CIOFF® NEWSLETTER

Entre Nous

44th CIOFF® World Congress and 6th Youth Forum
Bautzen, Germany, October 16 – 26, 2014

The 44th CIOFF® World Congress and 6th Youth Forum took place in Bautzen, Germany, October 16 – 26, 2014. 200 people travelled from far away to this historic city, located in Eastern Germany near Dresden. The 44th CIOFF® World Congress was hosted by CIOFF® Germany, led by President Mr. Norbert Mueller, in collaboration with the city of Bautzen, and CIOFF® members: Domowina, Sorbisches National Ensemble and Sorbische Volkstanzgruppe Schmerlitz.

46 National Sections, 1 Associate Members and 3 Corresponding Members were present and we were honored to have Mr Guy Landry, Mr. Bruno Ravniak and Mr Jean Roche CIOFF® Honorary members. CIOFF® is proud to inform that 14 new members were accepted: Puerto Rico and United Arab Emirates as full members; Ireland, Iran, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines and Antigua and Barbuda as Associate members; Australia, Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and Grenadines as Corresponding Members.

UNESCO Director General Ms. Irina Bokova emphasized during the 2012 CIOFF® World Congress in Paris that “UNESCO and CIOFF® share the same goal: to promote the diversity of cultural expressions and raise the potential for human development.”

This CIOFF® World Congress continued the work to safeguard intangible cultural heritage all over the world. A very important part of the World Congress has been the 6th CIOFF® Youth Forum which took place, simultaneously, at the Youth Hostel Gerberbastei, also in Bautzen. More than 30 youth members participated from many countries.

CIOFF® World Congress included a successful CIOFF® Cultural Conference titled “Awareness of Intangible Cultural Heritage - The role of ethnic communities” and a very interesting Open Forum which was dedicated to Intellectual Property and Folk, Art and Cultural Festivals, A Practical Guide, presented by Brigitte Vezina from World Intellectual Property Organization. The closing evening event was organized in the German-Sorbian Folkstheater. Other meetings and events such as Council Meeting, the meetings of the CIOFF® Sector, Commissions and Committees were held at Serbski Dom.

All the delegates enjoyed the hospitality of Sorbian community and they were pleasantly surprised about their culture and traditions which they, kindly, have shown us in different ways!

Irene Pimpinella
Acting Chairperson of PR&Communication Commission
The CIOFF® General Assembly and World Congress organized in Bautzen, Germany, approved the report of the Working Group for Folkloriada to be held, for the first time, in a World Heritage Site, the city of Zacatecas. We would like to summarize the most relevant items to help those National Sections’ responsibilities who are in charge of managing the work of the participating delegations.

DATES: July 30th to August 7th. However, in order to facilitate arrivals and previous preparation, groups could arrange their arrival on 28th or 29th July 2016. Departure is on August 15th according to program established in different Mexican States and the Federal District.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: at least 50 countries and 1,800 participants maximum.

DELEGATIONS: Each delegation will be composed of 30 people maximum, of age 16 and older; this number will include musicians, dancers, youth (maximum 2 participants in the “CIOFF® World Youth Forum” and activities under the Project on the Folkloriada) and not more than 2 craftsmen. Children are not admitted.

CONVOCATION TO CIOFF® MEMBERS: An agreement letter has been sent to all CIOFF® members which should be forwarded to the Committee before March 31st, 2015.

CONVOCATION TO NON CIOFF® GROUPS: From 1st April Folkloriada Committee would invite groups of countries which hadn’t answered within March 31st or answered negatively. The technical aspects of the groups should be reported to the Committee before July 31st, 2015.

CONVOCATION OF NON CIOFF® COUNTRIES: Places not filled until the target of 1800 participants has been reached, will be used to invite groups coming from countries which do not belong to CIOFF® from 1st August 2015, according to the suggestions of the President of CIOFF® in the frame of the spreading policy to new countries.

INVITATION: After receiving technical information formulaire, an official joint invitation from the Government of the State of Zacatecas and CIOFF® Mexico will be sent to participants.

ACTIVITIES: Opening and Closing Ceremonies; opening and closing parades; exhibition of musical instruments and photographs, crafts, embroidery of Mexico, pictures of traditional games in the world; handicraft workshops; 7th CIOFF® World Youth Forum; World Directors Groups Forum; Traditional Games of Mexico and of the World; Artistic presentations; Inauguration of “Icon Folkloriada Perenniality of 2016”; cultural exchanges framed in the UNESCO Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures.

POST FOLKLORIADA ACTIVITIES: In order to make the travel even more attractive to the groups, it has been planned to extend the events to other States of Mexico between 8th and 12th August; costs will be covered by the organization.

GOODBYE: The Federal District of Mexico (DF) will receive all the participants on 13th and 14th August for special activities. On August 15th the groups will return to their countries.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AIRPORT: Airport Mexico City DF.
An intense asset which include all activities occurred in CIOFF® Argentina started in February with the National Assembly and Annual Meeting in the city of Carlos Pellegrini, which was attended by more than fifty members.

As usual in the Congress were held meetings of the 4 Commissions and cultural lectures on various aspects of ICH, the history of the city and an exhibition in the Museum of Traditional Universal Costume.

Two representatives of National Section participated in the Meeting of Artisans of Pendik (Turkey), reaffirming its work for the promotion and preservation of this activity closely related to ICH.

In the city of El Trébol, meetings of Committees of Groups Directors and Youth were realized. It was an opportunity to gather people together with the aim of coordinating activities to develop throughout the year.

Once again, Youth showed how responsible they are in different activities, highlighting the effort they put in a new edition of their Informative Magazine “Werken Mapu” (Earth Messenger), which has been distributed by our representatives at the General Assembly in Bautzen (Germany).

The “International Folklore Festival of Argentina”, based in the cities of Santa Fe, Crespo, Brinkmann and El Trébol, counted on the participation of groups from Colombia, Ecuador, France and Panama, in addition to official representatives from each of the host cities. The artistic and human success again became an incentive for future collaboration.

Prof. B. Sangoy (Chairman of CIOFF® Cultural Commission ) and Prof. H. Ifrán (Vice President for Cultural Affairs) participated in the CIOFF® EXCO and Spring Meeting in San José (Costa Rica)

Prof. Beatriz Sangoy and Hugo Ifrán represented Argentina at the Latin American and Caribbean Sector Meeting, held in the city of Nicoya (Costa Rica). They presented, when necessary, Argentinian criteria on the points discussed.

The Section’s aim to include children in their activities, was, once again, taken into consideration with the organization of the Children’s Folklore Meeting, held in the city of Rio Cuarto. This event, which had national and international character, has become the most important in the country.

Argentina participated in the CIOFF® World Congress and General Assembly held in the city of Bautzen (Germany) with a delegation composed by B. Sangoy (Delegate), R. Mansutti and Y. Muro Müller (Youth) and H. Ifrán (CIOFF® Vice-president). Ratifying the work of our youth, Miss. Yazmín Muro Müller was elected during the World Youth Forum, as Representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Sector in the Youth Coordinating Committee.

The presence of groups from the National Section in different festivals around the world and other internal activities let us think that 2014, for Argentina, has been a “Positive Balance” year.
Two projects have been realized by CIOFF® Switzerland in 2014 for the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO ICH Convention:

**A conference:** Safeguarding Living Traditions – What is the Future?

**A publication:** 100 Living Traditions of Fribourg – A Directory

A special report on the Conference at the University of Fribourg in April 2014 was already published in the CIOFF®-UNESCO Newsletter 2013, on page 3. The Directory, announced in the past Newsletter, has now been edited and may illustrate the fruitful role and method of operating in the domain of intangible cultural heritage.

**The role of NGOs in the implementation of the ICH Convention**

In addition to a regular cooperation with the Swiss Commission for UNESCO in the field of ICH, CIOFF® Switzerland started in 2011 a specific partnership with the Ethnologic Dept. of the University of Neuchatel (Prof. Ellen Hertz, Director) on several items related to the implementation of the ICH Convention, especially on the realization of a Directory of Living Traditions in the Canton of Fribourg. In May 2011, a preliminary document of 100 Living Traditions was edited in cooperation with the Fribourg Folk Arts Association (FFCC). For the 75th anniversary of this Association in 2014, CIOFF® Switzerland developed the established cooperation and prepared the final document which was published in May 2014.

**100 TRADITIONS FRIBOURGOISES**
Répertoire et sauvegarde du patrimoine immatériel

**100 FREIBURGISCHE TRADITIONEN**
Verzeichnis und Bewahrung des immateriellen Kulturerbes

**Language**
French and German

**Content**
- Introduction, cultural maps, criteria of registration
- 100 Living traditions
- The role of the State
- The Safeguarding
- La Coraule Fribourgeoise

**Volume**
50 pages

**Pictures**
20 pictures

**Edition**
May 2014

**Price**
12 EURO + Postage

**Order**
info@cioff.ch

As a result of the cooperation with governmental entities and scientific Institutes, with communities and their representatives, CIOFF® Switzerland could contribute to the realization of a first document of reference for the safeguarding of ICH in the Canton Fribourg.

Cyrill Renz
05.01.2015
CIOFF®-USA Highlights of 2014

- Rolf Kaufman was recognized as an Honorary Member of CIOFF® for his 25 years of service including CIOFF® International’s Recording Secretary, Chairman of the Finance Commission, Treasurer, Member of the Festivals Commission and for his work with the Calendar of Festivals, the advertising program and editing of CIOFF® documents and publications.

- Sharon Durtka was awarded the Silver Merit by the North American Sector for her more than 30 years of service to CIOFF®, secretary - Working Group on Children, Committee on Training and Education, CIOFF®-USA and the Sector and her years of work in the field of intangible cultural heritage, with festivals, exchange and international education.

- CIOFF®-USA members participated in the North American Sector meeting hosted by CIOFF® Canada. The Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Workshop was convened with CIOFF®-USA members serving as recording secretaries, chairs of sessions and presenters of these workshop sessions. The Workshop was opened by Mathias Bizimana, Canadian Commission of UNESCO, Ottawa.

The Holiday Folk Fair International Cultural Awareness Program - Education Day celebrated its 25th year with more than 3,000 youth ages 8-14 and more than 300 youth volunteers ages 8-18 sharing their cultural heritage and learning about the cultures of others. The specially designed program includes music, dance, games, language, foods and cooking demonstrations and workshops with artisans and exhibits. Many of these workshops and activities are taught and presented by youth the age of the audience participants.

- US UNESCO Commissioner Alexander P. Durtka, Jr. met with Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO during her visit to the United States Commission on UNESCO meeting. In her address to the Commissioners and observers, Director-General Bokova stressed “the soft power that is UNESCO’s trademark that transforms the world.” Referring to the destruction of cultural heritage in countries in conflict, she stated that the very concept of World Heritage is under attack today. Attacks against cultural heritage are attacks against the very identity of communities. “We need ever more than before an intellectual and moral solidarity in such a troublesome world.”

Echoing the Director-General in her remarks, United States Ambassador to UNESCO, Ms. Chrystal Nix-Hines underscored “the imperative to act now to preserve and halt cultural destruction and persecution for the future generations.”

Speakers underlined the importance of valuing the “blending of cultures” that are very much embedded in cultural heritage, which should be driving Member States’ and communities’ efforts for enhancing connections amongst peoples across the world.

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Esther Coopersmith received the United States National Committee of the International Council of Monuments and Sites Award in recognition of her longstanding commitment to cultural preservation across the world and building intercultural dialogue.

Contribution from the National Section of Montenegro

The National Section CIOFF® Montenegro became member of CIOFF® International in 2006. The membership counts now 8 folklore groups and 2 festivals: International Folklore Festival Cetinje and International Children Folklore Festival “Denovic” in Herceg Novi. Both of them are biennial.

CIOFF® Montenegro is represented inside CIOFF® International by Mr. Dušan Banjević, president of the National Section. The Board of Directors of the National Section consists of one Representative for each member.

Mr. Svetozar Perović, a popular choreographer, long time Director of the ensemble “Mirko Srzentić” and member of the Board of Directors of the National Section, retired in 2012. The South European and African Sector of CIOFF® awarded him the “Silver Pin” in recognition for his contribution to the foundation and work of CIOFF® Montenegro. The Silver Pin was given at the Sector Meeting in Paris, France, in 2012.

This year, the 15th International Folklore Festival Cetinje was held from July 15 to July 28, 2014. Groups from Albania, Croatia, Italy, Russia, Slovak Republic and Turkey performed at the Festival.

The National Section works now toward a reorganization of its internal structure and programs.

The Spring Sector Meeting 2015 of the South European and African Sector will be organized and hosted by CIOFF® Montenegro and will be held in Budva from May 14 to May 18, 2015.
The new Cultural Policy of CIOFF® gives to cultural activities a great importance and stimulate more and more important topics in the World Congresses and official Meetings, encouraging the National Sections to realize courses, conferences, seminars and forums on various aspects of ICH.

Based on the idea promoted by CIOFF® President, as a result of increasingly closer relations with UNESCO, which imply work in the ICH, the Cultural Commission has required to the National Sections a documented report of its cultural activities with purposes of presentation to the World Congresses and, if necessary, to the UNESCO as witness of its programs referred to this aspect of culture.

The results of the first convocation were presented to the CIOFF® World Congress in Bautzen (Germany), and gathered the experiences of CIOFF® Portugal in the 1st Congress, with themes like “What image of Portugal We want to promote?”; “Programming Lines International Festivals” and “Festivals CIOFF® in Portugal”.

The Mexican National Section informed about conferences on “El Mariachi” and “Intangible Cultural Heritage”; the declaration of “Huapango” Intangible Cultural Heritage of the State of Hidalgo; the process to convert the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity “La Guelaguetza” in the State of Oaxaca; the participation of craftsmen during the meeting in Pendik (Turkey).

CIOFF® Switzerland presented the publication of a book with “100 Traditions Fribourgeoises”, containing repertoire and safeguarding of ICH, a conference on “Sauvegarde des traditions vivantes: Quelles perspectives?”. Both works with participation of Fribourg Folklore Association, Institute of Ethnology of the University of Neuchâtel and the Swiss Commission of UNESCO.

The National Section of Paraguay reported about the performance in the theater play of an Ethnic Group “Ajeapy”; the declaration of Living Human Treasures to Quemil Yambay and Efren Echeverria; also it has sent a representation of artisans to the Meeting of Pendik (Turkey).

CIOFF® Argentina documented the 11th Cultural Forum “Culture and Cultural Heritage” with conferences on “Approaches to the new cultural policy CIOFF®”; “Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage - UNESCO”; “CIOFF® Youth and implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage”. In the Regional Meeting Children’s and Latin American Embrace were performed workshops and conferences under the title “give them our children roots, they transform them into wings”; some craftsmen were sent to the Meeting in Pendik (Turkey) and the publication of the Informative Journal of youth “Werken Mapu” (Messenger of the Earth).

This diversity of themes and activities of the National Sections demonstrates their capacity to work and run with the new cultural policy of CIOFF®.

Prof. Beatriz Sangoy
Chairman of CIOFF® Cultural Commission
On November 10, 2013, a special party was held at the castle of Schoten. Siegfried Verbeelen was honoured with the Jozef Simons award. Siegfried is a real legend within the Flemish folk art. His wife Gustel shared the merits.

Marnixring Voorkepem Pater Stracke awards the Jozef Simons Prize every 2nd year. The life of Jozef Simons is characterized by great service to the people around him and for his striving for the Flemish independence. He is well known for his literature and his popular song writing. The Jozef Simons award is a tribute to an important person or association, who is meritorious in the cultural, social or economical field.

Last year, Siegfried Verbeelen was honoured. Behind a strong man stands a strong woman, Siegfried’s wife Gustel. Harrie Hendrickx, former mayor of Schoten, read the laudatory poem.

In 1958, Siegfried Verbeelen founded of the “Kempense Volksulturel Dagen” together with the honorary chairman Frans Geens and Theo Bresseleers. The involvement of Siegfried within CIOFF® gave the inspiration to the concept of an international folklore festival in Schoten.

Since more than 50 years, 106 nationalities participated in the festival in Schoten. CIOFF® has more than 109 countries as member and is a partner for the program of the festival. In 1968, Gustel founded the Volkskunstgroup “Jan Pirrewit”. The group’s goal is to make folklore attractive for children. Through the Festival, the IVV was founded, where Sus Geens created a working procedure for the archiving of the dances, flag waving and costumes of the diverse regions. Other organisations such as Interfolklore, VVG (Flemish Volkskunst Community), VVKB and Dancepunt received a lot of energy from Schoten. This belongs to the history of Siegfried that the Festival in Schoten gave the opportunity to 78 Flemish groups to perform on the international stage of Schoten.

Harrie Hendrickx (former mayor of Schoten) compared it with some rock-festivals during the summer months in Flanders. These festivals have a huge interest in comparison with the folklore festivals. But where is the personal contact with the performers?? More than 10,000 guests were hosted during all those festivals within host families. This model was very inspiring for a lot of other folklore festivals. Harrie spread his laudatory poem to Siegfried and Gustel, directly to “the Verbeelens” as a family company in folklore.

Siegfried took the floor as the last speaker, with the simpleness we all know from him. He gave honour to our honorary chairman Sus Geen, as a co-founder of the Kempense Volksculture Days, without whom the festival probably would not have become what it is now. He thanked his wife Gustel for all her support. While Siegfried is the father of the festival, well Gustel may for sure be called a very important mother for the festival in Schoten.

Once again, hearty congratulations to Siegfried and Gustel. Congratulations also to the Marnixring for the great organisation. Simpleness is genial.

Gert Laekeman
Chairman IVV
The 6th CIOFF® World Youth Forum took place in Bautzen, Germany, from October 16th to 19th. Youth from Italy, Tahiti, Kirghizstan, Germany, Mexico, Costa Rica, Northern Cyprus, Finland, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Netherland, Turkey, Estonia, Slovenia, Greece, Bulgaria, Canada and Paraguay were present.

Through workshops, they analysed CIOFF®’s mission, which is:

- To spread the youth movement
- To promote the objectives of UNESCO and apply for participation program
- To develop international issues inside CIOFF® Youth
- To organize cultural activities like workshops, exhibitions
- To publish the youth magazines

Over the past year, CIOFF® youth focused its attention on the importance that myths and legends have for ICH. The result of this work is shown in the 2014 edition of the magazine Playing together, the magazine completely edited by Youth Coordinating Committee. The magazine was sold during the congress in Bautzen to show to the National Sections Youth Coordinating Committee’s work.

For the next years, youth will contribute to the new strategic points presented by the President, Philippe Beaussant, as listed below:

- Promote ICH
- Support the objectives of UNESCO
- Support the work & visibility of CIOFF®’s members and other NGO’s activities in the field of folklore, traditional arts and ICH
- Serve the cause of peace through these objectives

The operative programs of CIOFF® youth will focus on the Safeguarding of Traditional Games, Myths and Legends and Traditional Trades. The movement is very interested in improving its participation in the next Folkloriada in Zacatecas, Mexico, from July 31st to August 9th 2016. Moreover, Ramiro Mansutti, former Chairman of Youth Coordinating Committee, has been delegated by Philippe Beaussant, to constantly maintain the relationships with Folkloriada’s organization in Zacatecas in regard with UNESCO projects during the event. We are very proud of this nomination! During the forum, CIOFF® youth had elections and the new Youth Coordinating Committee is composed of:

Antonio Mallozzi – Chairman of Youth Coordinating Committee
Benoit Pascal – Vice Chairman and Committee for Public Relations Representative
Nikos Papapesios – Vice Chairman and Cultural Commission Representative
Giulia Ciuffa – Secretary and Festival Commission Representative
Felicia Jin – North American Sector and Legal Commission Representative
Yazmin Muro Muller – Latin American Sector Representative
Kaia Karner – North European Sector Representative
Masa Kumperger – Central European Sector Representative
Jessica Lagarde – South European and African Sector Representative
Bezya Gökcan Göktaş – Asia and Oceania Sector and WG for Children Representative
Orlando Valdez – Committee for Folkloriada Representative
Dilara Meral Korahan – Committee on Training & Education Representative

This Youth Coordinating Committee will be in charge for the next 3 years. We take the opportunity to invite all National Sections, again, to send us contacts about youth in their own countries. We are always happy to welcome new youth to our team!

Giulia Ciuffa
Youth Coordinating Committee
Secretary
(Festival Commission member)
EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE FROM NATIONAL SECTIONS

During the General Assembly in Bautzen, we also had very interesting presentations based on examples of Good Practice among National Sections of CIOFF®.

Four successful presentations were made by: National Sections of Portugal, Argentina, Colombia and UK about cultural activities which took place in their own countries.

Portugal showed interesting Powerpoint presentation about the 1st Congress of CIOFF® Portugal, managed by INATEL Foundation which took place in Foz do Arelho, 100 km from Lisbon. National commission for UNESCO was also present and an interesting aspect was presented about the right image of Portugal to promote during festivals taking into account strong consideration of the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Tourism. Other debates took place between organizers of International Folklore Festivals and social representatives (students, cultural and tourism national associations, etc).

Another amazing contribution was given by CIOFF® Youth Argentina which presented its actions to rescue the old trades which are endangered due to globalization. Ramiro Mansutti and Yazmin Muro Muller explained slides about workshops and videos which have been produced by the youth National Commission has been working, and will continue its work to safeguard this important area of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Argentina.

Colombia also made a presentation about significant experience within Colombian National Section which had obtained, from the Ministry of Culture, the status of a leader in the development of Folklore Festivals of the country and in participation, actively, in building of a network of national folkloric dance programs. So, since 2011, Colombia NS started to work hard, to achieve these objectives through actions aimed to the creation, analysis and consolidation of this network called Redes en Red. We would, also, like to mention that Colombia NS organized, in a city next to Bogotà, a very interesting International Forum of Festivals Organizers which took place in the first half of April 2015: it is a proof of the great work CIOFF® Colombia is doing in these years!

Last, but not the least, Olga Maloney, CIOFF® Secretary General, presented an exciting project called “Poetry in Motion” developed during the 50th Anniversary of Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance in UK in 2014. The project aimed to combine traditional and contemporary elements in the Festival Programme. Festival organization collaborated with the Theatre company “ZENDEH” which created a series of “Poetry in Motion” dance pieces based on poems recited by members of international groups. The choreography was created by the professional choreographer Ms Nadia Iftekhar who studied all poems and videos sent by the groups in advance and created 10 pieces of dance. Poetry in Motion has been presented twice during the Festival program and it had a great success and the audience enjoyed it very much.

We could, definitely, be proud of the work developed by these four National Sections and we are sure there will be more and more contributions by other National Sections of CIOFF®!

Irene Pimpinella
Acting Chairperson of PR & Communication Commission
The Open Forum titled “Intellectual Property and Folk, Art and Cultural Festivals” took place on October 23, 2014, in the main hall of Sorbian Theater in Bautzen. It has been managed by Brigitte Vézina who is the legal officer of WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization.

The WIPO is a United Nations specialized agency dedicated to the promotion of innovation and creativity for the economic, social and cultural development of all countries, through a balanced and effective international IP system.

The WIPO Traditional Knowledge Division’s Creative Heritage Project addresses the protection of Traditional knowledge (TK) and Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCEs) which are frequently displayed, represented and shared at festivals. WIPO is working with it involved in the organization of folklore festivals to develop appropriate IP strategies.

Brigitte Vézina presented a practical guide which is very interesting and fruitful for the management of Effective intellectual property (IP) which is an important consideration for folklore festival organizers who wish to safeguard and promote their own IP interests and those of festival participants.

The Guide explains the many facets of the IP system as it relates to folklore festivals, especially those that celebrate the cultures of indigenous peoples and local communities, their traditional cultural expressions and traditional knowledge.

The Guide, also, provides information about Intellectual Property rights and interests. It identifies the challenges faced by festival organizers and delineates some elements of an effective IP management strategy. It offers suggestions on how to harness a festival’s IP assets and how best to promote respect for the cultures featured at the festival. It includes, finally, a glossary and a model checklist and could become the reference publication for all IP questions related to festivals.

Many interventions have been made and several questions have been asked Brigitte Vézina during the Open Forum and it resulted a very useful initiative for the guarantee of CIOFF® International Folklore Festivals and its cultural and traditional expressions.
AWARENESS OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE – THE ROLE OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

CIOFF® Cultural Conference 2014

CIOFF® Cultural Conference 2014 took place on October 23rd, in Bautzen, Germany, as part of the Congress, under the theme “Awareness of Intangible Cultural Heritage - The role of ethnic communities”. Beatriz Sangoy, Chairman of CIOFF® Cultural Commission (CIOFF® Argentina) and Magdalena Tovornik, CIOFF® Representative to UNESCO (CIOFF® Slovenia) were both moderators during this conference. Hugo Ifran, Vice-President of CIOFF® for Cultural Affairs was invited to open the conference, and Prof. Dr. Christoph Wulf of the German Commission for UNESCO started with a report of German Commission for UNESCO.

German experts were invited to present on the theme mentioned above. The first expert, Dr. Dorothea Kolland, musicologist, sociologist and former head of the Cultural Office in Berlin-Neukölln, discussed the role of ethnic groups in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage in the local context. The participants then had the chance to discover a part of the Sorbian Intangible Cultural Heritage with a presentation of Dr. Ines Keller, Dr. Theresa Jacobs and Dr. Fabian Jacobs. The three of them are research fellows at the Department of Cultural Studies of the Sorbian Institute in Bautzen.

The second part of the cultural conference was dedicated to some best practices in the role of ethnic communities in different National Sections. Canada, Paraguay and Estonia graciously accepted to share some best practices with the audience. Guy Landry, General Manager of CIOFF® Canada and CIOFF® Honorary Member, talked about a practical model of ethnocultural communities in Canada. He explained the importance for ethnocultural communities to safeguard ICH and shared a few examples of transmission sites and groups. Mr. Landry also explained briefly the structure of CIOFF® Canada and its role in the multicultural context scene in Canada. Mario Garcia Siani from Paraguay presented the research and documentation that was done on the day-to-day life of the Ava Guarani from Paso Cadena, Paraguay, their rituals, testimonies, complaints and pains. Mr. Garcia Siani is a cultural promoter, journalist and researcher, and he is the National CIOFF® Delegate for Paraguay. The cultural conference ended with Kati Taal’s presentation on the Working Group of National Minorities in CIOFF® Estonia. Kati Taal, current Recording Secretary of CIOFF®, studied Estonian and Comparative Folklore and now works at the Estonian Folk Culture Centre. This cultural conference allowed the participants to learn about a great variety of roles played by ethnic communities in different regions of the world.

Catherine Rodriguez
CIOFF® Canada
The first official Greek CIOFF® Youth Meeting was held in Naoussa on February 19th, 2015. It was attended by youth from various Greek cities such as Naoussa, Paros, Giannitsa, Katerini. The Meeting was held in the crowded hall of the City Council of Naoussa, with the presence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayors, members of the City Council and representatives of the Greek National Section of CIOFF®, as well as cultural and youth associations and CIOFF® festivals.

The Movement and its activities were officially presented. Then, ideas regarding the future plans were discussed and developed. Many NGOs and cultural organizations, as well as schools, showed interest in taking part in future activities, and congratulated the Movement for its excellent work. Moreover, the Municipality of Naoussa informed that they are open for future cooperation.

On February 20th, 2015, Greek CIOFF® Youth Movement organized its first Pan-Hellenic action in cooperation with two Primary Schools. The activity was integrated to the component “Traditional Games”. It presented a special character, including traditional games not only from Greece, but also from Italy and Turkey. Thus, 260 students were separated in different teams and under the CIOFF® slogan “Let’s play together”, they played traditional games. That way, they had the opportunity to be in contact with traditions from three different countries. All in all, those cultural activities can be a valuable tool to spread the culture to new generations. And if we ask the children if they like to learn the culture through those activities, the answer is: They love it!
On March 16, 2015 the German Commission for UNESCO in partnership with the German Cultural Council and the Association of German Cities organized an expert conference themed “Knowing. Doing. Passing it on” in Berlin. Norbert Mueller, President of CIOFF® Germany, was invited by the German National Commission to present the part “Associations and NGOs: Mediators in the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage”. First he introduced CIOFF® to the participants of this workshop and he showed by examples what CIOFF® is doing in this field. He informed about the roles of NGOs and how they can play a part in the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

During the following discussion, it was emphasized that the real importance and consequences of the inclusion of cultural expressions in national inventories, the register and lists of intangible cultural heritage are still not clear. The German Commission for UNESCO was asked to give support in the capacity-building, information and communication of criteria as well as to promote the advisory function of NGOs. It was also realized that for NGOs and associations there is a need for exchange on regional and federal level.

Before the expert conference, the certificates of the newly accepted first 27 elements of the nationwide register of Intangible Cultural Heritage were handed over to representatives. One of the recognized elements is “Social customs and Festivities of the Lusatian Sorbs in the Course of the Year”. This element was presented as part of the Cultural Conference during the CIOFF® World Congress 2014 in Bautzen / Germany.
CIOFF® YOUTH INDONESIA IN ACTION

Indonesia, November 23rd, 2014

Youth Commission of CIOFF® Indonesia: the winner of “The Most Indonesia” at Indonesia Menari event and won 50 million rupiahs at the “New Family 100” Quiz, presented on television.

CIOFF® Indonesia participated in an event named Indonesia Menari which is a dance competition held in Grand Indonesia Shopping Town on November 23rd, 2014. The event itself was held by Galeri Indonesia Kaya. In this competition, CIOFF® Indonesia achieved “The Most Indonesia”, which was based on the judgement by Indonesian public figures, such as Eko Supriyanto, Hedi Yunos, Giani Giadi, and Chelsea Islan.

Moreover, 1,200 participants took part in this event, including 76 dance groups and 207 individual dancers who came from dance communities from all over Indonesia. This event was also awarded as Traditional Dance Parade in a mall with the most dancers and recorded in the Museum Rekor Indonesia (MURI).

Indonesia Menari 2014 occurred to be a mass dance with the same choreography which is a mashed up of traditional and modern dance with a duration of four minutes, created by Choreographer Eko Supriyanto. The music, which is a medley of traditional songs that come from several regions in Indonesia, such as Minang (Tak Tong Tong), West Java (Manuk Dadali), Betawi (Kicir-Kicir), dan Maluku (Ayo Mama), was arranged by Pongki Prasetyo.

And last November, CIOFF® Indonesia had the opportunity to join the game show “New Family 100” in the National TV station, Indosiar. New Family 100 is one of the most successful quiz programs in Indonesia with more than 2,500 episodes aired, which was adapted from the game show Family Feud and Family Fortunes by FremantleMedia licensee from the United States. In this games, two families/teams try to guess the answer that is the most answered, based on the results of a survey of 100 people. Five members, Raras as head of group, Oki, Ani, Rekha, and Diza, were representing CIOFF® Indonesia against saman dance group “Samanita UAI (University of Al-Azhar Indonesia)”. The game was quite tense due to the fierce struggle for scores between the two groups.

If the team can reach main round and manage to answer all the top answers of the survey’s, then the team has the opportunity to bring home the jackpot prize of 50 million rupiahs. And yes, CIOFF® Indonesia came in main round to win the jackpot prize of 50 million rupiahs. Representatives of CIOFF® Indonesia were Raras and Ani. Ani became the first player and Raras became the second player. Four of five Ani’s answers were the best answers that appeared in the survey. Fate was later in the hands of Raras. If Raras were to successfully answer 1 top survey’s answer, CIOFF® Indonesia would win the game and get the prize of 50 million rupiahs. The good fortune was in favor of the team CIOFF® Indonesia. Raras successfully answered 1 top survey’s answer and CIOFF® Indonesia won the game and got 50 million rupiahs prize!!! Victory of team would not be as successful without the cohesiveness of the team and sense of mutual trust.