

# CIOFF ANNUAL REPORT 2008



**Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d'Arts Traditionnels**  
ONG en relations formelles de consultation avec l'UNESCO.



**2001-2010** INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE  
AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD  
为世界儿童建设和平与非暴力文化国际十年  
DECENNIE INTERNATIONALE DE LA PROMOTION D'UNE CULTURE  
DE LA NON-VIOLENCE ET DE LA PAIX AU PROFIT DES ENFANTS DU MONDE  
العقد الدولي لثقافة السلام واللاعنف لأطفال العالم  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЕ ДЕСЯТИЛЕТИЕ КУЛЬТУРЫ МИРА  
И НЕНАСИЛИЯ В ИНТЕРЕСАХ ДЕТЕЙ ПЛАНЕТЫ  
DECENIO INTERNACIONAL DE UNA CULTURA DE PAZ  
Y NO VIOLENCIA PARA LOS NIÑOS DEL MUNDO

## Major Achievements

After intensive preparatory work in 2007, CIOFF implemented several priority projects during the year 2008

- The Program of Revaluation of Traditional Games proposed by CIOFF Youth has been accepted by UNESCO
- Open Forums
  - 1) How can the young people be involved in National Section activities
  - 2) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (possibilities for CIOFF)
- Motivations of the National Sections to Excellence
- Acceptance of Belize as new Corresponding Member
- New Form of National Sections Annual Report

## Publications

- CIOFF Calendar of Festivals 2009-2011
- CIOFF Electronic Newsletters (n°4-n°5)
- Annual Report of National Sections 2007

## Membership

With the newly accepted members, the total number of CIOFF Members is now:

- 68 National Sections
- 7 Associate Members
- 19 Corresponding Members

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## New Members

**Corresponding Member:**  
Belize

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**ADMINISTRATION****COUNCIL**

Upon invitation from CIOFF ARGENTINA the CIOFF EXCO/Council Meeting took place in SANTA FE in April 2008. Among other issues the main Topics discussed at the meeting were related to the next CIOFF World Congress in Istanbul; CIOFF strategy for the future, new structure for CIOFF; discussion concerning the celebration of the "International Day of Folklore"; decision to cancel Folkloriada 2009; to create a new website; etc.. Besides the brilliant organization and the warm hospitality, CIOFF Argentina, and in particular Hugo IFRAN, Betty SANGOY and all their team, organised exceptionally good programme during the Council Meeting, including cultural activities, Folk Art Performances and the unforgettable night at Hugo and Betty's house...!

**WORLD CONGRESS**

Following the invitation of CIOFF Turkey, the 38<sup>th</sup> CIOFF World Congress and General Assembly took place in Istanbul from 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008; 167 delegates from 55 countries were present at this CIOFF Summit and enjoyed the excellent organization and tremendous hospitality extended to us by CIOFF Turkey. One new Corresponding member, BELIZE, was accepted by the Congress. The new budget, workplan for 2009 and Long Range Policy Plan 2010-2011 were also adopted. A new scheme concerning "Motivation of the National Sections to Excellence" was introduced and adopted by the General Assembly.

A new Form of National Sections Annual Report was presented and confirmed. The program of Revaluation of Traditional games proposed by the Youth Coordination Committee has been accepted by UNESCO.

Each evening the delegates visited different sites in Istanbul and each dinner was hosted by a different municipality, who all helped to organize the Congress. The Congress was very well publicized in local press and media.

The whole stay in Istanbul was a wonderful experience and all CIOFF Members are very grateful to Savas Tugsavul, Muammer Arslan and their team of volunteers for their organization of the Congress and outstanding hospitality.

An open forum was held during the Congress, where all participants were able to express their views and discuss various aspects of CIOFF work and activities such as :

**1 – "How can the Young people be involved in National Section Activities" :**

Many questions and suggestions were discussed by the twenty people presents regarding the Youth Movement.

The establishment of a youth commission in all National Sections is a strong commitment that is made by CIOFF Council. There is a growing awareness that the Youth movement is very important for the future of CIOFF, on the national level as well as on the international level. It is the responsibility of the National Section to build Youth Commissions, to keep their former members involved in the work of the National Sections and to bring the best opportunities by providing financial support to the meetings of CIOFF International.

**2 – "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural heritage" Possibilities for CIOFF:**

It was a productive Forum with 70 attendees with active contributions... The general consensus was that the topic of this Convention should be continued at a future Forum with a discussion of best practices and methods that the National Sections have implemented and experienced. It has been recommended that those National Sections whose countries have not ratified the Convention continue to persist in establishing contact with their respective UNESCO National Commission and find ways to work together with other relevant bodies and other NGO's dealing with folklore to increase their presence through the organisation of events or in an advisory role. Those CIOFF National Sections whose countries have ratified the Convention have a duty to work together with their UNESCO National Commissions, as their States are obliged to implement the elements of the Convention.

**LEGAL ISSUES**

The first meeting of the newly elected Commission took place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2008 in Lac Noir / Fribourg, Switzerland. In addition to the normal tasks including the examination of applications for membership and for CIOFF Festivals, the Legal Commission worked mainly on the following items:

**Recruitment of new Members**

According to the new procedure, it is now the responsibility of the Sectors to establish contacts with countries where CIOFF is not yet represented with the goal of recruiting new members.

**Survey of the National Sections**

The Questionnaire for the survey of the National Sections is now included in the front page of the internal Annual Report. The follow-up of the results is still the duty of the Legal Commission.

**Motivation of the National Sections to Excellence**

With the aim of replacing penalties for non respected obligations by a motivation to Excellence, the Legal Commission developed a specific program inviting the National Sections to a Commitment to Excellence. Although the respect of legal obligations insures the legal rights, the Commitment to Excellence awards not only provides advantages on documentation and visibility for the recognized National Section, but also a progressive financial advantage on membership fee. – The application form for National Sections asking for recognition as Committed to Excellence is included in the new Questionnaire for the internal Annual Report.

**New member**

During the GA 2009, Ron Gauthier from Winnipeg, Canada, was elected as a new member of the Commission.

**Next meeting**

The spring meeting of the Legal Commission will take place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Minturno, Italy.

**Honorary President**

Henri Coursaget, France

**Council Members**

2008

**President \***

Udomsak Sakmunwong,  
Thailand.

**Vice-Presidents \***

Jerzy Chmiel, Poland.

Alcides Hugo Ifran,  
Argentina.

**Secretary General \***

Philippe Beaussant, France.

**Treasurer \***

Esa Vilhonen, Finland.

**Chairmen of the****Commissions:**

(Cultural Commission)

Renaud Albasini,  
Switzerland.

(Festivals Commission)

Norbert Mueller,  
Germany.

(Finance Commission)

Dan Ronen, Israël.

(Legal Commission).

Cyrrill Renz, Switzerland.

**Representatives of the Sectors:**

(Asian and Oceanian S.)

Muammer Arslan, Turkey.

(Central European S.)

Susanne Kramer,  
Luxembourg.

(Latin American S.)

Humberto Valdivia Yóplac,  
Perú.

(Northern American S.)

Rolf Kaufman, USA.

(Northern European S.)

Olga Maloney, United-  
Kingdom.

(South European and  
African S.)

Jean Roche, France.

President of the Youth

Coordination Committee

Ramiro Mansutti, Argentine.

\* Executive Committee

**Legal Commission**

2008

**Chairman:**

Cyrrill Renz, Switzerland.

**Member:**

Fernando Marani, Argentina.

Vlasta Ondrusova, Czech Rep.

Ron Gauthier, Canada.

**Youth Member:**

Antonio Malozzi, Italy.

**Legal Adviser :** Vacant

**CULTURAL POLICY****Official Signal for CIOFF**

The Cultural Commission has received 4 proposals for the competition of signal for CIOFF: Slovenia – Poland – Germany and Switzerland. During the next spring meeting, the Council will analyse the proposals and will present a selection at the next General Assembly in Cuba.

**Decade of Culture of Peace**

After two years of actions through the festivals, the Cultural Commission wishes to propose concrete actions through the folk ensembles not only during the festival period but also during the rest of the year at the place of groups' residence. We expect contribution from the Working Group for Children and the Working Group for Training and Education.

**Strategy to Implement the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

The Commission has determined a strategy for the accreditation of the National Sections of CIOFF to the National Commission of UNESCO. This strategy consists in the following actions :

- to determine a first list of National Sections to be able to present a candidature before May 31<sup>st</sup> 2009
- to analyse the results after the Intergovernmental meeting in September 2009 in regard of the approval of the candidatures
- to determine a second list of National Sections for the General Assembly of the Convention in 2010.

**Cultural Conference during the Congress**

In cooperation with the National Section of Turkey, the Cultural Commission organized the Cultural Conference during the Congress of Istanbul on the Topic " CIOFF AT THE DOOR OF ORIENT ".

**The following speakers presented different aspects of this topic :**

- Prof. Fikret Degerli from the Folklore Conservatory of University of Istanbul
- M. Ali Cevaz, Researcher at University of Istanbul
- Mr. Ravindra P. Jansari from the Asian Sector, Retired Representative at UNESCO

**New definitions of categories of programs on the stage**

The working group on the new definitions of programs on the stage has presented to the Cultural Commission a proposal of new definitions; they will be disseminated next year for adoption.

**European conference in Mechelem /Bruxelles March 23-24 2009**

A European conference is planned on the topic : the role of volunteer organisations and citizens in the safeguarding of the tangible and intangible heritage. CIOFF is a partner in the Conference through the Cultural Commission.

**FESTIVALS**

The Festivals Commission had two meetings. The Spring Meeting was in Santa Fe / Argentina and the second meeting was during the World Congress in Istanbul / Turkey.

The main task of the Festivals Commission was again to prepare the CIOFF Festivals Calendar. It was the third year with the possibility for advertisements for festivals, but it was the first time that all advertisements and photos were printed in colour. The number of advertisements was nearly the same as in 2007, but, as in every year, it was a hard task to get all the information.

The festivals Cime Evolene - Switzerland, Folk Cantanhede - Portugal, Anseong - Korea, Holiday Folk Fair children festival – USA and Holiday Folk Fair International adult festival – USA received recognition as CIOFF International Festivals.

Disappointing again was the return of the questionnaires for the Reports on the Festivals and Groups. The information of these reports is very important for festivals and groups and the Festivals Commission is challenging again all people concerned to deliver these questionnaires in time. The questionnaires can be downloaded from CIOFF Internal.

The new Email system for CIOFF was presented to the General Assembly. Now there are email addresses available for all National Sections and for all CIOFF Bodies which will not be changed in the future. Information as to how to work with these email Addresses was sent to all National Sections.

There were also meetings for a new CIOFF website. First proposals were discussed. The new website [www.cioff.org](http://www.cioff.org) shall be ready in 2009.

**CIOFF WORLD FOLKLORIADA**

The meeting of the Working Group in Turkey approved a project of the President, requiring information that provides reconstruction of the history and the development of a guide document to help the organizers and participants of the future Folkloriadas.

Summarizing:

- Questionnaires will be sent to the organizers of the Folkloriadas in Holland, Japan and Hungary , to two National Sections from each Sector that have participated in least in two Folkloriadas and to two groups from each Sector that have participated at least in two Folkloriadas.

**Folkloriada in Korea:** The Korea CIOFF Representative presented a proposal with the possible dates; host city; number of foreign and national participants; program and official supporters. The program includes opening and closing ceremonies, parade of nations, artistic presentations of the groups, exhibitions and workshops of musical instruments, foods, handicraft and costumes.

**Game Day:** This has been a proposal of the Youth Coordination Committee that has been approved and has the acceptance of CIOFF Korea to incorporate it in its Folkloriada.

**Ad Hoc Group:** An internal group was created, composed of Eva Hera, Joe Maloney, Guy Landry and Hugo Ifran, with the intent of performing a study of the "Regulations" and other documents of the Folkloriada to accomplish its improvement and to bring it up to date.

**Folkloriada Magazine:** In Accordance with a proposal by Rui Pablo Calarrao the possibility of printing a magazine with the history of the Folkloriada through its past editions will be studied. It is possible that printing may be accomplished through INATEL.

**Conversion of the Group into a Commission:** The Chairman Hugo Ifran asked the EXCO to consider the conversion of the Working Group into a Commission, bearing in mind that its activity is not circumstantial but permanent.

**Cultural Commission**

2008

**Chairman:**

Renaud Albasini,  
Switzerland.

**Members:**

Alexander Durtka, USA.  
Piet Walravens, Belgium.  
Ingrig Rüütel, Estonia.  
Beatriz Sangoy, Argentina.  
Wang Guilin, China.  
Maria Caridad Machado, Cuba.

**Youth Member:**

Elise Meunier, France.

**Member ex officio**

Jean Roche, France  
Representative at UNESCO.

**Festivals Commission**

2008

**Chairman:**

Norbert Mueller, Germany.

**Members:**

Susanne Kramer,  
Luxembourg.  
Bernard Criner, France.  
Arturo H. Cueto Juárez, Mexico.  
Rolf Kaufman, USA.  
Bernd Schaefer, Germany.  
Socorro Maciel, Brasil.  
An Van Achter, Belgium.

**Member ex Officio:**

Wolfgang Denke-Otterbein  
Coordinator of the Festivals  
Calendar.

**Working Group on Folkloriada**

2008

**Chairman:**

Alcides Hugo Ifran, Argentina.

**Members:**

Wei Zhongke, China.  
Guy Landry, Canada.  
Eva Hera, Hungary.  
Rui Paulo Calarrao, Portugal.  
Savas Tugsavul, Turkey  
Joe Maloney, United Kingdom.  
Mario Garcia Siani, Paraguay.  
Nam Yong Kim, Korea.

**Youth Coordinating****Committee:**

Irene Pimpinella, Italy.

**Secretary:**

Victoria Horvath, Hungary.

**WORKING GROUP FOR CHILDREN**

The meeting of the WGC was held during the CIOFF World Congress in Istanbul - Turkey on November 10, 2008. The tasks for 2009 were discussed, on the basis of the CIOFF Policy of the Working Group for Children, as adopted by the Council, and the Implementation Plan of the Transmission of Intangible Cultural Heritage to children. The yearly activities will be concentrated on collecting information for a database of children's festivals and children's groups and criteria for organizers of children's festivals; development of a book of the children's most popular songs and developing a plan of report on activities and projects for The International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001 to 2010). During the joint meeting with the Working Group on Training and Education it was decided to prepare a CIOFF International Conference devoted to the problems of children's and tutors' education during the CIOFF Cultural Congress in Korea in the Spring of 2010. Especially emphasized was the necessity of stronger efforts for wider implementation and commitment of Sectors in carrying out the tasks adopted by WGC. The updating of the composition of WGC and division of responsibilities were accomplished.

**WORKING GROUP FOR TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

The simplified **Survey on the Implication of Strategies for Training and Education** was circulated three times during the year by WGTE to all national delegates, Sectors and National Sections to obtain specific information about CIOFF education and training through presentations, workshops, seminars and conferences convened by Sectors, National sections. Fourteen responses were received from the circulated questionnaires with samples of best practices. This was a 233% increase over the previous year's responses. Survey responses were reviewed. The compiled results of **CIOFF Activities and Samples of Best Practices** will be distributed to the National Sections along with the slightly modified 2008/09 Survey. The Survey results will be coordinated with the Cultural Commission's Map of Competences. The WGTE will continue to encourage festivals, cultural performances and demonstrations to communicate with their audiences and educate them to facilitate an increased understanding and appreciation of traditional culture. When people understand the presentation, they deepen their understanding of the culture. Understanding the culture, the audience better understands the performance and continues to support the preservation and transmission of the traditional culture. That which is understood and appreciated will not be lost or destroyed. The WGTE is exploring a joint training and education conference with the WG for Children during the conclusion of the Decade of The Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World. The WGTE is reviewing various avenues of communication including web sites, e-newsletters, and the CIOFF website. The WG continues to seek representation from both North European and Southern European/African sectors to bring the WGTE to full membership.

**YOUTH MOVEMENT****Participation program:**

Since the end of 2007, the Youth Coordination Committee (YCC) has strongly initiated a project of Participation Program (PP) based on the world-wide Program of Re-valuation of Traditional Games. As a result of the work done by the YCC, UNESCO has recognized our proposal as a Participation Program for the years 2008-2009.

**Activities to achieve:**

The CIOFF Youth, through the young people it involves, will initiate several activities: research and studies about traditional games in local communities; re-valuation of traditional and popular games in native communities; presentation and dissemination of the games in the frame of CIOFF festivals through animations, expositions, conferences, seminars; pedagogical and technical publications, and training of young volunteers.

**Details on the projects:**

**In Argentina:** The extensive territory of Argentina houses three great groups of indigenous communities: Aimara and Quechua in the North-West (next to the frontier with Bolivia and Chile); Mapuche in the South (next to the frontier with Chile); and Guarani in the North-East (next to the frontier with Paraguay and Brazil). These ancestral cultures are a part of the identity that can be built by the concerned countries, and are, at the same time, an everlasting bond that makes peace, cooperation, and understanding easier between the people concerned. However, the globalization represents a threat for its survival, as exposed in documents from the UNESCO and the UN. The language, the natural elements, the songs, socialization, and more, are elements that can be found and studied based on the traditional games of each people. As a consequence, to safeguard and protect them turns out to be a way of preserving a whole culture through several of its aspects. Six young people of the Argentinean youth commission are going to attend the meetings of these communities during six days, to study them and find more documentation for their work on traditional games. They will conclude their activity by the publication of a bibliographic file that will sum-up the results of their work.

**In France:** CIOFF Youth France will focus its activity on its festivals network, so that it may promote the integration of activities based on traditional games in their interaction with the audience. Three activities will be achieved: the formation of a group of 25 young people from different French festivals; the implementation of activities in the framework of the festivals, linked to traditional games; and the editing and distribution in about 300 CIOFF festivals of guides that will help the festival directors to include traditional games in their programs. Last but not least, a photo exhibition to represent the program will be established. This exhibition will be available for each of the several entities included in CIOFF's structures (festivals, Folkloriada, worldwide congress).

**Games Day and Lectures:** As a final activity, the YCC proposed the implementation of a "Games Day" in the frame of a CIOFF International Festival. The main goal of this activity is the promotion of cultural exchange between folk groups and children. Moreover, the activity will conclude with the presentation of several lectures in the frame of the next CIOFF World Congress in La Habana.

**Working Group for Children**  
2008

**Chairman:**  
Jerzy Chmiel, Poland.

**Members:**  
Barbara Campbell, Canada.  
Vlasta Ondrusova,  
Czech Republic.  
Jozsef Szigetvari, Hungary.  
Meng-Chien Wu, Chinese Taipei.  
Eugenia Cirano-Rojas, Chile.

**Youth Member:**  
Daiana Jacquier, Argentina.

**Working Group on Training and Education**  
2008

**Chairman:**  
Sharon Durtka, USA.

**Member:**  
Bill Thomas, New Zealand.  
Alejandro Camacho, Mexico.

**Youth Member:**  
Anne-Wietske Enequist,  
Netherlands.

**Youth Coordinating Committee**  
2008

**Chairman :**  
Ramiro Mansutti, Argentina.

**Members :**  
Elise Meunier, France.  
Cultural Commission and  
Working Group Folkloriada  
Georgi Stramboliev, Bulgaria.  
Festivals Commission  
Martina Fey, Germany.  
Finance Commission  
Working Group for Children  
Daiana Jacquier, Argentina.

Anne-Wietske Enequist,  
Netherlands.  
CIOFF Working Group on  
Trainig and Education

**SECTORS****ASIAN AND OCEANIAN SECTOR**

In the year 2008, the major CIOFF work of promoting folk art and traditional culture through celebration and participation in national and international folklore festivals continued in each national section of the CIOFF Asian and Oceanian Sector.

The 5th Asian and Oceanian International Children's Folklore Festival took place between 4 and 11 July 2008 in Jakarta, Indonesia with the attendance of children's folk groups from the Sector such as Chinese Taipei, Korea and Philippines...etc.

The 38<sup>th</sup> CIOFF World Congress took place in Istanbul, Turkey under the coordination of CIOFF Turkey between 08 and 16 November 2008 and all members of the CIOFF Asian and Oceanian Sector agreed and praised the excellent work done by our friends of CIOFF Turkey.

167 Delegates from 55 different Countries participated in this event.

It was decided by the Sector members in Sector Meeting in Istanbul to hold the next Spring Sector Meeting in Hangzhou, China, and it was decided that the 10th CIOFF Asian and Oceanian International Folklore Festival will take place in China as well.

As for the CIOFF World Folkloriada 2012, coordinated by CIOFF Korea and Anseong city in Korea, it was decided by the Sector members to review the plan, programmed and presented by CIOFF Korea in the next Sector meeting to make the relevant preparations for this important event to be successful, both for CIOFF International and CIOFF Asian and Oceanian Sector.

**Asian and Oceanian Sector**  
Mr. Muammer Arslan (Turkey).

**LATIN AMERICAN SECTOR****Sector Meeting 2008**

Meeting of Latin American Sector was in San José - Costa Rica, in May last year, with the presence of six national sections (Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Costa Rica and Mexico), and our Vice-president of CIOFF. Proxy votes: Puerto Rico to Paraguay and Colombia to Ecuador. Panama was an observer.

**Sector Book**

The Sector will soon publish a book entitled "Our Latin American Peoples", which will display aspects of traditional culture and folklore of our countries as well as the tasks performed by each of the National Sections of our Sector.

**Indigenous Project - UNESCO**

Called SOS by the National Section of Paraguay and has a great chance of being accepted.

**Youth**

The Youth of our Sector (Argentina), in conjunction with the European Sector (France) have obtained the approval of the Participation Program presented to UNESCO, which awarded them a budget of US \$ 15,000.

**Request for extension of payment and concerns of our Sector**

Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Haiti and Mexico have requested more time to honour their commitments. On the other hand, some festivals have not yet corrected the direct communication with the groups, thereby avoiding asking the National Section, in accordance with the established gentlemen's agreement.

**Expansions**

During the recent Sector meeting, contacts were made with the following possible additions as National Sections through the National Folkloric Ballet of Guatemala; National Folkloric Ballet El Salvador; Ballet Folkloric Orgullo de Mi Panama, Contraloría General of the Republic; Ballet Folkloric Mi Sangre Mulata, in Dominican Republic; Ballet Folkloric Ruth Palacios from Nicaragua. Also received were a proposal through the General Secretariat for incorporation of a governmental group of Panama, and the official proposal for Corresponding Membership of Belize through the Legal Commission.

**Sector agreement**

Maintain the position of paying the same fee established for our Sector.

Strategically, we unanimously agreed to hold our future meetings two days before each General Assembly.

**Latin American Sector**  
Mr. Humberto Valdivia Yóplac (Perú).

**SOUTH EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN SECTOR**

The CIOFF South European and African Sector held its General Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2008, in SAMAC (Republica Spreska) – Bosnia Herzegovina. 14 delegations were present. This meeting was placed under the High Patronage of the President of the Municipality Parliament of Samac, with the presence of the General Secretary of the National Commission of UNESCO.

This meeting was an opportunity to deal with the following points : questions from CIOFF International and the problems of our corresponding members in Africa that have financial difficulties to participate in our Sector meetings.

The Sector wants to help to create quickly an African Sector. The Sector hopes that the effort to recruit a trainee for the office at UNESCO in Paris will be carried on.

CIOFF must absolutely be strongly involved in the process taking place for the implementation of the Convention and struggle to get its place. Each CIOFF National Section must ask for accreditation to be on the list of NGO's submitted to the Intergovernmental Committee, through its UNESCO National Commission.

The second meeting of the Sector was held in Istanbul the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2008. 15 delegations were present.

After treating the Agenda proposed by CIOFF international, we treated the questions specific to the Sector.

The next General Assembly of the Sector will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2009. The invitation is issued jointly by INATEL and Portuguese CIOFF National Section.

The CIOFF South European and African Sector had a very active year with lots of festivals organized in all the CIOFF countries and many folk groups had opportunity to present their cultures through the international network of CIOFF festivals.

**South European and African Sector**  
Mr. Jean Roche (France)

**NORTH AMERICAN SECTOR**

The North American Sector was represented at the 2008 CIOFF World Congress by a total of seventeen participants from the USA and Canada. A Sector Meeting was held in Istanbul on 12 November 2008. A Spring Sector Meeting planned for Milwaukee, Wisconsin, had to be postponed as a result of numerous schedule conflicts. A telephone conference took place on 2 May to take care of topics on the Sector Agenda at that time.

The Sector's efforts concentrated during the past year on two projects, namely the re-establishment of the Youth movement in both of the present member countries, and the effort to gain new memberships for CIOFF in the non-hispanic countries of the Caribbean Basin.

Progress on the first project was evidenced during the World Congress by the active participation of a new Youth representative from the USA, who will now work with a nucleus of other confirmed participants to organize a new CIOFF Youth National Section.

On the second project, contacts were made in six countries through the National Commissions for UNESCO by sending a packet of information on CIOFF to the Secretary General of the Commission for UNESCO in each country, with a request that the information be transmitted to appropriate agencies. Thus far, this has resulted in expressions of interest from Jamaica and Belize, which culminated in the admittance of Belize as a Corresponding Member of CIOFF, which was approved by the 2008 General Assembly. Contacts via other channels are also being pursued in Trinidad.

The US National Section reported the admittance of five new member organizations, including three Festivals.

The Canadian National Section proposed that a CIOFF Silver Meritorious Service award be presented to Leticia Bulotano Wheeler. The Sector enthusiastically approved this proposal. It was hoped that the award could be formally presented during the World Congress, but Ms. Wheeler was unfortunately unable to attend for reasons of health, and the award will be presented to her at a future occasion.

**North American Sector**  
Mr. Rolf Kaufman, (USA).

**NORTHERN EUROPEAN SECTOR**

Northern European Sector had 2 meetings in 2008: Spring Meeting in Kaustinen (Finland), where 4 National Sections were present with 1 proxy and Autumn Meeting in Istanbul (Turkey), where only 3 National Sections were present.

Besides all the International Festivals in our Sector, which took place in 2008 and were extremely successful, the following major events took place in our Sector:

- The Festival Baltica was held in Lithuania in 2008 and will take place in Latvia in 2009
- Finland is preparing to hold a major event which involves all the Scandinavian Countries called Nordlek in 2009. The event will involve over 3000 participants.
- CIOFF Estonia has received a licence to open a Training Centre for Folklore to teach various aspects of folklore throughout Estonia.

The Youth Movement in most of the Northern European Sector countries is undergoing a transition stage, and at present time the Youth Movement is very strong only in Estonia.

**Northern European Sector**  
Olga Maloney, (United Kingdom).

**CENTRAL EUROPEAN SECTOR**

The Central European Sector meeting was held in Szentendre, Hungary from May 8 till May 12 and the warm hospitality in this ancient village was great.

As a result of the Open Forum of Monterrey 2007, Vincent Laguerre from Luxembourg was elected as the Central European Sector's network coordinator.

We decided to send 2 National Sections a registered letter to stress to them to pay their membership fee of the last 3 years and explained to them that they will lose their membership in case they fail. These letters were sent end of May, 2008.

We also have sent reminder emails to NS which did not pay their annual membership fee of this year. Han de Jong informed us that he stepped down as chairman of CIOFF Netherlands and our sector decided to award him a silver pin.

8 National Sections of our Sector participated in a Project of the European Union for support for cultural actions in a multi-annual cooperation. In June we received unfortunately a negative letter from the Brussels Agency which had the task to judge the proposals they received. They confirmed 72 received proposals and only 11 proposals were considered for EU funding.

During our meeting in Istanbul we decided to go forward with the European Union project and we will have appointments with experts in Brussels to learn what we will have to improve and then apply again.

One of our discussion points was a question raised by Armenia and Georgia: "CIOFF where are you going?". We decided to forward this to the Legal Commission for consideration.

The proposals of the Council were explained and discussed.

Josef Szigetvary of the Hungarian National Section was accepted by the Council to be a member for the Working Group for Children.

Our next meeting will take place from 23<sup>rd</sup> till 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2009 in Schlitz Germany.

**Central European Sector**  
Susanne Kramer, Luxembourg.

**CIOFF AND UNESCO**

14 January 2008 : Coordination meeting in Paris

The following persons were present : Jean ROCHE, Permanent Delegate; Sylvia MESA, Assistant; Renaud ALBASINI, chairman of the cultural commission, Philippe BEAUSSANT, Secretary General; Elsa VILHONEN, treasurer; Elise MEUNIER, CIOFF Youth Vice President; An Van ACHTER, recording Secretary.

**18 to 22 February : 2nd extraordinary session of Intergovernmental committee for safeguarding Intangible Heritage** in Sofia, Bulgaria under the High patronage of Mr Georgi

PARVANOV, President of the Republic of Bulgaria. CIOFF was accepted as observer and was represented by Jean ROCHE, accompanied by Emil PAVLOV, president of CIOFF Bulgaria.

**24 to 27 March : 1st extraordinary session of Intergovernmental Committee** in Paris

CIOFF was accepted as observer and was represented by Jean ROCHE and Mathilde REGNARD.

**16 to 19 June : 2nd General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** in Paris UNESCO headquarters

Chairperson: Mr Chérif Khaznadar (France).

CIOFF was accepted as Observer NGO and was represented by Jean ROCHE

**23 June : Meeting of NGOs with Division of Culture of UNESCO**

Jean ROCHE represented CIOFF in this exchange session on the role of Civil Society in application of convention.

**23 to 24 June : Workshop for application of Convention in African States Parties** in Paris.

CIOFF was represented by Jean ROCHE and Mathilde REGNARD (trainee).

**24 to 27 June : Exchange session on the participation of Civil Society in implementation of Convention on Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions at UNESCO in Paris.**

Representatives of Parties and non-governmental organizations with activities and interests in the fields covered by the Convention were invited to participate in the meeting.

**4 to 8 November : 3rd session of intergovernmental committee** in Istanbul (Turkey),

Under the presidency of His Exc. M.D. Faruk Logoglu.

CIOFF was accepted as observer NGO and was represented by Jean ROCHE.

**8 to 12 December : 2nd session of intergovernmental committee in Paris.**

CIOFF was accepted as observer and was represented by Jean ROCHE

➤ **Network of Creative Cities**

CIOFF has been solicited to be consultant organisation in the domain of "Crafts and Folk Art".

The issue is for CIOFF to be consulted when cities send applications to be selected in the network.

One city from Japan is candidate to this network. Cioff proposed Emiko HORI from Japan to be expert on this subject. It was accepted by Unesco.

➤ **Participation Program**

The programme of "Revitalization of traditional and popular games" proposed by the Youth Section of CIOFF International was selected by the committee (Acceptance letter on 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2008).

The funds allocated toward the realization of this project are 15000 USD.

➤ **Trainee in the office of CIOFF UNESCO in Paris**

CIOFF received for a period of 6 months a trainee under contract with University of Marseille-Aix en Provence.

Her training permitted a state of the art review of work in several African countries presenting associations working in promotion of traditional culture and festivals.

Lots of contacts were established or renewed with the aim of presenting CIOFF and renewing the Africa CIOFF Website.

The training of Mathilde REGNARD now being completed, we must admit the importance of trainees' work in UNESCO office in Paris, but this implies a budget for education and the support of CIOFF during the training.

**FINANCES**

The Finance Commission in its meeting in Istanbul Turkey, on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 2008' evaluated the "Revised Membership Fees System", which was developed by the Commission and the Treasurer; approved by the GA in 2006 and implemented starting 2007. The new system reflects conversion from a basis of US Dollars to Euros; provides a "Basic Membership Fee" of 400 Euro and options for "voluntary supplements" above the basic level.

The Commission noted the success of the implementation of the new system and the fact that, in spite of the financial crisis, the income of CIOFF from membership fees remained the same as last year.

The Commission reviewed the audited financial statement of 2007; the expenses and income and the full year estimate of 2008; and the proposed framework of the budget for 2009 - prepared by the Treasurer. The Commission approved the proposed budget and asked that the costs and the funding of "Participation Program" developed by CIOFF Youth, (31.000 US dollars) be included in the budget. The project expenses will be covered by UNESCO, the National Sections of Argentine and France, and Festivals; Thus, in CIOFF budget, the costs and the funding of the project are expected to be equal, and will not have financial effect on CIOFF budget. The Commission proposed that the "Cioff Youth" budget be included in CIOFF general budget.

The Commission approved the expense of 10,000 Euro in 2008 and the same amount in 2009, on developing CIOFF functional and "on line" Internet Service.

The Commission recommended, according to the "Rules of procedure", to the Council and the GA, to approve the budget.

The Commission calls upon CIOFF National Sections and all our Commissions and Working Committees – to initiate and formulate projects attractive to sponsors; to strengthen tolerance and respect to the "Other", Cultural exchanges, developing Culture of Peace, Preserving Traditional Cultures etc.

The Commission recommends to the National Sections to establish partnership and common projects with Commissions for UNESCO in their countries, with other NGO, and with Associations and Institutions (Academic, Research etc), in the field of preserving cultural heritages.

The Commission asks the National Sections to continue the search for a professional Fund-Raiser who will be employed on a percentage basis.

The Commission urges National Sections to contribute to the Matching Fund program.

The Commission praises the Treasurer Esa Vilhonen, for his wonderful, efficient pleasant and professional work, and thanks all its members.

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**Finance Commission  
2008**

**Chairman:**  
Dan Ronen, Israel.  
**Members:**  
Emil Pavlov, Bulgaria.  
Humberto Valdivia Yoplac, Peru.  
Hassim Salim, Malaysia.  
Mualler Arslan, Turkey.  
Jean-Claude Menard, Canada.

**Youth Member:**  
Martina Fey, Germany.

**Member ex officio :**  
Esa Vilhonen, Finland.

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION**

The Annual Report of National Sections 2007 was prepared based on the reports received from 48 National Sections. In 223 international and 54 national folklore festivals, 1430 foreign and 2354 national folklore groups with 110.724 participants took part. Festival presentations were attended by 7.569.662 spectators; there were 1762 TV and 2695 radio transmissions from these events.

During the festivals various complementary programs and activities were organized :

- 1 - conferences, seminars : at **60** festivals
- 2 - exhibitions : at **123** festivals
- 3 - meetings, discussion with audience : at **75** festivals
- 4 - handicraft programs :at **123** festivals
- 5 - music programs : at **150** festivals
- 6 - meetings of friendship : at **163** festivals
- 7 - parades : at **166** festivals
- 8 - typical food : at **94** festivals
- 9 - children's games : at **50** festivals
- 10 - educational programs for children : at **60** festivals
- 11 - educational programs for adults : at **53** festivals
- 12 – activities for handicapped/sick people: at **20** festivals
- 13 – workshops : at **89** festivals
- 14 – free excursions (to learn the country's culture): at **98** festivals
- 15 – religious (ecumenic-multireligious) services: at **53** festivals

National Sections organized **83** cultural conferences, seminars and workshops with attendance of **14.040** participants and prepared **43** printed publications.

During the year there were held **49** General Conferences of National Sections, **149** meetings of Executive Boards and **103** meetings of committees and national councils.

**Working Group on Public Relations**

2008

**Chairman:**  
Olga Maloney, UK.

**Members:**  
Shu-Tzeng Chang, Chinese Taipei.  
Socorro Maciel, Brasil.  
Dr. Sunny Bvasar, India.

**Member ex Officio :**  
Philippe Beaussant, Secretary General, France.

**CIOFF Website** update has now been launched. The new CIOFF Website will include both modernizing the present site and creating a very sophisticated functionality programme, allowing the members to get the most out of all the interactive benefits of the CIOFF Website.

**CIOFF Newsletter "Entre Nous"**

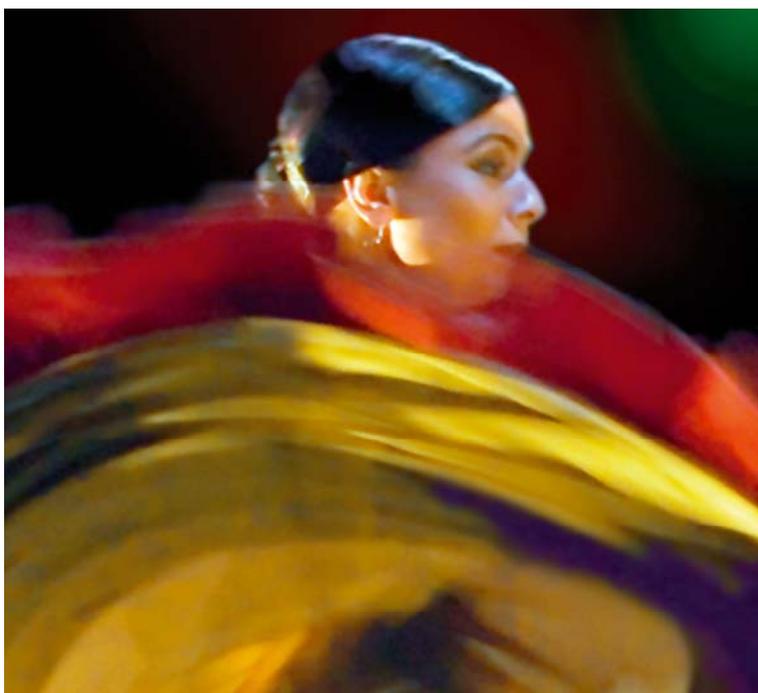
Two editions of CIOFF electronic Newsletter "Entre Nous" were published and distributed among the CIOFF Network. This publication is proving to be extremely popular and the amount of interest shown by CIOFF Members is growing all the time. CIOFF PRWG would like to express their thanks to everyone who sent their contributions for the Newsletter.

**Launch of 2<sup>nd</sup> CIOFF Photo Competition 2008 -2009**

Due to a huge success of the 1<sup>st</sup> CIOFF International Photo Competition in 2006, CIOFF PRWG decided to hold another Photo Competition, which was launched at the CIOFF World Congress in Istanbul and will finish in September 2009.

**CIOFF PC Presentation on CD**

CIOFF Festivals Commission and CIOFF Working Group on Public Relations, following the publication of the CIOFF Presentation Brochure, are currently preparing a CIOFF PC Presentation on CD for potential CIOFF Sponsors, which will include PowerPoint Presentation, Photo Slide Show and Video Clips.

**CIOFF Annual Report 2008**

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