhat frantic.

In line with this, my job at the NOC is to help the Japanese media and athletes for smooth interaction during the Games. Everyone wants a «bit» out of the athletes. Throughout these Olympics, I have worked as a media liaison between the Japanese Delegation and the Japanese Media, as well as the media overseas. The team I work with consists of nearly 10 people. The whole preparation
begins about a year and a half before the Games, first to obtain the accreditation cards to cover the Games. Only accredited personnel has access to the Olympic facilities and those are the ones that are able to work there. The National Olympic Committee in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee and the Organizing Committee is responsible for allocating the cards to the media within their country. In our country, there is a personnel of 360 people (summer games times) in order to meet the needs of the public interest. Moreover, there are also about 400 TV dealing with TV issues, who will have their base in the facilities. This is almost like miniature immigration. The accommodations for these people has to be taken care, respective media office has to be established, even electricity, desks, telephones and generally the whole equipment has to be draft before we visit the actual country. At the Olympic facilities, there are working places for all accredited media, which are the Main Press Center and the International Broadcasting Center. The JOC sets an office at this Main Press Center and also at the Olympic Village, where most of the Japanese athletes, coaches and headquarters reside.

Once we are at the facilities well settled, the Olympics commence and here comes the excitement. Our job is related to the athletes’ achievements and media’s interest. Media who wishes to have an exclusive interview with a particular athlete or a team needs to come to our office first in order to have a session with the athletes. If he/she/they wish to have an interview, which is sometimes quite a restraint when you are especially trying to concentrate on the Games, we are the ones who lie between the athletes and media. Our athletes do not have to hassle with the media for interview arrangements, cancellations and all kinds of complications related to the interview sessions. We give the athletes the choice to choose their interaction with the media and follow up with arrangements for meeting points and so on. At the Sydney Games there were 310 interviews, at the Salt Lake City Games there were 120 and at the Athens 2004 we
had 638 interview requests due to the team's enormous sprint. This was more than our expectations. Other than this, we make press releases and hold press conferences as well. For Athens, we made 49 releases and hosted 33 press conferences.

The most exciting part for me is that we are always in touch with the household names of the day. You are able to see the ups and downs of the athlete. Media will gather around the athletes in no time after the athlete finishes his/her game, asking the questions that you would want to know. You would be the first to know on that very site, even before the media publishes it. This is just so exciting. This is just a mesmerizing feeling. What fascinates me most through the three Olympics is that there is so much excitement, tension, and fun - all showcased in one big package with a huge wide ribbon. There is nothing like the Olympic Games. No other experience can be compared to this. The actual site where you are is the most fascinating place in the world, where all attentions, all the crowds, all the very best athletes from all over the world challenge not only their ability but try to beat previous records of mankind talent in running, swimming, throwing and etc. Followed by the athletes there comes the vigorous media from all parts of the world, important people from the Olympic sponsors, marketing people, the volunteers and the people who host the actual Games. They are all there to become an astonishing element of the Olympic composition. Everyone is gathered in one place just to be part of it.

Why are people so fascinated by the Olympics? Why are so many people gathered in one place and why such huge coverage and attention? One word came across my mind. I think the fascination we all share is the notion of celebrating peace. Without peace, athletes would be brought up to be soldiers, no cheerful faces waving flags, no people really caring about sports and the Olympic Games. We should realize and cherish this more.

But really, we do not have to think twice about how spectacular the Olympic Games are. There are people who question the Games,
such as worrying about the financial burden the host city might have to bear, or worry about the doping issues carried out by hasty athletes who pursue their urge to win the fame. These things are matter of commonsense and self-dignity we all face in everyday decision-making. Things have to be done with dignity and reason. We do not need a carried away extravagant show, because the athletes and the people who share the idea of Olympism are already there. That is the one and the most important ingredient of the Games.

To finish my paper, I will sum up that the Olympics is the ultimate kind of experience that everybody could share if you have a spirit of it. To find out the excitement of record breaking results, to be part of the Organizers as volunteers, to be able to root for your country-men/women, this can be shared without understanding the complexity behind the language, religion, or race. This simple notion of celebrating peace and mankind is the spirit and I am so proud to be part of the Olympic Family.
My Olympic Experience
Mr David McGowan (AUS)

G-day, kalymera, bonjour & good morning!

Unlike many athletes which I have met in my short career, the Olympics were never anything I had ever inspired to. In fact when I competed in Athens last year, it was the first time I had ever even seen a live Olympic event. My sporting career began at the age of 17. Rowing was the first sport I had ever been involved with. Back in 1998 when I began my sporting career I was a much different person. I was heavily involved in the performing arts and had set my goals on studying jazz and contemporary at the academy of performing arts. To say I was not interested in sport would be an understatement. I hated the arrogance of the athletes I knew and saw no real excitement in the idea of long hours training and weekends competing. From an early age I had gone out of my way to avoid it.

I was made to participate in sport in my final year of school and chose rowing. And to start I simply enjoyed the idea of trying what everyone said I had no chance of doing. I enjoyed the challenge and trained hard, early mornings and 15 months later I found myself on the Australian rowing team and racing for my country. I had many problems adapting into the stereotypical sports man! I felt from very on in my career that I was disliked and for that reason it became very difficult to achieve what I wanted, which at the time was to be the best in the world. I was very lucky in my first two years of competition ending with world championship medals and the world
record as an 18 year old but the years that followed saw me fall hard, mentally and physically. I lost all control and was removed from the Australian rowing team!! I retired. It was not until 2002 that I decided I wanted to become an Olympian and I changed my life to become that person.

I had no idea of the Olympic ideals but I dedicated my life to becoming the best in the world. I was lucky enough to have a patient and very experienced coach. Who, from all my time with him, had spoken of the Olympics as being more than just being a strong and fit athlete, he himself having attended five as both a coach and athlete. I raced my way into the Australian Olympic team and began my final preparation for the race of my life.

I often think back to the games. It was this day one year ago that I arrived in Athens. I finished 4th in the final of the mens 4-. I remember feeling devastated finishing in the worst position known to an athlete, the one that leaves you with an empty feeling inside. The feeling of being so close yet so far from a dream and a goal. It took me weeks to accept the result. I knew that if as a crew we had raced for the bronze, we could have made it; I had given everything I had for months leading up to the race and the race had been the hardest of my career. The more I thought of this though the more proud I became. I had left nothing to chance and had the toughest race of my career. I had trained harder and rowed faster. My crew and I had dared to die on our feet rather than live on our knees. We had often before many sessions asked ourselves what we would do different during the day if we had lost the final the day before. We trained at a high level leaving nothing to chance. And the day I realized this I feel I became worthy of an Olympic athlete!

My Olympic experience taught me two important lessons. The games for me was about searching for perfection. It takes time to build up a body to be ready for such an event, however to prepare the mind to comprehend perfection took, for me the experience of attending the Olympics. The Olympics is more than
simply physical prowess and being an exceptional athlete, being an olympian made me challenge myself physically but the only path to reaching my goals was to be mentally strong. I realized that being an Olympian was so much more than being the best it was about becoming a complete person. The reason that I self imploded early in my career was because I did not show the qualities of a well rounded athlete. I did not have the traits required.

This is why the Olympics are so unique. The Olympics don’t just promote the athletes who are kissed by god at birth, the Olympics is the celebration of mankind, a combination of mind body and soul. The athletes that can combine everything they are given and channel it into perfection. «COMBINING BODY MIND AND WILL» is not playing sport, they are changing themselves towards self perfection.

Let it be known that it is not the physique that makes a champion, rather a strong dedicated mind and the will to succeed. A complete human who has reached this level through learning how to continuously better themselves, not just in sport but in everything they do. The Olympics has had a huge impact on my life. And will continue to do so. It has made me a better person.

Don’t ever be envious of an Olympic athlete. When I hear anyone of you say that I am lucky to have competed in Athens I become envious of you…. you are here these few weeks with the knowledge of olympianism which took me so long to understand. I had to co-mpete in the games to understand, you were able to find it without the same long hours, horrible lows and the weeks of feeling like 4th position was the end of the world. Practice what you know everyday, not just in your sport, but your work, your home and in whatever you chose to do. Enjoy the challenge of improving, competing. Live like a sponge and suck up everyday, as if you were told tomorrow was your last, you could say you regret nothing. God bless. Be good at it.
Experiencing the Athens 2004 Olympic Games:
A volunteer’s perspective

Ms Lisa Wallace (CAN)

Ladies and Gentlemen of the 2005 International Olympic Academy, this afternoon I will speak to you about my internship at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

In September of 2004, I entered into the first semester of my Masters Degree in Sport Administration. As a prerequisite for this degree, I had to have a relevant internship experience. I went into this degree determined to work at the Athens Olympic Games the following summer. With great persistence I managed to acquire a spot as an intern, a glorified volunteer, at Beach Volleyball.

I arrived in Greece and started my internship position at Beach Volleyball with five weeks remaining before Opening Ceremonies. It was two weeks until any beach volleyball support staff from outside of Greece arrived and three and a half weeks before any other volunteers. The Greek hospitality was phenomenal. I was immediately embraced by the Greek family that I was living with, while my colleagues at Beach Volleyball put me right to work with a multitude of tasks.

Leading up to competition I supported the competition manager and his administrative assistant. From creating documents for incoming volunteers, to preparing the Athlete’s Lounge my roles and responsibilities varied greatly. One of my most interesting tasks was assisting in meetings surrounding the inclusion of Beach Volleyball’s ever-controversial dance team. Days of meetings to regulate the
conduct of the dance team were made entertaining when I observed
ATHOC officials spending hours articulating «no sex, no erotic» to
the Portuguese dance choreographer. I was very fortunate to gain a
valuable behind-the-scenes look at the Olympic Games.

Once teams started arriving, I took on a general volunteer position
as a Sport Information Assistant. In this position, I divided my time
between the Beach Volleyball Venue and the Olympic Village
providing support regarding food, competition, training and trans-
portation to incoming athletes, coaches and team leaders. I acted as
a shift manager and mentor taking on some roles training incoming
volunteers. Being fortunate enough to experience the best of
humanity and the strength of Olympic spirit in the Olympic village
was phenomenal.

Naturally, in the hours that I was not supporting the beach
volleyball event, I did whatever I could to help our Canadian Olympic
Delegation. Without hesitation I found myself commuting over 90
minutes to the Olympic village to assist our Canadian team after a
day of work at the beach. The hours, the commutes and long days
were Olympic efforts in themselves. I was not alone. Thousands of
volunteers and paid staff were driven by the same spirit. The Olympic
spirit in Athens was contagious and everywhere. I could not get
enough.

My Olympic Experience did not come without great challenge.
With a large language barrier, in a fast paced environment, I was
often missed in the delivery of important information. Communica-
tion errors occurred and management practices sometimes varied
from what I was accustomed to in Canada. It was my challenge to
find out information, become more assertive, take initiative and prove
myself quickly in order to be included in jobs with significance.

The feeling all over the city was unreal. There are many Olympic
moments I will absolutely never forget. And too many to know where
to start or stop.

I am very grateful to the Beach Volleyball team that welcomed
me and provided yet another person with an unbelievable experience at the Athens Games. It was beyond anything I had ever imagined. The pride and the overwhelming moments of excitement and emotion were frequent and like nothing I have experienced.

One thing I have not told you about myself is that my story was not the fairy tale ending I dreamed of growing up. It was much different than that. Being at the Olympic Games was part of my dream. Participating in the Olympic Games as a volunteer was not. I always saw myself on the podium with a medal around my neck. In my mind, I was committed to becoming an Olympic level athlete until I reached the age of 21 and found the year round training and sacrifices associated with such excellence to be too much for me. At that point, I realized that my journey to «become an Olympian» had led me to great people, growth and development over my career in sport. I learned to appreciate my journey and took pride that I had not totally sacrificed this Olympic dream. I finally understood «Olympism as a way of life».

I, like yourselves, then became committed to finding a way to deliver such journeys and experiences in sport, to as many youth as possible. At this point in time, if I had turned around on my Olympic dream, I would have turned my back on the level of personal excellence, this way of life, I always demanded from myself as an athlete for so many years. I always pictured my time at the Olympic Games to come at the end of my career. In actuality, the 2004 Olympic Games have come at a new beginning, at the beginning of my career in teaching and giving back to the world of sport. Athens invigorated my faith, passion and love for the Olympic Movement, its strength, its people and its spirit.

Thank you for your time.
Experiences at the Olympic Village

Mr Gert Van Looy (BEL)

I would like to share my experiences of the Olympic Village with you. First of all I must say that I was very fortunate to be at the Olympic Games in Athens. Depending on the number of athletes that would get selected by the Belgian Olympic Committee I was going to be in the delegation or I would just miss out. On July 19th I was informed with the good news.

At the beginning of August I arrived with the first part of our delegation in Athens. At the airport itself you already could get the accreditations activated, but this didn’t always work for all of us.

There was a separate exit for all the participants at the OG 2004, so, we got straight on the bus towards the Olympic village. I didn’t really know what to expect of it, apart from some information that I received from one of my colleagues who visited the village at the beginning of 2004. When we got there and passed the security controls, we were all impressed.

This was a completely new settlement with lots of space in between the buildings and with big lanes for transport with room for little parks in between, although most of these weren’t finished yet.

The buildings we were staying in all consisted out of 3 floors with 2 apartments with 4 sleeping rooms and 2 bathrooms each. We were transported to our apartments, installed ourselves in our rooms and started to get organised. This basically meant starting to unpack and install everything that was sent over or hired from ATHOC.

But first of all you need to know where and what is in the village.
So, you take a bike (a lot of NOCs brought bikes with them) and you ride around the whole village.

You find out where:
– The different training facilities are
– The press room is
– The information centre is (all info on housing, competitions, …)
– The medical centre is (also for anti-doping controls)
– The restaurants are (a huge self-service where you could eat 24h a day anything you like going from Greek – Pasta – European – African – Asian – to McDonald’s)
– The transport station is to get to the different competition sites
– Different countries are located
– Find out what you can achieve with a single pin and who the volunteers are that will help you as much as they can. And they were fantastic.

Secondly you have to set up the medical room for physiotherapy and medical examinations, and your secretariat. This is the heart of your organisation and these are the contact places for the athletes, the coaches, the volunteers, and other people who needed information from the Belgian Olympic Committee, which means that there always has to be someone and they have to be cosy.

My tasks as a team-leader (assistant of the Chef de Mission) were in the first place to assist all athletes and coaches in any possible way. More specifically my responsibilities were:
– Sportive follow-up of kayak, rowing, cycling, yachting and triathlon
– Transport (ex. Arrivals and departures …)
– Room allocation and problems with the housing (not everything always works in new apartments, but this was usually quickly addressed to by the responsible)
– Insurance
– Helping wherever I could or was needed

There were no normal days in the village. It was full on from
early morning with meetings, information gathering, problem solving, arrivals and departures, attending competitions till late at night and celebrating wins, medals and coping with losses and disappointments. And this went on for 28 days.

We have all exchanged and shared our ideas on what is expected of an Olympic Village and in my point of view the Athens Olympic Village was an excellent representative. Athletes felt at home, secure, away from the stress, with good facilities to sleep – eat – drink and train and there were hardly any troubles at night...

Being in the Olympic village was an absolute highlight, as was walking in the opening and closing ceremonies and being able to share all this with your colleagues and top athletes.

It was a unique and excellent experience which I hope to follow-up in Beijing.
My Olympic Experience as a volunteer at the Olympic Games of Athens 2004
Mr Konstantinos Morfakis (GRE)

First of all, I wish to thank the President and the Dean of the International Olympic Academy for this opportunity to speak to you about my experience from the Olympic Games of Athens.

I always dreamed of participating in the Olympic Games. Although I never managed to become an athlete, having opted for an academic career, my dream became reality in a different way. I was one of the 60,000 volunteers of the Athens Games. Fully aware of the fact that my contribution was insignificant compared to the contribution of the athletes to the Olympic Movement, I feel nevertheless very happy that I could play a part, as a volunteer, in the success of the Athens Games.

My first memory of the Olympic Games was the impressive opening ceremony of the Barcelona Games in 1992, an edition of Olympic Games of decisive importance for the development of sport in Greece. It was at these Games that Pyrros Dimas, the legendary by now Olympic weightlifting athlete made his first appearance, enthraling all Greeks and becoming a role model for many young people to become involved with sport. At that time, knowing that Athens has lost her bid for the 1996 Olympics to Atlanta, I believed that Greece would not organize Olympic Games. I was proven wrong. In 1997, in Lausanne, former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch announced that Athens would have the honor and responsibility of organizing the Games of the 28th Olympic Games.
For seven years I watched with interest the preparations for the Games and despite the many negative comments in the world press, I believed that the Games would be a success. And indeed they were magic, dream Games.

At these Games, the contribution of volunteers was determining and the comments from athletes, sports officials, the international press and the IOC were highly positive.

From beginning to end, my participation in the Olympic Games was a fascinating experience. A large crowd of athletes from all over the world and from different cultures had gathered in Athens, creating a universal family. I could talk for hours about my life as a volunteer at the Olympic Games of Athens for about one month, but I will only mention two events that have left a strong mark on my mind.

As a sport presentation assistant for diving I had the good fortune of celebrating for Greece’s first gold medal at the 28th Olympic Games. I could not believe that I would be celebrating for a gold Olympic medal not in front of a TV screen but in the stadium and what’s more right next to the athletes. During the last minutes of the event the tension was high. The Greek couple in synchronized diving found themselves after their last attempt in first position, but there were three more teams vying for the gold, China, Russia and Germany. All three, however, failed in their attempts, one after the other. Greece had won the gold medal. The enthusiasm of everybody, spectators, athletes and judges was tremendous and all the people were happy for Greece.

I have left for the end the most touching and most dream-like moment for me... It was my participation as a volunteer performer in the Greek theme of the closing ceremony of the Athens Games. As I was waiting in the Olympic Stadium’s tunnel for the program to start, my heart was beating fast; but the moment I walked in the stadium that was completely full, everything changed. I felt only one thing: total calm and the responsibility of finishing the performance...
successfully. The sensation of being watched by about two billion people all over the world was thrilling. The dream had come true now. On that very special August evening I had the heart and mood of a young child but at the same time, I had also acquired the clarity of mind of an ancestral philosopher.
Kalymera, bonjour & good morning.

Ladies and gentlemen allow me to express how honored I am to be here and more so to be given the opportunity to address a gathering as culturally colorful as this.

I am going to tell you about my Olympic experience or rather my encounter with the Olympic Spirit.

This began at the Olympic Youth Camp of the 27th Olympic Games held in Sydney in the year 2000. This was more or less my rebirth or awakening from a period I would glumly call my dark ages. Before 2000, I hadn’t the slightest idea about the Olympics or the Olympic Movement. For me going to Sydney was like going for a holiday in the Australian outback. But then when I got there, everything changed in a matter of days.

I remember meeting all these amazing youth from all over the world with bags and bags of amazing experiences and all the dedicated and committed volunteers who I frankly did not understand why on Earth they did what they did.

I remember the cultural exchange nights that were held during the two weeks we were there, all the different rhythms from different cultures and last but not least I remember the ever so friendly Aussies with their meat pies and how they always wished me G’day.

It only occurred to me when I was leaving Australia why some of the youth and the volunteers there did what they did. They did it sub-consciously. They were in a state of mind.
They were in a state of mind so powerful that it was contagious. A state of mind so powerful that it sub-consciously manifested itself in the actions of those that were in it.

When I got home I received an e-mail from one of the volunteers at the camp which I believe some of you know, Keith Sambo. May his soul rest in peace. He told me that everything and anything was possible if it started from within.

At that point all these lights I never knew I had started lighting up inside of me.

From then on I couldn’t stop. I wanted every man, woman and child to feel what I was feeling. From then on I understood why some athletes pushed themselves to reach the heights they did and why some volunteers volunteered for something so invisible yet so powerful, so intangible, valuable yet so priceless.

From then I felt the Olympic Spirit.

Since then I have strived to make the impossible close to possible yet knowing that someone else can make the impossible more possible than I have.

Merci, efcharisto and thank you.
My Olympic Experience
Mr Amed Sanchez (PAN)

During my last high school year I had the opportunity to go to the Olympic Games in Sydney as a guest of the NOC President. However, the road to Sydney was a bumpy one. My high school officials were reluctant to give me permission because they argued that during the last year of high school students must not skip classes.

The last year of high school in Panama is very important because the last semester a company offers you an internship. I then had to choose between an internship and the Olympic Games. The headmaster of my school gave me an ultimatum. She told me that if I go to Australia, she will fail me and I will have to repeat the semester. I told her that I prefer to go to the Olympic Games instead of taking photocopies in an office. So, I went to Sydney.

In Sydney, I had the chance to meet the best royal family in the world, the Spanish Royal Family. I had the opportunity to see all the events I wanted without any worry about seating. I was there when the Colombian female athlete won the gold medal in weightlifting and it felt like as if an athlete from my own country had won.

When I got back to Panama, they didn’t allow me to enter school on the ground that I had abandoned my duties as a student. To make a long story short, my case ended up in the Ministry of Education, which enacted a resolution in my favor and the school was forced to reinstate me. Although I didn’t get the internship, I do not regret the decision I took.
One year and a half later I had the opportunity to go to my second Olympics, this time it was in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was the 1st Olympics after 9/11 and security was tight. I remember those Olympics as the Games behind barbwire. US military officers were standing guard at all venues, armed with machine guns and with other high tech devices. The IOC HQ Hotel was surrounded by two perimeter fences and it was off limits to non accredited personnel. Salt Lake City airspace had been declared a no fly zone during the opening and closing ceremonies and each flight bound to Salt Lake City Airport had to obey strict rules, i.e. all passengers were required to be seated and fastened 30 min before landing due to security measures. But, if you put all these aside, they were spectacular Games.

Athens 2004 was a different experience for me because I already knew the feeling of being in the Olympics. Security was a big issue but comparing to Salt Lake City, in Athens you couldn’t see the security officers; they were there but you didn’t know where. I felt no fear whatsoever in being in Athens because I knew that everything that was humanly possible was being done and during the Olympics, Athens was the safest place on Earth.

In Athens, Panama was so close to getting a medal in the 800m hurdles, but we came up 5th. That night I was so nervous I almost ended up without fingernails. I was there when the Colombian athlete was strip of her medal and yes, it was a sad moment, but I agreed with the decision because in sports we must have zero tolerance against doping and unethical behavior.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was not the roof of the Olympic Stadium nor the Olympic Village that made the Athens Games wonderful, it was the hospitality of their people, it was the spirit of the volunteers that made the Athens Games extraordinary Games. Thanks to the Olympic Games Athens now has railway and road connections to the rest of Europe,
one of the best public transportation systems in Europe and a brand new airport, facilities that were needed but the Games allowed them to be completed.

To conclude, I would like to thank our Greek friends for showing the world they were able to stage such wonderful Games, that they were able to provide security to the entire Olympic Family. I would also like to thank them for their hospitality and for the great time I had in Greece last year.
My Olympic Experience
Ms EVA BRUENISHOLZ (SUI)

My first Olympic memory goes back to 1992 and the Olympic Games of Barcelona when I watched synchronized swimming on television. Then I remember my visits to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne during my school trips. I would sit in front of the giant screens showing images from the Summer and Winter Games and my eyes were full of these intense images that made me cry.

In 1996, I was 16 at the time, during a trip to Sydney, Australia, that was preparing to host the Olympic Games four years later, the idea came to me to participate in the Olympic Games as a volunteer. After contacting the Organizing Committee and filling the application forms, I had to wait about three years before receiving a positive reply. I was accepted first in taekwondo, which was not what I had asked for; since I practiced swimming I had requested the Aquatics Centre. After lengthy and complicated procedures, I was finally transferred to the Aquatics Centre to my great joy. So, I left to spend a month in Sydney on my own. You should know that as a volunteer (as the name indicates) we are not paid for what we do and none of our expenses are covered. So, we have to manage to find somewhere to live and travel to the venues. On the other hand, we do get tickets for the final rehearsal of the opening ceremony and some other events, as well as free meals during our working hours and we can ride for free on city transport.

When I arrived in Sydney, I was completely overwhelmed by the size of the Olympic Park and the swimming pool (77,000 seats). We
were trained by the staff on the spot and the only thing left was to wait for the beginning of the competition.

As you certainly know, swimming is the king of sports in Australia. Needless to say therefore that the two competition sessions held each day were packed. The atmosphere and the mood were simply incredible. I had never attended events with such a big crowd. My two weeks of work were very intense: waking up every day at five in the morning and work until two in the afternoon. Then, I spent the rest of the time either going to watch other competitions or strolling around the city. The atmosphere was indescribable; giant screens on all the squares, people sitting everywhere watching the sports performances, photos and giant posters of Australian athletes on the walls and large crowds walking in the streets.

When I returned home, I applied, in order to live again this crazy experience in Athens. I had to wait another three years to get an answer that was again positive. I would be working at the beach volley venue.

Waiting for the Games, as I was surfing on the Internet, I fell by chance on a web page of the city of Lausanne that recruited participants for the next Olympic Torch Relay. I had to write a small text explaining the reason for which the torchbearer was worthy of the honour of taking part in the relay race. A few weeks later I got a positive reply. I was not yet aware at the time of the honour and luck, which having been selected meant (we were told later that we were the two persons chosen from a group of one million). I was waiting for the relay race with a lot of trepidation. As it coincided with the period of my university exams, I had to make sure it would not interfere with them. Finally, the big day arrived. The streets were filled with schoolchildren and young people shouting as the flame went by. I have very few recollections of my participation in the race; the emotion was too strong. When I think back on this event of which I was part, I say to myself: «We relay runners are now a part of history!». 
Then, one month later, I left for Athens. I worked in Faliro, by the sea. Once again, we were trained for our future duties. My first week was difficult: it was very hot, the venue was extremely quiet, the stadiums were empty, I did not speak enough Greek to be able to communicate and few Greeks spoke English. From the beginning, I compared the Olympic Games of Athens to those I had experienced in Sydney, but I realized that this was a big mistake. If the Olympic Games of Sydney have been described as «the best ever», there was a reason for that and I had to accept and live with the fact that everything might not be quite up to scratch in Athens. Finally, as the matches went on, the atmosphere started improving. But it was very difficult for us, international volunteers, to watch games that were full only when Greece was playing, see spectators boo the rival team or applaud its mistakes and finally leave the stands when the match was over (irrespective of whether other games were scheduled to follow). I found it very difficult to understand this absence of Olympic spirit, of fair play and this nationalism carried to extremes.

After work, we tried to make the most of what the city had to offer, such as the many cultural activities. On one such occasion, I met the swimmers of the Australian team and this will remain for me the most thrilling memory of these Games.

The next stage for me will be Turin 2006 where I will be working at the Olympic Village, at the athletes’ reception area and then I hope in Beijing, in 2008 and then in London, in 2012 and…

Of my three Olympic experiences I have kept friendships for a lifetime and the most intense feelings I have ever experienced. It has helped me make up, to some extent, for the frustration of never having been able to take part in the Olympic Games as an athlete. I have learned how to open up to the world, to be interested, to communicate and, above all, to live in an atmosphere where the Olympic spirit is within me every day. Thank you!
My experience in the Olympic Youth Camp  
Ms Abeer Ghaeb (YEM)

Today, I would like to share with you my experiences at the Olympic Youth Camp (held during the 2004 Olympic Games), where I was a participant.

Back home, I was involved in many extra curricular activities which were connected to sports, although I was not aware of what Olympism and the true spirit of sportsmanship really was.

It was only after my experience here in Greece that I learned so much. When I returned home, I was not the same person who left for the camp.

My experiences changed my way of thinking and promoting true sportsmanship and living up to the Olympic spirit. I was so proud to be there with people from all over the world living together and sharing, which I think must have been the best time of our lives.

During the 16 days at the youth camp we had many workshops about Sport, Children’s Rights, Art workshops and dance.

We visited historical museums, the IOA and archaeological sites, some Islands, and Athens in general.

We got the opportunity to attend the opening ceremony of the Games and most of all to attend the competitions.

It was so amazing how we all put aside our differences in religion, color, race and languages.

For more than 16 days what I learned, gave me the power to help my society and my country.

I made a great number of friends and it is a wonderful feeling to
know that I have friends all over the world. I believe that these friendships will last forever.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OYC staff for all the hard work put in and the volunteers who were the real stars at the camp.

Finally, I would like to say that if we could have world peace for 16 days then maybe... just maybe one day we can have it forever.
The Olympic experience keeps on growing

Mrs Laurel Brassey Iversen (USA)

Our dreams are inspired by great role models, nurtured by fearless vision, and accomplished through insane dedication and commitment. I have been mesmerized by the Olympic Games since I was very young. When I see Olympic stories or events on the television, I get goose bumps; I am overcome with emotion, and often I cry.

My Olympic dream was born when an elementary school teacher taught us about the Olympic Games with the story of a great Olympian, Wilma Rudolph. She had polio as a child but overcame her illness and eventually won three gold medals in the 1960 Rome Olympics. I knew I was destined to be like Wilma, a champion runner. I tried every sport and when I was 15, I was introduced to volleyball. Three years later I earned a place on the National Team of the United States.

Opportunities for women were not readily available in the early 1970’s. In 1972, legislation was passed by the United States Congress that enabled women the same opportunities as men to participate and also to receive athletic scholarships. Title IX as it is known also prohibited discrimination in sport based on gender. As a result of this legislation, when I was 19 years old, I became the first woman in the United States to play on a men’s intercollegiate sports team. The coach of the team had been the captain of the 1968 Men’s Olympic Team and was a great inspiration for me, as well as a great coach. I was not allowed to play on the women’s team so I was invited by the men.
Needless to say, I received some of the most physically rigorous and mentally intense training in my career, while practicing and competing with men.

My participation created national media attention and much speculation as to whether or not it was merely a publicity stunt. It seems I have never chosen the easy path!

In 1975, we became the first American team of any kind to begin training year-round on a full-time basis. Our coach, Dr Arie Selinger, a Holocaust survivor and ex-Israeli commando, was ruthless, pushing us five to six hours a day, six days a week. Remember this was 25 years ago. It seems like ancient history now. We failed to qualify for the Montreal Games in 1976, but the hours of training paid off and we did qualify for the 1980 Games of Moscow a full year before those games would begin. The dream was within reach and we trained harder than ever, as many as eight hours per day.

We had all moved away from family, friends, and boyfriends, gave up school and jobs and blindly followed our coach down the path to victory. We climbed the international ladder steadily and found ourselves ranked in the top three in the world along with Cuba and China.

But one of the greatest tragedies in Olympic history crushed our dream of Olympic Glory; the boycott of 1980! I would not be an Olympian. I was very bitter, angry, and disillusioned with my country, «land of the free and home of the brave». People said to me, «what a waste; all those years of training for nothing». For a long time, I was drowning in self-pity and I believed those words. I was also asked if I would sacrifice so much again in I knew what the outcome would be.

In the United States we were labeled as social misfits and spoiled brats. We were attacked in the media as unpatriotic and ungrateful. We tried desperately to organize American Olympians throughout the country behind the leadership of Anita DeFrantz. We even
petitioned the IOC to participate under their flag and not represent our country. This was a terrible dilemma for me because I loved my country, but as an athlete, and a citizen, I had the right to compete. In fact people were dying in Afghanistan and if by our boycott we could have stopped the war there, then we would have felt some satisfaction. But, the use of the world’s athletes to affect political policy had no effect on the former Soviet Union’s decision to invade and occupy Afghanistan.

It was here in Olympia in 1986, when I was a participant that I came to terms with the boycott and its effect on my life. I was asked by the Dean, Mr Szymiczek a presentation on my Olympic Experience. I thought he was being cruel since I didn’t have an Olympic Experience! It is precisely what he wanted me to share; the disappointment and heartbreak of the boycott. I met a few other Olympians from 1980 teams who also were victims of the boycott and we began to share our feelings. We argued and discussed at the swimming pool, in the cafeteria and in the tavernas of Olympia, and slowly we achieved understanding, empathy and compassion. I learned that people are like crayons: Some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

The question arose again. Would you do it all again knowing the outcome?

I came to the realization the YES, I would go through all of it again including the boycott. My teammates and I had great experiences together. It was tough, really tough, but we remember the fun times, the special victories, and the lasting friendships we made all over the world. My teammates and I are bonded by unfailing friendship that we came to embrace through our sport, and we remain to this day committed to each other. We were the luckiest girls in the world. We traveled everywhere there was volleyball, experiencing other cultures, learning to tolerate the differences of other
people, while playing the game we loved. Our team was honored a few months ago by our National Federation on the 25th anniversary of the Moscow Olympics for being one of the greatest teams in the history of USA Volleyball, some say «The Greatest Team».

All of our experiences shape our lives. Sometimes we can’t see this clearly until we step away and time passes. There was a huge benefit from the boycott that we could not see until years later. Since we didn’t get to realize our dream in Moscow, we appreciate the experiences of the journey we undertook: maybe even to a greater extent than if we had gone to the Olympics. We also emerged very strong women, willing to fight for the important issues in our lives. This is something you don’t learn in school.

This place and the IOA changed my life. I began to put the loss of my Olympics behind me and to work in the Olympic Movement, spreading the ideals and teaching others, and also working to establish the IOA Past Participant’s Association. I had retired from the National team in 1980. I became a coach and taught my players the messages of Olympism, such as fair play and mutual respect. Two of my former university players participated in the Sydney Olympics Beach Volleyball Tournament for Australia. I hope that in some way I motivated them to chase their dream.

In the late 1980’s I played on and off in domestic leagues. In April of 1987 I was working with the National Team as a visiting assistant coach. The coaching staff went out to lunch after the first training and the head coach asked me if I would consider playing on the team that would compete in Seoul. I was literally speechless for probably the first time in my life and certainly the last. So many thoughts bombarded my brain. I hadn’t played internationally for seven years. I had a lot of doubts. Could I still play at that level? The game seems so much faster than when I played. Should I do it? What about my job? The challenge had been laid in front of me and my ultra-competitiveness took over instantly. I knew, I had to
try. I would never be satisfied if I walked away not knowing if I could accomplish my lifelong goal. There were many mornings later on during training phases when I reconsidered my decision as my older athlete body rebelled.

Suddenly, the Olympic flame that continually smoldered in my heart was ignited once again into an all-consuming fire. When I was 34 years old, I marched into the Olympic Stadium in Seoul, and I knew at that moment that the long journey was worth every step, every disappointment, and every sacrifice.

While I was in Seoul, I felt that I was representing my teammates of 1980 who never got another chance, and I think this feeling is partly responsible for my preparation to perform to my very best. When I finally had the opportunity to compete in Seoul, I had a much greater understanding of what Olympism really was because of the time I had spent here in Olympia. I had prepared myself in every aspect to have my best performance. Since the age of eight and throughout my athletic career there had been one goal; to win a gold medal, and be an Olympic Champion. I had visualized the gold medal being slipped over my head as my national anthem was played. As a competitor, I was not satisfied with the outcome of our Olympic tournament, but as a veteran of sport, I was at complete peace with myself. I had given my all, and had prepared myself for an optimal performance. I knew in my heart that I was indeed a champion. I am a champion.

Olympians are not better than others, but are different perhaps, somehow driven to succeed, a bit insane in our incessant pursuit of excellence, and incomprehensibly competitive. As you have seen, and President Filaretos knows, I am extremely persistent and do not give up. The Olympic Movement has molded my life, not because ultimately I participated in the Olympic Games. That was a personal achievement of overwhelming satisfaction. But rather for all the reasons I have shared with you today.
There are so many things to love about sport. I loved my sport when I was competing. I was passionate about it. My career on the National team spanned 19 years. I have attended many Olympic Games as a spectator to see volleyball and all the sports. I am a sports addict. Each of us sees something different in sport. There is beauty and drama, skill, discipline, perseverance, and emotion. I hope that after your experience here you will also see friendship, tolerance, understanding, peace, and of course, love. Through sport you can find all of these things.

I met my best girlfriend while we competed against each other. We are an unlikely pair, but we are the true embodiment of the Olympic spirit. My Chinese friend, Jenny Lang Ping is the yellow crayon and I am the white one. She has a weird name, or maybe it is my name which is weird. She is the long skinny one and I am the short, pretty one. We exist very nicely in the same box.

When we were opponents, I was on the receiving end of the blistering, reverse back-spin sliders of the ‘Iron Hammer’. Our first conversations were through an interpreter, but we spoke the same language of sport. She came to live and work with me in the United States and now she is the first woman to coach the USA team. She is also one of my heroines.

I am proud to know you and to have this opportunity to share my experience and try to give something back to the Olympic Movement that has enriched my life many times over. I am trying to meet everybody. I’m really sorry that I don’t get to know all of you. I want to say thank you to Group 1 because I learned a lot from you.

The great Jesse Owens was right when he said that no matter what field you come from, the world of art or science, the business world or the world of sport, everyone can be a champion in their own right. Each of you is a champion in some way, or you would not have been selected to participate in this special occasion. It is a great honor for you! One you may not realize until later. I implore you. Don’t waste a minute of it. Challenge each other, discuss,
dispute, embrace, laugh, cry, sing and dance, and learn. Try new things and share your experiences. It is sport that unites us, and it is sport that brought us here to Olympia.

Will the world be a better place because we came to Olympia? Are we perhaps, too idealist? Can the world follow our example and live together in peace like we have here in Olympia? That is really up to you. You have the potential, and you can make a difference. Are you bold enough to pick up the torch, carry the flame and pass it on to others? I hope we can take the first steps together.
REPORTS ON THE WORKSHOPS
**Report on the sports competitions**

*Mrs Laurel Brassey-Iversen (USA)*

**Events winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tennis Mixed Double</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Julia Silvestre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Freeman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennie Lindstrom</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eleni Panayi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martina Pfeihofer</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jozsef Haz</td>
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<td>Huda Hamod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Anstry</td>
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<td>Petra Hlavata</td>
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### Football (Team B)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gundegmaa Lkhagvasuren</td>
<td>MGL</td>
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<td>Veena Vijabund</td>
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<td>Andy Catazzo</td>
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<td>William Irving</td>
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<td>Masrur Sulaimonbekov</td>
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### Volleyball (Hercules Team)

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<tr>
<td>Mpumelelo Makhubu</td>
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### Swim Gala

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<td>Eva Bruenisholz</td>
<td>SUI</td>
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<td>ISR</td>
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Sports Activities
Report
on the poetry and literature workshop
Prof. Cesá R. Torres (ARG)
and Ms Andri Iakovidou (CYP)

This year we were assigned to organize and supervise the poetry and literature workshop. It was the fourth and third year in a row for Dr Torres and Ms Iakovidou in that order that they had this responsibility. As in previous years, Mr Eli Wolff (USA) graciously offered his help in the activity. The two meetings of the workshop were originally scheduled for the evenings of August 3 and 8, but were rescheduled to avoid conflicts with other workshops and activities. The workshop held meetings on the evening of August 2 and the afternoon of August 7, which had 22 and 10 participants respectively. Participants and discussion group coordinators contributed to the workshop. Due to logistical limitations, the meetings were held in the arts workshop’s facilities and in the hut between the volleyball courts and the swimming pool rather than in the West hill.

The meetings were organized around two topics: «love» and «bodies in motion». We approached «love» by listening popular love songs (i.e., «Smoke Gets in Your Eyes» by J. Kern and O. Harbach, «Will You Love Me Tomorrow» by G. Goffin and C. King and «Slave to Love» by B. Ferry), reading their lyrics and reflecting on the issues underlying them. After this we exchanged ideas about these issues and read poems written by famous poets about the experience of love. Then, we suggested that participants write their own poems.
Moments from the social evenings and the arts happening.
The evening finished with participants sharing their writing and with the whole group enjoying another round of popular love songs.

The meeting on «bodies in motion» was organized during an afternoon, which was highly unusual. However, the quietness of Olympia at this time of the day proved an inviting environment to think and write on this issue. Reading few stanzas of Takis Doxas’ poem «The Light of Olympia», which we thought speaks about traveling to Olympia to find inspiration and continue traveling on, opened the meeting. From there we talked about possible ways of understanding Doxas’ invitation to travel, to move on. We then shared with participants a number of poems and short stories focusing on human motion from different perspectives. Finally, we invited them to describe their own experience with movement in a sport-oriented setting. At the end of this report, there are some examples of the participants’ production in this meeting. We believe that their poems are rich and inspiring.

We think that the workshop was productive and successful; it is another space in which the IOA proves to be an institution with a holistic approach to education. Because by the time the Arts Happening was organized the workshop had met only once, there was not enough time to include the production of the workshop in it. However, Lisa Wallace (CAN), a participant in the workshop, read a poem she had previously written. To conclude, we want to express our gratitude for having had another chance to organize the workshop. We took great pleasure in doing it. We also want to acknowledge the work of Mr Wolff, whose contribution is key to the success of the workshop. Finally, we must thank the participants in the workshop for their wit and perspicacity.
Moments from the arts happening.
«Metaphor for love»
Eli Wolff (USA)

the taste
is so sweet
so tender
rasberries from the earth
carry me
another day
longing for your
smooth soft
motion
we come together

«Untitled» Lisa Wallace (CAN)

a silence.
a split second.
a calm within the crowd.
an empty thought.
an emptier being.
a freedom.
gain.
flow, go.
everything is perfect, everything is mine.
control.
focus.
decide.
rush.
again, again and again.

«Running» Nikos Roukas (GRE)

movement of simplicity and excellence at the same time
seconds of flying
feeling free of emotions . . . flying away
illusions of reaching heaven
awareness of your existence
consciousness of reaching the end
but still trying harder and harder
to reach it
following my instincts I break the wall
feeling complete excellence
CONCLUSIONS
Question 1

Why did people attend the ancient Olympic Games and the other Pan-Hellenic Games? Try to explain the appeal of the Olympic Games.

People attended the ancient Olympic Games and the other Pan-Hellenic Games for social, religious, cultural and economic reasons. Sports were an essential part of the Hellenic pedagogy and way of life, which emphasized the whole development of body, mind and spirit. The Games epitomised that development. The Games in antiquity were festivals that included sports, music and arts, and contributed to the entertainment and education of the participants and spectators. Training for the Games helped keep the participants in good form thus improving their efficiency in performing their other societal duties.

Factors contributing to the appeal of the ancient Olympic Games are the following:

- The Olympic Games were an opportunity to celebrate and honour the gods, to enhance trade, to meet with people, to worship the body and mind, as well as an opportunity for personal and community pride.

- During the Games, a truce was declared and athletes and spectators had safe passage to attend the athletic, musical and
poetry competitions. Rival cities were brought together in a period of unity for the Greek city states.

- Successful athletes were admired and respected by the spectators and were treated as heroes in their own cities.
- The ancient Greeks saw the qualities and strengths of their gods reflected in the athletes.
- The legacy which inevitably followed victory was a major factor for participating athletes. i.e. – Hero status, bravery, masculinity, having a honourable death.
- The Games were an expression of the Greek people’s love for competition and through the Games the physical development of the human body was displayed and admired.
- The Hellenic culture encouraged success and the Games were an opportunity to support and honour athletes.
- Sport provided a distraction from life’s problems.

Today, the games provide a «cultural melting-pot» where people of all nationalities can meet on an even footing –that of sporting excellence– despite differences in culture, religion, gender or social status. They also provide a unique opportunity for peaceful coexistence while emphasizing the brotherhood of man.

**Question 2**

**The ancient Olympic Games were held for nearly 1200 years. Why did they end?**

The ancient Olympic Games were held for nearly 1200 years and ended in 393 A.D., after the order of Emperor Theodosius, for the following reasons:

- The rise of Christianity ended the ancient Olympic Games. The Games were considered to be a pagan festival contradicting Christian values of the Roman Empire. Romans wanted to discontinue all Greek practices and religious beliefs (i.e. worshiping of the Gods).
The Christian leaders disapproved of the athletes’ nakedness and of the Greeks’ interest in the perfection of the body.

The Romans became less interested in real athletic contests and focused on bloody combats. Under Roman impulse the Games opened to all participants. Corruption and violence soon appeared and the Games turned into a wild and bloody show and were soon abolished.

The Romans wanted to add new territories to their Empire. As a result they recruited all Greek young men to become soldiers, which made impossible the training of the Greek athletes. Without participants the Games became pointless.

The Romans wanted to prevent the Greeks from being heroes in the Roman Empire as they considered it to be a threat for them.

The sacred truce ruling that athletes could not participate when fighting with other city states no longer applied and the Games focused on spectators’ entertainment.

**Question 3**

*What does the phrase: «Olympism is a philosophy of life» mean for each of you?*

- Olympism is sometimes known as a «religion of Modern Times», but we consider it rather as a frame of values, that can be applied in everyday life, whether professional or personal. As such, it can be promoted by the practice of sport without being incompatible with other frames of values. Therefore, Olympic values could be shared universally.

- Olympism constitutes a state of mind; it is a constant effort to improve ourselves, promote a good example and be role models to others.

- Olympism is respect and tolerance for the others, harmony of body, mind, and spirit; fusion of sport, education and culture; uni-
ty and peace, a combination of body and values that only sport can give; it gives meaning to life.

- Olympism is steering for excellence through fair competition and mutual understanding.
- Olympism means bringing together humanity using sport, education and culture as common goals.
- Olympism is a way of life that encompasses and fosters the extraordinary development of men and women through education; touching all in its path with its uncompromising ethics and approaches through peaceful and non-discriminatory goals.
- You do not have to practise sport to live Olympism, but events like the Olympic Games are a showcase and catalyst for communication between countries and an opportunity to celebrate and spread Olympism.
- It is about discovering fundamental similarities between cultures that seem to have nothing in common.
- Olympism is a personal attitude that allows both the individual and people at large to appreciate the finer things in life such as sport, culture, music, art, and celebration of human accomplishment.
- Olympism means that people can experience the joy of participation, regardless of level of athletic ability, whether you’re an athlete or a spectator.

**Question 4**

*Discuss the development of the individual, social and ethical principles of Olympism.*

Olympism is defined as a state of mind, a philosophy of life. We all have different perceptions, we live different realities, we come from different cultures, and the principles of Olympism will apply to us differently.
**Individual**

- Traditionally, the Olympics sought the balance of body, will and mind. Today, the principles seem to have changed due to materialism and commercialization, focusing mainly on the «body». Modern influences like price money, media and sponsors, have given rise to professionalism and the importance of participation has declined.
- From ancient to modern times the development of individuals’ principles are fundamentally the same. Generally the individuals’ principles are to continue to achieve goals. The sporting goals however have changed over time – they are not just to take part, or to have fun, or to do it for fitness etc, but to win and to look good whilst participating in sport.
- Focus on achievement as opposed to participation led to the rise of individual cheating practices such as doping.
- Professionalism – playing for material gain as opposed to passion, has taken precedence.

**Social**

- In the ancient Pan-Hellenic Games, participation was limited to men while today participation of women keeps gaining ground leaving behind cultural, religious and political restrictions. In today’s Games athletes from all over the world can participate, creating a multicultural environment and promoting friendship, tolerance and equality.
- Social principles are becoming more complex as minorities and diversity are being more accepted, in ancient times they were about one religion – often forced upon countries as they were defeated and forced to assimilate.
- There is an increase in women’s participation in sports, administration and technical skills. This is in contrast to ancient times when women were not even allowed to be spectators.
Ethical

- Because the emphasis is now on «winning», cheating (doping) is an option for today’s athletes, thereby reducing the importance of mind and will. Fair-play is not always respected.
- An athlete is a role model; they should be prepared not only physically, but also morally. This is why, in order to maintain and foster the Olympic principles, we must focus on education.

Question 5

What should the relationship be between the Olympic Movement and sports for athletes with disabilities? Make suggestions.

- The Olympic Charter clearly states that discrimination, of anyone and in any way, is a clear violation of the Olympic Ideals. By separating athletes with disabilities from athletes without disabilities, there seems to be an aspect of discrimination, contradicting the Olympic Charter.

- Olympism is about the participation in competition with the best athletes in an assigned category or discipline, and performing one’s best in whatever sporting competition. Sports for athletes with disabilities should be given a similar recognition by the Olympic Movement as any other sports category.

- The promotion of sport for disabled athletes should be supported by the Olympic Movement. There should be a priority on promoting sports for the disabled and an importance placed on creating awareness amongst the general public that such sports are equally challenging.

- The current framework of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements does not fulfil the potential of synergy, comprehensive collaboration, cooperation and does not place an emphasis on education and equity. The acceptance of the Paralympic Movement into the Olympic Movement would benefit disabled athletes,
allowing the athletes more recognition, exposure and interest from
the public as Olympians.

- Media should take ownership in putting more emphasis on
covering the sports of disabled athletes. A media academy might
be created to better educate reporters.

- The lack of acceptance of people with disabilities is not only due
to Olympic exclusion, but rather a deeper, systemic problem. In
order to realize cultural acceptance, early physical education
programs must teach non-disabled children first-hand what it is
like to compete with a disability. These programs could also
increase family awareness.

- There is a need for mutual education between athletes with and
without disabilities. Athletes with disabilities can share their expe-
riences in the Games. Paralympic athletes often epitomise the
Olympic values that we are losing sight of. The Olympic Move-
ment should be utilising the Paralympic athletes to promote
Olympism.

- Some participants felt some further combination of the Paralympic
and Olympic Games was necessary, yet any changes should be
measured and well thought through. Other participants felt some
combinations would be a logistical challenge. One question
presented was, what difference should it make to have one or
two Olympic-style events, if the current situation represents
Olympism in both? If nothing else, the same logo, motto, and
medals could be used at both Games.

**Question 6**

**What role should Olympians with disabilities have in order to
promote social change? Make suggestions.**

Olympians with disabilities can be role models and ambassadors
of Olympism for the Olympic and Paralympic Movement. Promotion
can be achieved in many ways:
• Disabled athletes can be considered as athletes with different potentials. They should recognise and use their strengths and focus more on the abilities than their disabilities. They should take on more leadership roles within their countries to raise awareness in their sport.

• Paralympic athletes are examples of individuals who effectively overcome obstacles and face life challenges. In this regard they can promote Paralympic activities, so that they become the norm in society and justify making sports and civic infrastructure more accessible.

• Through educational projects disabled people can help to change behaviours and ways of thinking in society. By giving lectures at schools, and other educational institutions, they may help change attitudes, especially in the children.

• They can help publicize and raise awareness of their sports and the profile of the Olympics for athletes with disabilities. The visibility of the Olympians with disabilities should be improved in the media i.e. in newspapers and on TV and also in the public eye i.e. public speaking and guests at events.

• By working as volunteers in the Olympic Games so that they become included.

Question 7

What is the legacy of the Athens 2004 Paralympics Games?

• The Games had an impact particularly in Greece, helping them to make the city of Athens more accessible, improving the quality of life and mobility for disabled people, raising awareness of basic needs that disabled people should have, so that they can enjoy the same lifestyle.

• The Games have helped to raise the profile of disabled sport across the world, demonstrating the abilities and rights of disabled people to take part in sport and to do their best in competition.
Disabled athletes through their performances demonstrated true Olympic values and left behind a more educated and aware society.

The Games had more media coverage than ever before which will help inform people about Paralympics sports.

Hosting the Paralympic Games where the Olympic Games started has led disabled athletes to increase their self-esteem and has reinforced them as representatives and main factors of Olympism.

More athletes took part, with an increase in female competitors, from more countries showing that the message is reaching wider areas.

A large number of volunteers supported and contributed to the Games.

New sports were included.

A mental legacy was created through a raised level of conscience and understanding towards people with disabilities that carried over into Greek and international societies.

Organizing committees of future games must keep pushing the message that anything is possible for disabled athletes, and to enable these athletes on all levels means to empower them, and to empower change.

**Question 8**

**What is an Olympic Pedagogy?**

Olympic pedagogy is a science and a system that seeks and designs effective methods and reasons for teaching Olympism and its principles to society as a lifestyle.

Olympic values such as tolerance, fair-play, respect among all human beings, friendship, solidarity, peace, freedom, awareness of different cultures are being taught through theory and the practice of sport, which involves a constant exercise of body and mind, keeping the spirit of «kalos kagathos» alive, sculpting the character
and contributing to personal harmonious development in all aspects of our daily lives.

Sport teaches the principles of Olympism subconsciously, while they are being applied on the field.

Currently, Olympic Pedagogy is being carried out through different events and tools, such as the different Olympic academies, youth camps, brochures and educational books and conferences.

However, groups felt that Physical Education programmes in schools are the methods generally used. These programmes should start at an early age so that they can contribute to positive attitudes about sports and other aspects of life in general. This kind of educational programme is essential in order to curb the ever-persistent unethical behavior of athletes through the ages.

People will embrace the Olympic Movement’s philosophy if they have a clearer understanding of the principles that it contains.

Question 9
Describe the steps for building an Olympic Education Programme.

- Specify the vision and strategy of the Programme based on the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter.
- Set the mission and goals (short and long term) of the Programme.
- Develop a Strategic Plan:
  - Set a timeline
  - Identify the population that will be instructed
  - Prepare budgets, assess and obtain necessary resources.
  - Identify the lecture materials, teachers and the method through which the materials will be taught
- Implement the Strategic Plan.
- Evaluate the Strategic Plan.
- Adjust the Strategic Plan and programme as necessary to ensure success.
An Olympic Education Programme should:

- Educate the whole community, but as this may not be possible, there is a need to identify separate groups (i.e., school children, students, parents, coaches and the media).
- Recruit and appoint teachers to create the Strategic Plan and a system for implementing the programme.
- Require participation of not only physical education teachers and students, but all teachers, coaches and parents. Perhaps schools should include governments in creating programme strategies for each country. However, some feel that physical education teachers must first be trained and educated on Olympism.
- Gain commitment from key stakeholders (i.e., governments, NOCs, NGOs and potential sponsor organisations).
- Discuss the benefits and goals of the programme within the NOC and with government officials so the programme can be funded.
- Plan athletic events around Olympism to include students and parents.
- Provide incentives for trainers and participants.
- Get necessary publicity via various media outlets.
- Publicly recognize and promote successful stories.
- Create an infrastructure to secure long term programmes.
- All countries should have access to an outline of a global programme and then adapt it to their own requirements.
- Utilize the Olympic logo to show it means more than a major sports event every four years but is a symbol of the principles of Olympism. Identify the most appropriate means of promotion through the internet and produce reading materials/manuals in several different formats so that everybody can access them.
- It is important for the programme to be sustainable that is run continuously so it delivers a consistent message.
Question 10

What can you do when you go back to your countries for the development of Olympic Education?

There are several things that can be done when we all return to our countries for the development of Olympic Education:

- Establish how we can help support our own NOC and NOA in implementing and delivering the existing programmes.
- Develop Olympism workshops for National Sport Federations, Club Sports and similar sport programs.
- Promote the Olympic Education by publishing lecturers and participants propositions and ideas in the report we must hand in to our NOC once back home.
- Review current, established NOA Olympic Education systems and programmes and glean information that will be useful and successful in our home country.
- Tell people of our experiences, be pioneers and ambassadors for Olympism and Olympic Movement in our countries. Give knowledge to local schools, sports academies and immediate employment context.
- Take stock of current education programmes and take these back to our countries.
- Establish Olympic Education programs and activities in schools. Work with the Ministry of Education, if it is applicable.
- Try and increase the profile within your local newspaper. Make more Olympism materials/literature available to all people including media outlets.
- Athletes should be educated on Olympism; this way they will have the ability to spread the meaning of Olympism through their public speaking engagements and to become role models to others.
- Develop/encourage university courses, athletes’ commissions. Organize speeches and conferences. Apply an Olympic element.
to physical education classes. Work to require teachers of all disciplines to study and teach Olympism.

- Meet and develop programmes with previous participants of the IOA.
- Establish a National Olympic Academy in countries where one does not exist.
- Pursue local foundations for financial assistance to begin Olympic Education Programs.
- Sociological research about the perception of Olympism by young people over the world could also be done.
- We could organize «Olympism and sports» exhibitions in museums in order to spread out the meaning of Olympism.
- Offer rewards to young children or someone who demonstrates traits of Olympism.

**Question 11**

*How can Olympic Education be improved in the future?*

Olympic education can be improved in the future through the following means:

- Recognise that Olympic Ideals can promote sound social norms.
- Emphasise the importance of tolerance, fair-play and respect in physical education courses.
- Target the curriculum developers to have the Olympic Principles included in the education framework for children at an early age.
- Re-evaluate the existing programmes to ensure they are effective, interesting, relevant, current and suitable for each country and age group.
- Educate teachers of all subjects, coaches, managers and journalists regarding the value of the Olympic Ideals.
- Use new technology as educational tools i.e. video games.
- Develop an international marketing campaign to promote Oly-
mpism at major sporting events, i.e. personal stories and examples of fair play.

- Encourage the media to play a greater role in enhancing the profile of Olympic Education and spreading its ideals on a consistent basis.
- Improving communication between the IOC and its NOCs and NOAs regarding Olympic Education.
- Establish NOAs in countries where they do not exist, and strengthening those which already exist.
- NOCs should work together with the education ministries in each country in order to develop effective teaching programmes.
- NOCs should follow up on the progress of their IOA Session participants to ensure they utilise their experiences effectively.
- Build relationships between NOAs and universities, sport clubs, schools and sport organizations in order to maintain consistency.
- Encourage celebrated and popular athletes to act as role models and disseminate the Olympic doctrine by becoming ambassadors of the Olympic movement.
- Behaviour in sport contrary to the Olympic values, i.e. violence and doping, should be severely sanctioned.
- Exploring the possibility of the use of Olympic Education in places of rehabilitation i.e. prisons, detoxification centres etc.
- Make Olympism a word in the English dictionary.
- Make the IOA library accessible to the public via the internet.
- Ensure that academic papers on Olympic Principles are presented at international sporting, education, coaching, media and political events and seminars. The decision makers and educators need to be informed.
- Increase IOC funding for Olympic Education programmes which should be accounted for and ensure that funding is dispersed in a responsible and effective manner.
- Promote and create scholarships to encourage Olympic Education.
- Prioritise which countries require greater financial assistance.
Encourage and teach young children to apply the ideals to everyday life. Olympism is not exclusive to Olympians or sportsmen and women.

**Question 12**

*What is the importance of the Olympic Village during the Olympic Games?*

The Olympic village is symbolic of the world which Olympism hopes to achieve, reflecting the motto «One World, One Dream». It is a place of PEACE.

- Athletes from all over the world get a chance to be in the multicultural environment providing stimuli for thought on many topics especially Olympic values such as solidarity, friendship and fair play.
- It promotes and fosters equality and respect among athletes coming from different cultural, religious and political backgrounds.
- In the village there is no social, economic or political status. The village is common ground.
- Athletes realize that similarities outnumber their differences. Paradigms begin to break down.
- Athletes share their life experiences and previous Olympic experiences and learn from them. Personal development and character development takes place.
- The village creates a safe environment for competing athletes protecting them from the media, the public, and any other intrusions.
- It provides athletes with disabilities access to all areas.
- Logistically and economically, the village facilitates transportation, communication and security.
- The village creates an atmosphere of festivity where winning is not always the most important aspect of the Games. Athletes can also relax, forget pressures and feel at home, especially after they finish their competition.
CONCLUSIONS

- It provides an opportunity for exchange of technical sports skills.
- Drug testing becomes more efficient.
- One group felt that on the negative side there is a huge cost in building the Olympic village.
Question 1

Which activities would you suggest in order to increase the number of women in the administrative, organisational and decision-making position of sports and the Olympic Movement?

Sport is a cultural activity which must incorporate fair play and equality. Women’s roles in sport, their experiences, values and involvement ultimately enrich and enhance the development and well being of mankind.

The activities suggested by the groups are as follows:

- Enforce the principle of equality: equal work opportunities and equal salaries.
- Implement quota voting systems, thus promoting an equal participation of men and women in election process in sport. Participants proposed equal male and female representatives of each NSF to the NOCs. This process could be done on a gradual basis (from 20%, to increase by 10% at every election till 50% is reached).
- Create full-time and part-time jobs for women in sport organisations, providing the experience women need to take up these roles permanently.
- Increase the number of sport management and administration courses for women, especially while they are training as athletes.
Create a positive environment in sports clubs where women can feel welcome to develop their skills.

Encourage female Olympic athletes to get involved in sport administration in their countries after their competitive careers are over.

Establish a network and an awareness campaign of the need for, and the benefits of having women in these positions. Organise a publicity campaign to recruit more women.

Create sport organizations for women to provide the motivation and encouragement to become administrators and reach decision making positions etc.

Promote a change in society’s perception through education and the media, i.e. television programmes and documentaries on successful women in leadership, also gender lectures for leaders.

Question 2

Discuss the factors that promote or hold back women’s participation in the Olympic Games.

Factors that promote women’s participation in sport and the Olympic Games are the following:

- Women’s conditions and social status have evolved during the last century. Women are not just non-working mothers anymore, but economically independent. They now have both the opportunity and the time to practice whatever sport they choose.
- Increased financial resources for women’s sports have increased participation.
- The perception that practicing sports is unfeminine has diminished.
- Other factors are the celebration of women’s beauty, grace, aesthetic and charm through sports.
- Higher standards of education and female independence.
• More educational programmes for women’s sports activities and opportunities.
• Changes in sports’ regulations and adaptation of equipment.
• The introduction of quotas for women by NOCs, which encourage women to take part in sports activities and administrative structures.
• The development and introduction in the Olympic Programme of artistic disciplines such as gymnastic and synchronized swimming.
• More competitions and opportunities for women to compete.
• The encouragement of pre adolescent females to practice sports, by their families and schools.
• Inspiring stories of successful sportswomen provide inspiration for other women to pursue sports.
• Increased participation of women in the Games, better performances and the establishment of records, have made women’s sports more attractive to both spectators and the media. This helps in making women’s sports more acceptable within society.
• The IOC’s establishment, in 2004, of the «Women and Sports Commission» has promoted participation through regional information seminars, programmes for women and sport sponsored by Olympic Solidarity. Also the continental trophies encourage participation of women and girls in sport activities.

Factors that hold back women’s participation in sport and the Olympic Games are the following:
• Religious beliefs with regulations that prohibit women from competing in sport.
• Within many Islamic societies, women are not allowed to be alone outside their home or attend an event where men are present, and have a limited choice in clothing. Participation in the Games is thus almost impossible, mainly in disciplines such as swimming or gymnastics.
• Federations’ regulations are not flexible, e.g. in the Paralympics,
women are permitted to use Islamic scarves, but not in the Olympics.

- Women earn less than men for similar jobs in many countries, so they have limited resources for training.
- Men’s sports receive more funding than women’s sports do.
- Sponsors prefer giving money to male athletes because their sports are more popular.
- The female body structure makes it difficult for women to practice some sports. Also, during pregnancy and for a time after they have given birth, women can’t practice sports.
- Some disciplines are considered too violent for women.
- While practicing sport, women may not correspond to the classical concept of femininity, i.e. that of beauty and elegance. Spectators could therefore be less interested in disciplines in which female athletes do not look feminine.
- Unequal intake of men and women in sports universities results in fewer female physical educators.
- There are also fewer women coaches in countries that lack economic resources, as well as few women in sport administrative positions.
- Social pressures and male prejudices, as reflected also in Coubertin’s philosophy, inhibit women’s participation in sports.
- Women have more responsibilities than men in their homes and they may have to take care of children. This may hinder them from committing the necessary amount of time to practice their sport.
- Low awareness, exposure and participation during childhood, may also stop women from practicing sports.
- Willingness to become an athlete is lower in women than in men.
- Muscular and non-feminine body structures and appearances projected give a distorted image of sportswomen, e.g. in the sports of weight lifting and wrestling.
- There is a lack of media attention towards women’s sport.
Question 3

Discuss the meaning of the Olympic motto «citius, altius, fortius». What is its application within the Olympic Movement?

- The quote is Latin, meaning literally faster, higher and stronger. In any case, its connotation varies from culture to culture.
- There are two ways of understanding the motto:
  - There is a sense that encourages athletes to continuously exert themselves to win and break existing records. This sense appears to refer more to actual Olympic performances.
  - The other sense could be understood as a symbol for self-improvement and excellence in everything people do in life (competition, achieving personal goals, striving to achieve the principles of Olympism).
- «Higher, faster, stronger» reflects an aspiration to, and also the striving for, individual excellence and not just achievements. These aspiration and achievements can affect the whole Olympic Movement, including sports management, sports facilities, media and reporting styles as well as technology and sciences.
- The Olympic motto was also said to be more related to competition than to the Olympic Ideals.
  - The process of striving for excellence and bettering oneself is more important than results.
  - It demands one to know one’s self.
  - It illustrates the indisputable importance of increasing human progress.
  - It promotes the ideology of «homo faber» (man who works).
  - By striving for excellence, athletes find «the power of vision».
  - It reflects a philosophy searching for the Olympic ideal.
- The following negative connotations were made:
  - Because of the commercialisation and gigantism of the Games, many athletes would try to find a way to cheat (doping) in order to achieve better results.
Because the motto wants athletes to always strive for their absolute best, athletes are never satisfied; this results in pressure, disappointment and symptoms such as depression. In an attempt to prevent this failure athletes may take drugs and cheat.

- There appears to be a contradiction between the motto (perfection, winning, records) and the Olympic charter (just taking part).
- The motto does not reflect the ideas of fair-play, respect.
- The motto is often misunderstood and often perceived as promoting «be the best at all costs».
- Finally, it was mentioned that there should be equal emphasis on those athletes who are not winners but have done their best.

**Question 4**

*What should be the most important in sports competition: victory, records, fame or competition?*

There is a progressive interlocking process that starts with competition and then leads to victory, records and finally fame.

Competition is the first step in participation. It is the basis for everything and a way to challenge oneself. Focus should be on individual excellence not only on winning, because many times there will be someone better. However, giving the best effort is a victory. It motivates the athlete to achieve excellence. Competition is an honour and a privilege, since one is representing one’s country. But without victory and records sports competition might get boring for both participants and spectators.

Victory stimulates the athlete to work harder each time during and after competition. When athletes are victorious, they will increase their efforts in future competitions. In sports, the most common way of gaining fame is through victory.

Trying to get the record is trying to do one’s best; one is getting the best of oneself. Obtaining this, athletes become better and better.
Motivation to break personal, national and world records can be intrinsic and extrinsic. They are also a sense of achievement, improvement to pursue continual and greater excellence. Athletes have to try and break personal records, not only world records. There are sports where records are not a concern.

Fame does not always mean world fame and does not always follow victory and or a record. It is also recognition. A «celebrity» can become a role model for young people, inspire both young and old, within a region, nation and beyond.

Athletes’ hunger for fame will make every effort in training and competing to achieve a victory, not for the competition or the victory itself, but for popularity and fame.

It should be noted however, that records and fame do not always have positive effects on athletes.

Finally, these four elements can be seen differently by different people. Every person is stimulated by different goals and it depends on these goals. For example a victory does not necessarily mean winning Olympic gold. For some, victory could mean having met personal goals and having been selected to compete in a particular competition and or at a certain level.

**Question 5**

**What was the contribution of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games for the Olympic Movement?**

- Examples of the principles of Olympism were demonstrated during the Olympic Games, such as warring nations competing against each other in a friendly and fair way. This was a success of the Olympic Truce.
- Having the Games in Athens showed that travelling to Greece is safe and that the world is accessible.
- It unified the world as the Olympic Flame touched all the continents of the world.
• Athens opened the Olympic ideals to a new generation of spectators and television viewers.

• The Games showed a record number of participating countries. Athens saw some countries participate for the first time; it saw some countries obtain their first medals, promoting Olympism in those countries.

• Athens showed the world that a small country could successfully hold the games and rise above criticism.

• Other smaller countries were inspired as to what can be achieved. i.e. they were encouraged to bid for the Games.

• The total number of athletes, especially female participants, and disabled athletes was increased.

• Drug testing was increased to improve the Olympic Ideal of fair play, however, the Athens Games showed that the Olympic Movement still has quite a way to go.

• ATHOC’s increased security measures were perceived in different ways: as a strong stance against terrorism, as invoking fear, or alternatively as a sense of security. The Olympic Games in Athens were an example of a discreet but efficient security plan.

• The Games in Athens promoted multiculturalism, not only by presenting the Greek culture but also by welcoming participants and spectators from around the world.

• The economy and infrastructure of the country were improved i.e. better roads, transport and access for disabled persons. So, the Games provided a legacy of housing, infrastructure and facilities which in turn will provide for a better life for Athenians and visitors.

• Athens gave an example to less environmentally aware countries that when planning major construction the environment and cultural heritage (i.e. the ancient ruins found during the construction of the village) must be considered.
• Athens contributed a resourceful Olympic Education programme. The Olympic education program will be utilized to build future programmes.

• Education through ‘sport for all’ was highlighted in the Paralympic Games by having children spectators at events.

• The Games were a reminder of where the Olympic Movement has come from, where it is and where it needs to go. They marked the return to historical roots linking the Ancient Games to the Modern Games, revitalizing a strong feeling of Olympism... «Welcome Home».

Question 6
Did the Athens 2004 Olympic Games manage to create a link between the past and the present and among cultures?

The link between the past and present:
• The motto «Welcome Home» reminded athletes and the world that the Games returned to their birthplace: the origin of Olympic traditions and the timeless ideals of ancient Greek civilization.

• During the Opening Ceremony, the parade of floats, which portrayed Greek history, mythology, and other cultural examples, made the audience and spectators aware of the greek civilization from antiquity to the present day.

• The Opening Ceremony provided the audience with the history of the games from the origin up to the present.

• The Opening and Closing Ceremonies facilitated spontaneous exchanges between participants from all over the world.

• During the Closing Ceremony, athletes were grouped as one, in peace and the symbolic gesture of holding hands showed their unity to the world.

• The Closing Ceremony, however, did not link the past and the present, but rather Athens to Beijing.

• Athens staged the Olympic Games in some of the original lo-
lations of ancient times. For example, the marathon route, Olympia’s stadium, and Kalimarmaro, the stadium where the 1896 Games were staged.

- Ancient ruins were discovered during the construction of the Olympic Village and other venues. They were studied and protected for the future.
- Access to archaeological sites was made available to the participants. Many sites were also made accessible to disabled athletes, linking the past to new technology.
- The Olympic Flame visited ancient sites such as the Pyramids in Egypt and the Great Wall in China.
- Traditional celebrations were used bringing old symbols to the modern world. For example the «Kotinos», victory wreath, which was also used in the Athens 2004 logo, is a symbol of peace and glory. Other ancient designs were used for the medals and the Flame Relay.
- The mascots Athena and Phevos, and Proteas (Paralympic Games) were inspired by ancient dolls.
- Transfer of values from ancient and 19th century Games, to the modern Games, such as fair play, friendship and unity, to the present.
- Media images linked past and present, educating people about history and connecting the ancient to the modern Games.
- Athletes lived in a village situation which is similar to what would have occurred in Olympia.
- Restoration of historical sites.

The link among cultures:
- The Olympic Village provided various cultural events, ceremonies and a variety of international menus for the athletes.
- During the Athens Games, there was more interaction in society between the Greeks and the people of different cultures of the world, i.e. 60,000 non-Greek volunteers.
The international Olympic Flame Relay which circled the globe, travelled for the first time to Africa and South America, and also transmitted cultures as it passed through each continent.

- Athletes, officials and spectators shared tokens of their countries and cultures with others, i.e. pins.
- The Greek culture was showcased to the world in Athens. The Games in China will offer their culture to the world. The Games to be held in Beijing in 2008 have also started promoting other cultures in China.
- The organisation and the education programme from the Paralympic Games created a lot more transactions between participants and spectators.

Some felt though, that the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, while they linked the past and present, and promoted international Olympic goodwill and exchange between peoples, were not able to create lasting cultural links between people and cultures.

Question 7

What is the legacy of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games?

- The Athens 2004 Olympic Games revitalized the Olympic Spirit for people. They promoted and reinforced the notion that Greece is a peaceful and safe country. The return to their birth place gave the Athens 2004 Olympic Games a special meaning.
- The infrastructure of the city of Athens was generally improved, including a new airport, public transportation system, new facilities and access for disabled people.
- There was a boost in tourism, as Greece attracted visitors as an ideal holiday destination due to the beauty of the country and its rich history.
- The IOC cracked down on doping, leading to the highest number ever of athletes found having used forbidden substances, leaving a clear message of fair play to all competitors. Perhaps in the
next Olympic Games the doping problem will decrease due to the different anti-doping programmes WADA and other institutions are carrying out all over the world.

- There was an increase in women’s level of participation.
- The first global flame relay touched the hearts of many and spread Olympism across the world.
- Greece proved that a small country can host the Olympic Games despite many who doubted its capacity. The Games instilled a sense of pride in the Greeks in regard to the success of the Athens 2004 Olympics Games despite the criticism from the media and other obstacles faced by ATHOC.
- Educational programmes of Olympism were introduced in all school levels. Greece established an education program aimed at teaching its people the history of its Games.
- A record number of countries participated.
- The Games proved victorious against terrorism, corruption and negative media coverage. An excellent security system comprised of uniformed and undercover police was used. Although Athens was believed to have a high threat for terrorism, the Games were very secure.
- The Olympic Games provided a lot of job opportunities for the Greek people before and during the Games.
- The Games were a gala of nations and cultural bonding. Some thought the Opening Ceremony was the best in Olympic history.

Question 8

*During the Olympic Games of Athens 2004, on which specific topics did the media focus in your country?*

The main themes covered by the media in the different countries represented within the discussion groups were more or less the same ones. In respective countries, the media focused on:
Before the Games:

- Some countries were concerned that facilities would not be ready on time; there was a lack of confidence in the Greeks’ ability to stage the Games. Trivia about national athletes was presented. Following the torch relay. The return of the Games to their birthplace. History of the Olympic Games as a positive educational influence. National medal promises and expectations.
- Risk of terrorism and the huge security measures implemented in each Olympic location.
- Documentaries about the life of the most famous athletes.

During the Games:

- Once the Games began, press changed its initial negative view. The media started writing about the greatness of the Games that were held in Greece. The Greeks showed the world that they can still make great games, such as the ones in the past.
- Sport’s broadcasting varied from country to country depending on the expectations of winning medals.
- All the problems referring to doping also caught the attention of the media since many athletes tested positive, and the number of doping cases had increased considerably since other Olympic Games e.g. the case of two Greek athletes, Kenteris and Thanou, excluded from the Games.
- Mistakes in judging at the men’s gymnastics competition which enabled Paul Hamm to win the competition.
- Highlighting participation of sports events from smaller and less well-known countries.
- Medal counts, daily highlights and updates: comparisons of number of medals and overall performance between/among countries.

After the Games:

- Congratulating and praising the Athens Olympic Games.
The media also emphasized the amount of money the Greek government had spent on the Games; especially the Greek press.

There were follow ups about the athletes’ social and professional lives with a strong focus on successful stories. There were analysis and evaluations of performances. Reporting on the outcomes in geographical regions.

**Question 9**

*Discuss reasons why doping should not be allowed or tolerated in the field of sport?*

- Doping is contrary to the spirit and values of Olympism. It goes against the Olympic Charter and Ideals of developing body, will and mind and of fair play. It does not promote Olympism.
- Certain doping practices have been proven to be harmful to the human body, physically, and mentally i.e. physiological changes, cancer, and shortening lifespan. Doping makes athletes go over the physiological limits imposed by the human body, transforming human beings into biochemical machines.
- The side effects of drugs can be very anaesthetic.
- The health problems caused by the ingestion of these kinds of substances may lead to the increase of the cost of the state health care programmes therefore constituting a burden on society.
- Doping is seen as an unfair advantage, which further distorts the «level playing field». Athletes are not competing under the same conditions.
- It is cheating and it does not provide satisfaction because the goals are not achieved naturally through sacrifice, struggle and determination. Doping athletes may also experience guilt feelings in a later stage in their life.
- Sports should be a competition between athletes and not between technologies or pharmacies.
- If drugs were tolerated in sport, participation would decrease, as
coaches and parents would not allow their children or athletes to risk harming themselves. «Clean» athletes would get demoralized by the high standard created by doping athletes.

- Doping decreases public respect for sport. The complete nature and practice of competition changes as results and performances are negated. This harms the reputation of sport and NOCs, as well as the image of the country in concern, and the Games themselves.
- It’s harmful to the image of athletes who are seen as role models. It sets a bad example to society which looks for inspiration in the accomplishments of its athletes.
- Sport should be a positive educational example for youth. Doping gives negative messages to young children about the use of drugs to achieve success.

**Question 10**

*What can be done to make the fight against doping more effective? Consider legal, pedagogical, and ethical means.*

**Legal actions**

- Promote the worldwide acceptance of the Anti-doping Code, so that it can be applied by all countries and organisations involved in sport equally. Encourage governments to pay their respective fees to WADA, i.e. through a UN General Assembly resolution.
- Reinforce the sanctions against the organisations that do not comply with the provisions of the Code.
- Promote and support the establishment of a special entity in charge of the fight against doping in every country. Where there is no specific Anti-doping entity, NOCs should supervise the application of the Anti-doping Code, reporting to WADA the violations of its provision. NOCs should also be sanctioned (fined)
in cases of negligent violation of the obligations imposed by the Code.

- Some groups felt that more severe punishments should be imposed on those involved in a positive doping test, including individuals and organisations.
- There should be more groundbreaking research on Performance Enhancing Drugs and methods, especially in cases where non-prohibited substances can be converted or biodegraded by the human body, resulting in positive tests.
- Supervise the execution of rehabilitation programmes that should be mandatory for an athlete following a positive test. Such programmes should include subjects like Olympism, where they can learn the effects of doping on their health, team mates and country, and how they can become role models to youth. Such athletes play an important role in the spreading of the consequences deriving from doping.
- Revise sanctions, especially life bans, taking into consideration other alternatives like prohibiting sponsors financial support, media coverage or other benefits. Some participants felt, however, that sanctions should be more severe, especially for coaches and those who consciously use prohibited substances and methods.
- Accelerate the trial process about the punishment deserved.

**Ethical and pedagogical actions**

- Allocate more funds in the fight against doping, thus reducing the gap between those developing new drugs and those trying to test for them. More funds should be provided for the establishment of awards, research, scholarships, the increase of out-of-competition tests and for supporting countries and organizations that do not have financial resources.
- Promote a stricter control on the acquisition of medicines containing prohibited substances and to the labs responsible for their production.
• WADA has to promote its list of prohibited substances and methods more publicly.
• Health authorities should enforce the inclusion of warning labels on medicines containing prohibited substances.
• The consequences of doping and the Olympic values have to be taught to everyone involved in sport (coaches, athletes, administrators, sponsors, families, media and especially children), through compulsory seminars, brochures, speeches, etc. Teachers have to try hard so that these principles can be applied all through their life.
• The respective Ministries should conduct media campaigns and programmes to inform society about the consequences of the use of the prohibited substances (health, ethics, etc.)

Question 11

*How does the Olympic Movement promote the multicultural nature of Olympism? Take as an example the Olympic Games of Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008.*

The Olympic Charter states the importance of non-discrimination, therefore creating an opportunity for tolerance for all cultures. The Greek and Chinese cultures are two of the oldest civilisations, giving birth to the occidental and oriental cultures respectively. The Olympics create a platform where the salient features of these cultures can be expressed, thus making it easy to recognize the similarities and understand the differences. The Beijing 2008 games will probably promote the multiculturalism of the Olympic Movement by showcasing that the western values of Olympism are already integrated in eastern cultures but simply expressed differently.

Points identified from the Olympic Movement promoting multiculturalism are as follows:
• The participation of so many different countries uniting for the same cause.
• The torch relay spreads the meaning of the Games across the entire world.
• The athletes, staff, spectators, volunteers and officials came from all over the world.
• During the Games, the Movement provides various opportunities for people of different cultures of the world to interact with one another, e.g. in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Games, when nations are parading.
• The Olympic Village also shows how different cultures from around the world can co-exist in peace.
• The Cultural Olympiad also provides education and promotes tolerances over a four-year period. It includes all aspects of music, theatre and art from around the world.
• One group felt that it was unfair that –except for Mexico– no Latin American or African country has had the possibility to host the Olympic Games.

**Question 12**

*How can you promote the dissemination of Olympism in your countries?*

• Promote the spreading of Olympic principles, it is important to motivate people to establish personal goals for themselves. This way everyone can judge if they have reached their goals.
• It is important that the principles of Olympism are spread throughout the world. People should be informed about these principles and how they are indispensable in their daily lives.
• Promote Olympism during the entire Olympiad, through all the various competitions (Pan-American Games, Mediterranean Games, etc.) and not only before the Summer and Winter Games.
• When we return to our countries, we would like to promote the Olympic Education we learned at the IOA. Organize a meeting
with the IOA representatives from our countries to discuss the development of an Olympic Education Program.

- Create websites or add links on IOA website with regard to Olympic Education.
- Educate the public on the spirit of the Olympics through articles and offer it to sport journalists for publishing.
- Improve the visibility of the Olympic principles by creating posters and signs about fair play and positive attitudes.
- Introduce Olympism and Olympic Education to PE teachers, and provide follow-up to guide them in implementation of these programmes in the classroom and PE lessons. Propose to the Ministry of Sport and Culture to include the subject in its activities. Identify research projects for students on different aspects of Olympism.
- Promote Olympism through political and governmental initiatives, and introduce and implement Olympism as part of companies. Pursue local foundations and sponsors for financial assistance to begin Olympic Education Programmes.
- Make workshops, seminars, conferences and events on Olympism throughout the year, and have participants capable of taking the Olympic Education to other places.
- Share our experience and knowledge to our NOCs and NFs so that they can promote the values of Olympism in the field. Through the IOC, introduce a special Olympism Award to an NOC.
On the top, the discussion group with the coordinator Ms Stephanie Souron. At the bottom, the discussion group with the coordinator Assist. Prof. Cesar Torres.
CLOSING CEREMONY
OF THE 45TH INTERNATIONAL SESSION
FOR YOUNG PARTICIPANTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC ACADEMY

ANCIENT OLYMPIA
9 AUGUST 2005
The Closing Ceremony of the Session.

The participants of the Session offering gifts on behalf of their National Olympic Committees to the IOA Dean, Dr Kostas Georgiadis.
Dear friends,

I hope you don’t mind if I call you my friends. Isn’t it nice to have friends from all over the world – in 93 countries? It would take a lifetime or more to visit all of you in different parts of the world. Through all the friendships, various cultures and languages, we are slowly realizing what a unique Olympic experience it was for us being here in Ancient Olympia. I was told, as I believe many of you, too –you will not be the same after feeling the spirit of Olympism here– from where it arises. Going to places where all began, and being in the place where the Olympic flame showed its power for the last time was something that many of us dreamed of a year ago when the Olympic spirit was reaching its highest point in Athens. When the Olympic Flame will be lit here in Olympia again, less than half a year from now for the Torino Games, I know, that in spirit we will all be together. We will remember that on the other side of the road is the Academy that gave us hope, power and courage and that nothing is impossible. It showed us many new directions and where our young lives could go in the future. We have achieved so much already.

What a unique experience to take part in analyzing the games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens, as well as the Paralympic Games. Many different views, a lot of questions and comments – especially in discussion groups, where many of us had the very first opportunity to express our own beliefs. How many times can you hear such emotional Olympic stories, as we did in the previous days from our
friends being Olympians in all different ways? I believe that they made us wish one day to play a role in the Olympic movement. After all, I know that our Olympic journey is not ending today, but rather it has just started.

We built our friendships through team spirit that we showed in the great sport facilities and in the various workshops that helped us find out some of our talents. Without those workshops, we might never have realized we had such talents, such as singing, dancing, art, or poetry. And what great evenings we made for ourselves and everybody who was here with us these fourteen days. Not just at Zorbas, but sharing our cultures in social evenings and art happenings. There is no travel agency in the world that would take us to so many places in such a short time. Some participants even gained lifetime experiences through attending early morning exercise. Why not continue with the good habits that we learned here?

Now our stay here is coming to an end, though it seems like a part of us would like to stay. On the other hand, we can hardly wait to go home to share a piece of what we learned here. It won’t be easy, but as one famous Slovenian climber once said: «The journey is what matters, because you will learn a lot on the way to the final goal. If you will only be focused on the end of the road, you will be empty, when you get there».

That is why I would like to thank all of you that showed us the way:

- Dr Nikos Filaretos for his incredible energy and sense of humor.
- Dr Kostas Georgiadis for coordinating this big group and for his athletic skills on the football field.
- To all the lecturers and coordinators that had to deal with all our questions; maybe some of these questions were so good and made a big enough impression, that some of this year’s participants will come back in the future, in the same role.
- And lastly to all the staff that made our staying here at the International Olympic Academy so fruitful – even to the front gate security guard, who prevented a lot of fence climbing after 2 a.m.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Doctors, Professors,

It is a very great honor for me to represent all the participants in this 45\textsuperscript{th} Session of the International Olympic Academy for the following two reasons:

- It is a very great honor first of all because I will be addressing you on behalf of brilliant students whose level I will never be able to reach and I will also be speaking on behalf of great athletes, some of whom are Olympic medallists.

- It is also a very great honor as I represent a very small country that could fit in one of the fjords of our Norwegian colleagues, could be fully crossed by the Golden Gate of San Francisco, or even be totally submerged under Lake Nasser in Egypt.

Now, I will talk to you about my experience as a participant of the International Olympic Academy.

I stand before you today, in spite of the fact that I was totally unaware of the Academy’s existence before the month of January, when my fencing coach asked me if I would like to represent Monaco here. I said yes, without knowing what I was getting into, which meant a lot of anxiety and many questions...

So, I found myself on a July morning at the airport, without even knowing who the other person representing Monaco together with me was. Was she a weightlifter or a dancer, tall or petite, blond or brunette? And as I was asking myself all these childish questions, I
did not realize that the moment I met her my Olympic experience would begin. After meeting Sandrine, I met at the airport of Athens nice Rachelle and Peter’s incomprehensible accent. At the hotel I got to know resourceful Irene and after that many more people during the visits, the opening ceremony or during the evenings. When we arrived at the Academy we had all moved from the status of stranger to that of friend.

Here in Olympia, I continued to meet people from all over the world, like the wise Norbert with whom I shared a room or handsome David, whom I met during a very suggestive dance in a club near the Academy. I then talked with him and found out that I shared with him much more than provocative hip swaying. It turned out that we had the same digestive problems before the competition. And so, every day I met new people or strengthened the ties that I had made here.

We then studied, played, debated all together and thus became a real team. Although we shared so much together, I still do not know all of you unfortunately and I am sorry for that, but I am happy, however, because I can say today that many of you have become my friends.

You may perhaps ask me why I told you all this, why I didn’t say anything about the lectures, why I didn’t shower abundant praise on lecturers, despite the quality of their papers and contributions. Because, in my view, the Olympic spirit was not present in what we studied, but rather in what we were all experiencing together. In my opinion, the Academy’s success lies in the fact that here we do not just study Olympism as a boring theory, but we live it every day. For this I must congratulate Mr Filaretos.

I have understood that Olympism is neither a theory, nor a philosophy: it is a way of life that we can apply on a daily basis.

To all of you I say thank you so much for having filled my heart and my mind with unforgivable images.

Thank you.
ADDRESS
on behalf of the Coordinators
by Mrs LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN (USA)

Dear friends,

It is indeed a great honor for me to make an address here at the Closing of the 45th Session for Young Participants, especially to speak on behalf of my fellow Coordinators. Although, it would be nice if I could just not have to read this, I want to let you know that for sure it comes from the heart.

Our aim as coordinators was to initiate your participation here, to nudge you closer to each other, to coax the sleeping potential in some of you and channel the energy of others into vivid expression, not only through our discussion but also through art, poetry and music. We hope that you could find some inspiration here so that you would feel empowered to return to your homes and continue spreading the messages of Olympism.

Just look around you here. Take some time before you leave and really see the beauty of the sacred Altis, the hills of Olympia and the starry night. Look closely at the faces of your new friends. Remember them well because you may not see them again. Remember them as they passionately explained to you their experiences; surely the phrase «in my country», will have special meaning to you now. Remember the faces as you competed on the fields in the courts. Do you remember the games that we played that made us laugh so hard? Can you see those faces at the social evenings as they shared their cultures? Remember those faces at «Zorba» as they danced with joy and remember the precious faces crying when you will say «Good-
bye» in a couple of days. Take all of these cherished memories and keep them close to your heart. You won’t remember what you discussed in your groups or the lectures, but our wish for you is that you will always remember the beautiful box of «crayons» that you are now part of. As I look out at you now, I see all your brilliant colors shining together making one giant canvas of cultures.

From all of us, I would like to say «thank you for sharing your great talents and experiences with us». I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of my dear fellow coordinators for their outstanding contribution and work during the Session. We had some different challenges this year, as many of you understand; there weren’t as many of us as normal. So, we hope that we were able to do all of the activities and make sure that you had a good time. Therefore, I would like to thank you. You were awesome; and not only to work with you but also to say that you are my dear friends. I would also like to take a moment to thank Kostas, for all of your support all over the years and also to the staff of the Academy and the interpreters in their booths. Thank you. And of course to Mr Filaretos who has been an inspiration for all of us.

The first thing that you can do for the Olympic Movement when you go home is very easy. Simply tell your friends and your family about the experience that you had here. And maybe after that you will feel more comfortable, to tell your classmates, your friends at school; if you are teachers, maybe you will tell to your students. And after that, maybe you will be brave enough to tell your community about your experiences in the Olympic Academy. You can do this if you really believe in what we are doing here.

We began the Session with excerpts from a poem «Light of Olympia» and I would like to close with another part of it which I feel is appropriate at this moment:

From here the messenger will set forth.
He’ll loosen his sandals his spurs his passions
he’ll ask who last contended in the stadium,
who won the wild olive from the judges of victory
and he’ll run.
Beyond the holly breast of Altis
beyond Olympia and Greece
over all the earth all the sea
wherever there is love …

Thank you.
ADDRESS
on behalf of the Lecturers
by Ms MAHA ZAOUI (TUN)

Mr President of the International Olympic Academy,
Mr Dean of the International Olympic Academy,
Dear lecturers,
Dear coordinators,
Dear participants,

It is an honor for me to represent my colleagues for this address.
It is an honor, as well as a pleasure.

First of all it is an honor to be here, in this place, the symbol of
Olympism, in Olympia.

Olympia is not a city like any other, it is a center of sacred games
under the protection of Zeus, the father of the gods, where in ancient
times wreaths were awarded to victors and gods worshipped.

Pindar¹, as we know, said about Olympia: «Well, sacred wooded
grove beside the Alpheus, welcome this victory procession and the
garland we bring to the victor, the man who is attended by your
splendid prize of honor has great glory forever». Pindar, Olympian

1. Pindar was born in Cynoscphale near Thebes in 518 B.C. His reputation as
a poet was established between 480 and 460. In 476, Hieron of Syracuse com-
misioned him to celebrate his victory in Olympia. The poet would celebrate the
major victories of Sicily’s tyrants at the different Pan-Hellenic Games. In his old
age, Pindar was saddened by his city’s defeat and its domination by Athens as from
457. He died in Argos around 446.
It is an honor to be in this place where Pindar sang his hymns to victors, maybe on this very spot?

This site has lost nothing of its magic today. Did we not come here to celebrate the crowning of all participants in this summer school? You are all winners and you shall all be crowned, as worthy representatives of your countries and followers of Olympism.

You have nothing to be jealous of winners who were crowned in this very same place centuries ago. The trials you have gone through (early morning wake-up in particular) make you truly worthy of the diplomas awarded to you today.

You will have though to make do with this speech as I do not, unfortunately, have either the eloquence or the genius of Pindar in order to improvise a hymn in your honor. But I will dedicate to you all the hymns that have been composed so that the Olympic spirit and peace may reign over the world.

Today, more than yesterday, we need the Olympic philosophy and spirit to prevail in the world. Strengthened by this experience you have just lived, become the spokespersons of the Olympic

Pindar (518-442): Born in Boeotia, Pindar came from an old family. After studying music and literature he came to Athens to perfect his education and at the age of 20 his first Pythian poem made him famous. Showered with honors by all his fellow citizens, he was the guest of the kings of Macedon and the princes of Thessaly. He stayed many times with Hieron, tyrant of Syracuse and Theron, tyrant of Agrigentum. The Pythia, in the name of Apollo, saved a tithe for him on all the offerings she received and a special seat at her festivals. Finally, while he was still alive, Thebes erected a statue of him. His work was considerable: hymns, dithyrambs, paeans (victory hymns in honor of Apollo), songs of joy (partheneia), procession songs (prosodies), songs accompanying dances during banquets, funerary chants (threnoi), songs or odes in honor of the victors at the Games (epinician), also known as Triumphant Odes. His work was deeply religious and this imparts grandeur to his themes and language. Episodes borrowed from mythology and moral and philosophical maxims occupy a large space in his work.
movement, make sure that you will spread the Olympic principles, which promote human values and peace among people.

But it is also a pleasure for me to be here again for the fourth consecutive year. Three years ago, I was one of the students. I have grown since then, but the Olympic spirit has also grown in me and the fact that I am one of the lecturers is the result of the research work I have done and am still doing on the Olympic movement. At the end of my first participation I caught the Olympic «virus» and since then, I feel better, happy to belong to this large Olympic family, which never stops expanding thanks to you.

Please allow me, on behalf of all of you, to pay special tribute to the International Olympic Academy which, to quote Juan Antonio Samaranch – «is one of the jewels of the Olympic movement that brings together in Olympia each year the young followers of Olympism from all over the world and arouses a true vocation among researchers». Allow me to add that this «mosaic» gathering is also maybe a unique opportunity to come in contact with faraway cultures and also build strong bonds of friendship among participants.

I would like to seize this opportunity to commend all participants for their seriousness and rigor, for their involvement in academic and social activities, but also for their Olympic spirit.

I also want, in the name of all of you, to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Academy’s staff, the administrative staff, but also the people at the cafeteria and everybody else.

We must also pay tribute to all those who have contributed to the development of the Olympic Movement and I think above all of its founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, although I would be curious to know what he would have thought if he knew that a woman would be making a speech in this place.

Thanks to all of you. Thank you for your attention.

May the Olympic spirit prevail. May peace prevail.
ADDRESS AND CLOSING
of the works of the Session
by the President of the International Olympic Academy
Dr Nikos Filaretos (GRE)

Before going any further, I would like just to inform you, why we meet here today in this hall and not in the conference hall. The reason is that I am incurably sentimental. When I first came to Olympia 30 years ago, after the fall of the 7-year military junta, I came here in my capacity as Secretary General of the Hellenic Olympic Committee and member of the Ephoria of the International Olympic Academy. We didn’t have the new conference hall. We had only this hall, which I like very much, because you can look outside. Sometimes, while the lecturers were speaking, I didn’t pay attention because I was looking outside and when they asked me what the participant had asked, I was in no position to tell them because I was just gazing outside. I love this place, I have been linked with this place for 30 years now and this is where every year we have this closing ceremony, because it reminds me of the past. Now perhaps some of you cannot understand it but still I feel it that way.

I now would like to make some acknowledgments; first of all to these heroic young ladies, the interpreters in these booths who have been working very hard all these days and who, I think, deserve a very big hand. Thank you.

Secondly, I would like to thank all the coordinators and the lecturers for their most valuable help, throughout these years and especially the pioneers of the coordinators Laurel, Youla, Carlos, Cesar and Panos and of course above all Kostas Georgiadis, the
Dean of the Academy. Their help was invaluable. They love the Academy, as we all do, and they come here every year from all the corners of the world to help the works of the Session. I thank you once again. We have also Catherine, Maha, Eli, Kemo, who are the second generation of the coordinators, and the newcomers whom I will mention in some other year.

I will not speak very much. I will only ask you to help your National Olympic Committees when you go back home.

I know some of you made some remarks about the lectures, which «were not very up to the standard», as you said. Do not misunderstand and do not forget that the level of education among you is different from country to country, from all parts of the world and we cannot have a uniform level of lectures. This is rather an educational institution; it’s not a university. The meaning of your presence here is to get introduced into what the Olympic Movement and Olympism are, what the spirit of Olympism really is. The fraternity, the friendship, the respect to each other, the irrespective of colors, of races, of religions, of political situations, this is the biggest lesson that you will get from here. So, don’t exaggerate your demands from time to time. I was astonished to hear from one participant from Europe that he came here without having being briefed before about what he was going to find. So, you can see why we have different levels of lectures, which can be easily understood and digested by all of you. And this is something I hope you will appreciate.

Anyway, I want you to know that you have been a very, very good Session. You have been lively, you have participated in all our manifestations, especially sport.

When you go back home, please do not forget your National Olympic Committees, and if they forget you, do not forget them. I believe that it is only through you, through the younger generation that Olympism and the new messages of the times will be spread all over the world. We need friendship, we need respect and
especially and above all we need peace in this world and it’s you and through you that we can achieve that.

Before closing, I would like to wish you a very safe trip back home. We shall miss you. I shall miss you, but I hope that if God allows us to be in good health, some of you may come back next year and others will come the years after, following your example and our example.

So, happy landings, safe journey back home and God bless you. With these few words, I declare closed the works of the 45th Session of the IOA. Thank you.
LIST OF THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY
2005

Participants

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# ABBREVIATIONS

## NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

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