Havana, Cuba played host to the 39th World Congress of the International Council of Organizations for Folklore Festivals and Folk Art. Organized by CIOFF Cuba National Section and supported by the National Council for “Casas de Cultura”, the Ministry of Culture and other governmental and non-governmental institutions, and sponsored by the UNESCO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Congress was held between November 8th and 15th of this year. Delegates from ... Countries took part in the Congress.

As customary for the World Congresses, the General Assembly and meetings of the Organization’s Executive Council, the Regional Sectors, the CIOFF Youth Section and various Commissions and Working Groups took place concurrently.

All sessions took place in the Havana Convention Centre and Palco Hotel, with facilities for simultaneous translation in Spanish, English and French.

The Congress Cultural programme dealt with two very important and significant subjects for the work of the CIOFF: the Slave Route and the Safeguarding of Cultural Diversity.

The delegates were also treated to exhibition and sales of arts and crafts, books, and music and performances by numerous dance and music folklore groups.

The Congress gave us the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences about the worthwhile purposes of the CIOFF, about the national and international actions that are taking place for the promotion of intangible heritage through dance, music, traditions, etc., and thus to encourage international peace and understanding.

We are extremely grateful to CIOFF Cuba for their warm hospitality, excellent organisation and for giving all of us the unique insight and unforgettable experience of the Cuban culture and folklore.
Successful CIOFF Congress in La Habana

Udomsak Sakmunwong (Thailand), President of the International Council of Folkloric Festival and Traditional Arts Organizations (CIOFF), described the 39th Edition of this Congress as constructive and successful.

One of the participants, Socorro Maciel, Brazil's CIOFF delegate, gave these words that describe her impressions on Cuban cultural reality, right after an artistic presentation that took place aside from the Congress:

“The Latin American feeling is marvellous. We just had the opportunity of observing Cuba’s reality and the way culture is being made. Children are a priority and the work of Casas de la Cultura (local cultural centres) reaches everyone, even the elderly. We are impressed about the great amount of theatres and cultural programs. Previously, our outlook on Cuba was very different. If we had not come, we would have not had the opportunity of getting to know about all the things that are being made for culture here”.

High quality artistic organizations like La Colmenita, the National Folk Ensemble, and the amateurs Maraguán, from Camagüey; Tambor Yuca, from Pinar del Río, and Third World, from Matanzas made this clear. Nisia Agüero, President of CIOFF’s Cuban Subsidiary, expressed to the media: “The delegates were amazed by the treatment received. Without any doubts, hosting this event was a highlight for Cuba; we had the opportunity of showing our cultural diversity”.

Radio Rebelde - Cuba

Forum on Folklore and Folk Art Opens in Havana

November 13, 2009

HAVANA, CUBA. - The 39th World Congress and General Assembly of the International Council of Festivals of Folklore and Folk Arts (CIOFF) was officially inaugurated on Thursday in Havana with the presence of some 200 delegates from more than 40 countries.

Udomsak Sakmunwong, President of CIOFF World Council, welcomed all participants in the event that is taking place at Havana’s Convention Center and praised the cooperation and commitment of member countries to the safeguard of national cultures.

He added that this meeting, held in Cuba for the first time, will contribute to further strengthening exchange relations and he pointed out that Cuba could serve as a bridge between the North and the South of the Americas.

Sakmunwong urged the humankind to protect the environment and pointed out that ignorance is the root of the world’s ecological and cultural crisis.

Meanwhile, French Henri Courisaget, honorary president of CIOFF, urged the organization to continue working and stated that in today’s world it is necessary to save the human soul, the roots of peoples and their identity.

For his part, Alexis Ceijo, President of the National Council of Culture Centers, thanked the presence in the event of delegates from Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania, Latin America, the United States and Canada, who faced many obstacles to share their experiences with the Cuban people.

Friday’s agenda includes lectures on Cultural Diversity and Intangible Heritage, as well as an open forum entitled ‘The Slave’s Route’.

Press extracts from the Internet
AGREEMENT IS SIGNED BETWEEN THE CITY OF ANSEONG AND CIOFF

From November 8th to November 15th 2009, the International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Art (CIOFF) held its Annual World Congress in Cuba, more specifically in Havana, a city recognized as part of UNESCO World Heritage List. The congress’ 150 participants representing 42 countries once again reiterated and pledged their commitment to protecting and disseminating the intangible cultural heritage.

Created in 1970, CIOFF is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in formal consultative relations with UNESCO. Working in the heritage field, CIOFF’s mission is to protect and disseminate traditional and popular culture, such as the intangible heritage as well as different aspects of folklore – folkloric dances and music, customs, rituals, costumes, traditional games, tales, etc.

During the meeting in Havana, the participants confirmed the city of Anseong, South Korea as the host for CIOFF’s 4th World Folkloriada, which will become the capital of world traditional arts in 2012. In 2009, the Mamsadang Nori of Anseong was already being inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

From August 13th to August 26th 2012, more than 1,500 artists from 50 countries, including 300 from South Korea will come together in Anseong to share their intangible cultural heritage. For this 4th Folkloriada every CIOFF national chapter will be responsible for choosing their artists.

City of Anseong’s representative and CIOFF’s president, Dr Udomsak Sakmunwong, as well as the representatives of the six CIOFF sectors (Barbara Campbell, North America; Corro Maciel, Latin America; Rafael Maldonado, South America; Olga Maloney, Northern Europe; Suzanne Kramer, Central Europe, and Muammer Arslan, Asia and Oceania) signed an agreement giving CIOFF and its members the duty to prepare the participants and performances to illustrate the richness of traditional culture and to secure the appearance of all the artists in South Korea. The total value of this agreement has been estimated at more than US$ 3 million.

This very unique event celebrating intangible cultural heritage and international friendship is expected to attract over 2 million spectators in 2012!

For additional information about CIOFF and its activities, please visit our Website www.cioff.org.

Guy Landry
On behalf of
Folkloriada Working Group
The CIOFF Asian and Oceanian Sector and the Chinese National Section of CIOFF, in partnership with the city government of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province of China, successfully organized the 10th CIOFF Asian and Oceanian Folklore Festival and the Hangzhou West Lake International Carnival, from August 25 to 30, 2009 in Hangzhou City, a historical and cultural city, with the most beautiful landscape of China. And this big event was greatly honored by the presence of CIOFF President Dr. Udomsak Sakmunwong.

Over 550 foreign artists from 13 countries and regions (i.e. Turkey, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, Sri Lanka, Chinese Taipei, Canada, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria) participated in this festival. Including the participation of Chinese local folk artists, the total number of participants was over 700. During this festival, the folk artists participated in the Opening Ceremony at the Gushan Park, the Bai Causeway and boat tour on the famous West Lake. Divided in four groups, they performed in Hangzhou and nearby cities, including Zhuji, Chun’an and Jiai. The Closing Ceremony was held in the Wushan Square of Hangzhou and they also paraded in the Qinghefang Historical District. The plaque of the CIOFF Asian and Oceanian Folklore Festival was handed over to the President of CIOFF Korea Kim Kisoo, the organizer of the 11th CIOFF Asian and Oceanian Folklore Festival, which will be held in 2011, in Anseong City, Republic of Korea.

Through the display of the colorful folklore of various countries with different characteristics, it promoted the exchange of folk art and enhanced the understanding and friendship between the people of the participating countries and regions. The local people praised this festival as “A gala of folk arts for the common people. The international folklore in our hometown.” There were broad media coverage of the festival by local, provincial and national media, including radio, TV and newspaper. The Hangzhou city Government gave great support to this Festival. They also look forward to further collaboration with CIOFF in terms of future activities of Folklore and Folk-art’s.

Submitted by
Wei Zhongke
President of Asian and Oceanian Sector
Executive Vice President of CIOFF China
FOCUS ON UNESCO PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

CIOFF YOUTH
Games in Indigenous Communities: Stage 2 Formosa

Following with the activities proposed by the Youth Coordination Committee in the frame of the UNESCO Participation Programme, the Argentinean youth commission completed, the second stage of the project “Games in Indigenous communities” in September. This time the activity took place in Namqom. Namqom is a neighborhood located ten kilometers away to the city of Formosa in the north-east of Argentina. The population of neighborhood is around 3000 inhabitants, mostly comprised of Tobas but also other indigenous communities like Pilagá and Wichí, all of them under the common name of Qom.

The young participants lived through an extraordinary experience, exchanging knowledge with members of the big family of Qom. Nowadays, Qom community is spreading in different Argentinean provinces like Formosa, Chaco and Santa Fe, and also in the neighboring country of Paraguay.

The youth team was composed of four members of the Argentinean Youth Commission and two advanced students, studying to become film directors, who offered their help in order to film a documentary showcasing the results of the activity for further use in education. The results of this second stage have been unbelievable: eight hours of video recorded in high quality, a huge number of pictures and many Qom’s games were safeguarded. The bibliographic material in the subject of Qom’s games is really limited so we know that the information obtained will be very useful in order to preserve this important cultural heritage.

The exchange took place in different fields and with important people of the community from different ages from children to seniors. Without any doubt, the experience has been very enriching in many aspects. The amiability of the Qom people and their openness gave us invaluable lessons of wisdom.

Submitted by Ramiro Mansutti, President of CIOFF Youth Coordination Committee

CIOFF YOUTH
Photographic Exhibition of Traditional Games

The 39th World Congress in Cuba was a very important date for the Youth CIOFF France because it was the first opportunity for us to put in place our Photographic exhibition on Traditional Games.

« Allons jouer ! » « Let’s play ! » « Vamos a jugar ! » represents Children playing together on stage or during workshops with public during different festivals in France, Italy and Argentina. This project, included in World Wide Program of revaluation of traditional and popular games of CIOFF was carried out in collaboration with UNESCO with the purpose to convey the idea that the game is essential for all the children growing up!

In the future, this exhibition will travel all around France and will be shown in Korea in 2012.

Thanks to CIOFF, to UNESCO, to Elise Meunier and Elise Gousseau who were at the origin of this project, to Philippe Beaussant who brought the necessary equipment to Cuba and to everyone in CIOFF Youth International for their precious help to set up the exhibition in Cuba.

Submitted by Fanny Mathinier, CIOFF Youth France
For the purpose of publicizing the life and work of those who have dedicated their lives by their commitment to the preservation, promotion and dissemination of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the National Section of Colombia has established and created the Honorary Award for Cultural Service of CIOFF Colombia, to be awarded annually beginning in 2010 for recognition of creators and managers of more than 55 years of age, with an ample record of achievement in the fields of art and culture and who constitute a model to be followed by our present and future generations.

The selected individuals, one for each cultural region of the country, will receive the Honorary Award and recognition of the Living Heritage of Colombian Culture, in a public ceremony that will take place within the framework of festivals affiliated with the National Section. In the same manner the National Section of Colombia will present a special award to non-Colombian personalities who have dedicated themselves to contribute in strengthening the integration of the people of Latin America and of the Caribbean, who will be selected from curriculum vitae presented by the National Sections of the Sector, which must be sent before May 30, 2010 to cioffcol@yahoo.es.

Angel María Viafane, Creator Emeritus of REDEFOLCLOR

We place at the disposal of CIOFF National Sections of the world, the following academic events that will take place in Colombia during the year 2010.

1. SECOND LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF DANCE AND EDUCATION in Villavicencio, Meta, from March 29 to April 4, information congresodanzayleducacion@gmail.com.

2. INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR WORKSHOP OF QUALIFICATION FOR FOLKLORE FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS, FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THEIR ENTERPRISE, PRODUCTION AND PUBLICATION AS PRODUCTIVE ENTITIES from June 24 to 27 in the city of Ibague. Contact Enrique Jatib, e-mail cioffcol@yahoo.es.

3. SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF FOLKLORE, with the theme of “Placing the Folkloric event on stage” will take place in Cartagena from October 11 to 15, with the participation of expert conference leaders invited from eight Latin American countries. Contact Enrique Jatib, e-mail: cioffcol@yahoo.es

In an official ceremony taking place in the Yellow Salon of the State Government of Bolivar, the Governor, Doctor Jorge Mendoza Diago, paid tribute to the President of CIOFF Colombia, Enrique Jatib Thome, and other illustrious personalities, awarding them the title of High Counselor during the celebration of the Bicentennial of Independence.

Submitted by Enrique Jatib, CIOFF Colombia
The Executive Council and the National Section of CIOFF COSTA RICA, with the intent of contributing to the importance of reviewing the immaterial cultural heritage, the hearth of cultural diversity and guarantor of sustainable development, have organized the First Forum Costa Rica: "Intangible Cultural Heritage," thanks to the agreements which we maintain with the Center of Education of our country and, specifically, with the Universidad Latina de Costa Rica. We gratefully acknowledge the presence of Mr. Andrew Rodalf, Director and Representative of UNESCO for Costa Rica, Central America and Panama.

For the above purpose, in this FIRST FORUM 2009, we dealt with the following topics, with experts and specialists who are part of CIOFF COSTA RICA:

**Inaugural Conference:**

**Topic:** Intangible Cultural Heritage of Costa Rica

Msc. Raul Arias Sanchez, (Historian, Specialist in the Cultural Heritage of the Center of Heritage of the Ministry of Culture, University Professor University of Costa Rica / Latin University of Costa Rica).

**Topic:** Popular Traditional Culture of Costa Rica in times of globalization

Prof. Leon Sangana Mendez, (Folklorist, self taught investigator of Costa Rican Popular Culture, retired from National University of Costa Rica, and Cultural Promoter; Msc. Cecilia Dobles, Academic anthropologist and investigator, Works for UNESCO, Ministry of Culture of Costa Rica, and Member of the National Commission of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Costa Rica).

**Topic:** AfroCostaRican Culture

Lidia. Gabriela Villalobos (Historian, Official of the National Museum and Coordinator and Participant in the Project Port of Limon Ciudad); Dr. Quince Duncan (Writer, Researcher, Member of the Scientific Committee of the Route of the Slave, Consultant for IDH in topics of African descent); Sra. Delia Mc Donald (Writer and Investigator); Lic. Carlos Saavedra (Investigator, Professor of Percussion)

**Topic:** Traditional Culture of Guanacasteca and Tourism

Ing. Carlos Arauz (Investigator); Dr. Edgar Leal Arrieta (Investigator of Music of Guanacasteca)

**Topic:** Indigenous Traditional Dances

Sr. Carlos Chaverri (Investigator, President of FUNDEICO, Foundation for the Cultural and Social Development of Indigenous Costa Rican Ethnicities); Sr. FELIPE BLANCO BLANCO, Indigenous Leader of AMUBRI – Talamanca; Srita. MILDRED BLANCO BLANCO, Indigenous of AMUBRI – Talamanca; Srita. NOEMI SALAZAR, Indigenous of AMUBRI – Talamanca; Sr. David Elizondo, Director of Toji Group (Indigenous Reserve Maleku).

**Topic:** Traditional Music of San Jose

Lic. Dionisio Cabal (Costal Rican composer, Ethnomusicologist, Investigator, Director “Cantares” Group, Cultural Promoter)

**Topic:** Folkloric Costumes

Prof. Edgar Cerdas (Specialist and Investigator, Folklorist, National Prize of Popular Culture)
FOCUS ON NATIONAL SECTIONS

CIOFF ESTONIA
Training Centre of Estonian National Folklore Council

Training Centre of Estonian National Folklore Council (CIOFF Estonia) was founded in spring 2008. The basis of trainings is curriculum of traditional culture. There are at least 15 courses every year, from what most are about Estonian traditional culture, but there are also some for Estonian minorities. So, the target group involves people all over Estonia with different background, including CIOFF Estonia Youth Commission members (who are also helping to prepare the courses).

Themes of the studies embrace different aspects of folklore – history, traditions, singing, national clothes and handicraft, folk belief etc. Most attractive courses are for example “Traditional culture of men” (where no women are allowed to take part) and “Folk medicine” (where participants have possibility to learn in the natural environment – in the fields and forests). Instructors of the seminars and study days are specialist of the field of folklore.

The goals of the Training Centre involve making better clauses and opportunities for students to:

- self-determinant in their traditional culture;
- value and implement folklore in their everyday life and work environment;
- take part of activities based on traditions and to implement innovative ideas.

It is important to bring the courses closer to students – to organize seminars and study days in different counties and villages instead of capital of Estonia only.

The goals of the Training Centre have influenced the situation in local areas for example if people start celebrating traditional events with using of historical elements or the ensemble of a folk singing is created on the influence of these courses.

75% of the courses are free of charge because of the support of European Social Fund and Republic of Estonia.

Submitted by Laura CIOFF Youth Estonia

CIOFF ANNOUNCEMENTS - CHILDREN SONG BOOK

Since two years the intention of Working Group for Children is to publish a book with most popular children’s folk songs of the world. Fulfilling this task is however impossible without significant assistance of the respective National Sections.

Therefore I would like to express my cordial request to you to send me at least one representative children’s well known folk song from your country. If you think that it would be reasonable to present different songs typical, representative for different regions of the country, please do so. We are ready to publish more than one song from each country.

To allow us to do our job properly, please send us the following elements of each song:

1. melody [notes] with undersigned text of the first stanza [verse] in original language
2. below the notes please write text of all existing stanzas [verses] in original language. If you do not use Latin alphabet, please take special care of the possibility of making easy copy for publishing reasons.
3. below additional verses please write the free English translation of all the text
4. please indicate from which region of the country is the song

I hope that there will be no problems with copyrights if these are popular songs.

We still miss the song from some of the countries. This is the last call for the children song and last chance that the song from your country could be included into the prepared publication. We will really appreciate sending us the requested materials before the February 14th 2010.

With hope for your kind support of this idea and your fruitful cooperation as well as with my warmest regards

Jerzy Chmiel
Vice-president of CIOFF
Between June 30 and July 5, 2009 almost 2000 folk dancers and musicians from Nordic countries (that is Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Faroe Islands) gathered to 35th NORDLEK festivity in Lahti Finland. The event is held every third year in Finland, Sweden, Denmark or Norway. The participants also included the ex-patriots, who previously immigrated from Nordic Countries.

NORDLEK is not a festival but a festivity where people come from time to time in order to learn new dances and melodies from Nordic region. The main emphasis in the event is not on performances, although some excellent ones were seen during the festivity, but more on social dance. The event has unfortunately failed to create an interest among good quality groups.

That is a pity because also for good groups the event would have given some ideas of the social origin of the dance and music they are performing. I think that like in many European countries folkdance and folk music is learnt mainly in performing groups and for performances on stage and not anymore in their original context. The direct connection to the social history of the dances and music, which groups are performing on stage, has in many cases been lost.

The difficulty in the future of NORDLEK-festivity lies in the fact that participants are getting old and the Nordlek Committee should rethink the structure and scope of the festivity. But the important things, which are learning something new, dancing, playing and singing with each other, should be kept and even made stronger. This would be useful to all performing groups be they folkdance, folk singing or folk music groups. The main fest with joint performances also needs rethinking or at least moving it from sports field to more intimate venue.

The atmosphere in the workshops and dancing nights was great and it reminds of the strong background folklore has. Let’s take good care of it. Norway will host NORDLEK in Steinkjer July 2012.

Submitted by Esa Vihonen
CIOFF Finland
Photos by Timo Hukkanen

FOCUS ON NATIONAL SECTIONS

CIOFF FINLAND

NORDLEK 2009—A Victory of Social Dancing

CIOFF ANNOUNCEMENTS - MUSIC COMPETITION

Announced in 2007 competition for CIOFF Signal gave in result only three proposals effectively possible for using. Therefore Council at its meeting in Habana on November 11th 2009, decided to open the competition once more to give yet the chance to all National Sections to present new proposals of CIOFF Signal.

The signal (musical code) is expected to be used in the following circumstances:

- Opening and closing ceremonies of the World Congress
- Opening and closing ceremonies of the other annual meetings of the organisation
- Opening and closing ceremony of Folkloriada
- Opening and closing ceremony of CIOFF Festivals
- Opening and closing ceremonies of another official CIOFF manifestations

Therefore please be so kind to distribute this message to all your members interested and able to present the respective proposal according to the enclosed rules.

The deadline for sending your proposals is March 31st 2010. Please send them to: Jerzy Chmiel, CIOFF Poland, ul. ZWM 15 m 65, 02-786 Warszawa Poland cioff@cioff.pl

With hope for your kind assistance and support of this idea and with my warmest regards.

For the details of the competition please contact Jerzy Chmiel at the address above.

Jerzy Chmiel
Vice-president of CIOFF
2010 will be the fortieth Anniversary of the creation of CIOFF in Confolens by Mr Henry Coursgat. It will also be my fortieth year of my engagement in Folklore. First as a dancer of Empi et Riaume, then as a leader of the group and more recently leader of a French group federation to finish with CIOFF France Presidency. As far as I can remember CIOFF has always been part of my life just like the French Republican school of which I am a product. In the past, it gave me the opportunity to cross the pathway of those eminent and famous personalities like Jean, Michel, Louis, etc.... Lately I had the occasion to get familiar with more great people, all these friends, passionate men and women, who are involved in these exceptional international events that show the extraordinary cultural diversity of the world.

Today, CIOFF FRANCE is remarkably lively thanks to our former president Bernard Criner who did a perfect job in creating a dynamic organization with about 30 festivals. The leaders of these festivals meet twice a year in order to arrange the tours of foreign groups in France and find the essential solutions for their own organization. They work in Commissions like Resources Mutualisation, French groups Certification. They also help the Youth Commission to carry out their missions, such as this wonderful exposition on traditional games supported by UNESCO they first presented during the last World Congress in Cuba. Since July, the new website of CIOFF France (www.CIOFF.fr) is on line thanks to the contribution of young efficient webmasters coming from different festivals. CIOFF France has surely not completed all its work but it is now planning to offer for the next Folkloriada in Seoul the best of the French expression of regional traditions, thanks to the involvement of several different folk groups’ young choreographers. This operation is a big challenge for all of us because Folklore does not get much support from the French government.

Whatever, the determination is strong, just as equal as the one our leaders had forty years ago when creating this wonderful peaceful movement.

Long life to CIOFF !!!

Submitted by Anne Marie Ciolfi
National Delegate
CIOFF France
CIOFF SPAIN
New Publications

The National Section CIOFF Spain, in its wish of giving answer to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, continues to promote the study and research works. This year it has published three new books: “Polifonías Tradicionales y otras Músicas de la Semana Santa Andaluza”, product of a research made by several teachers and pupils from Ethnomusicology from the University of Granada; “IV Jornadas Nacionales Folklore y sociedad – La Cultura Tradicional en la Sociedad del Siglo XXI”, which collects the conferences offered by eminent Spanish specialists in the meeting celebrated in Burgos; “Danza y Ritual en Extremadura” from M. Pilar Barrios Manzano, referred to a research made with a grant of CIOFF Spain and the Culture Ministry.

During the days 9th and 10th of November, we have held a new edition of “Jornadas de Folklore y Sociedad” (Folklore and Society Days). In this occasion dedicated to the children, under the title: “El Folklore Infantil – La Voz de los niños” (Children Folklore – Children Voice). It has been held by CIOFF Spain together with the University of Extremadura and the Readers Universities Network of Spain. The University of Lisbon has collaborated as well as different state entities and entities of the autonomic government of Extremadura.

CIOFF SWITZERLAND
Festivals Conference on CIOFF Cultural Policy

On November 27th, 2009, the Festivals Presidents and artistic Directors of FRIBOURG (RFI), MARTIGNY (FIFO), ÉVOLÈNE (CIME) and ZURICH (VTZ) as well as two representatives of the CIOFF Youth Commission attended the seminar “CIOFF Festivals – Partners of the CIOFF Cultural Policy” organized by the Swiss National Section of CIOFF. The discussions aimed to establish a cultural partnership on two specific items:

• A festival program formulated in perspective of the CIOFF Cultural Policy

The discussion was based on the results of a preliminary Questionnaire and developed different options on operative aspects like identification, dissemination and preservation of intangible cultural heritage as well as on traditional games and international cooperation.

• Valorization of CIOFF Festivals as cultural events in relation with the UNESCO Convention

The discussion included various questions like Which message with which strategy? and How to make such a commitment known? – Prof. Dr. Hansruedi Müller, Director of the Research Institute for Leisure and Tourism, University of Berne, acted as scientific Consultant. He provided not only critical advices but also concrete proposals from the PR and the marketing point of view. Most of the participants expressed their wish to renew such a seminar in the near future.

Formally, the proposed cultural partnership is based on a CHART signed in 2004/2005 between CIOFF Switzerland and the four mentioned Festivals of the Swiss National Section.


Submitted by Cyrill Renz, CIOFF Switzerland
FOCUS ON

2nd CIOFF International Photo Competition

Due to the huge success of the 1st CIOFF International Photo Competition in 2006, the Council has decided to hold another Photo Competition, which was launched at the CIOFF World Congress in Istanbul.

The organisers of 2nd CIOFF Photo Competition received the total of 468 entries from 93 Photographers from 31 Countries (170 Entries in Action-Performance Category, 120 Entries in Friendships between Nations Category and 178 Entries in Portrait in National Costume Category).

All the Entries have received a Registration Number, which was used during the anonymous judging of competition.

The Judging of the Photo Competition took place at the CIOFF World Congress in Havana on 10th November 2009 and was done by the members of Festivals Commission and members of Working Group on Public Relations – an International Jury of 12 people from all over the World. Each Member of the Jury scored each Entry on a scale of 1-10, anonymously, without knowing the names or countries where the photographers came from. In each Category the Photographs, which received the biggest score from all the Jury Members combined, were pronounced as Winners.

Ten first places in each Category will receive CIOFF Diplomas, which will be send out after the Council Meeting in Korea in April 2010. The announcement of the results and presentation ceremony took place on 14th November 2009 at the Closing Session of the CIOFF World Congress in Havana.

Olga Maloney, Chairman of Working Group on Public Relations
This was the title of the photo competition organized by CIOFF Hungary this past festival season. CIOFF Hungary joined forces with one of the most visited Cultural portals in Hungary, Kulturpart (www.kulturpart.hu), where visitors and participants of any festival could upload a maximum of three photos. Submissions were reviewed and the best photos were selected by a panel of 5 judges from the National Hungarian Photography Creative Group Association. The top three winning photos received monetary awards from the Ministry of Education and Culture and festival directors were also recognized for their role in ensuring the success of the competition. It was a great pleasure to see that the three best festivals turned out to be member festivals of CIOFF Hungary: Gyöngy International Folk Dance Festival in Gyöngyös, Royal Days International Folklore Festival in Székesfehérvár and Summerfest International Folk Festival in Százhalombatta.

In all 625 photos were submitted by 210 people in one of four categories (the fourth being ‘Handcrafts’). The photographs reflected 68 folk festivals in Hungary (both national and international) as well as village celebrations and other feasts. Winners as well as the other contestants received invitations to the award ceremony and concert event at the Millennium Park Complex Theatre in Budapest on 25 September this year. Also celebrated at the event were winners of amateur filmmaking and youth band competitions as well.

I felt compelled to write about the event not merely because of its success, but because the original Photo Competition initiated by CIOFF International provided an opportunity for us to popularize our events at CIOFF Hungary and for them to appear on a cultural portal whose target audience are young people interested in art, culture, filmmaking, worldmusic, theatre and pop music – a fairly sizable group, who would otherwise not necessarily seek out folk culture events. We were thus able to reach a new audience and popularize CIOFF and folk art in general. We have already received an invitation to have our best photos exhibited right in the heart of the downtown tourist district within the framework of the Budapest Spring Festival in 2010. Can’t beat that for free publicity and awareness-raising value!

We would like to thank the PR Working Group for launching the CIOFF Photo Competition. It was truly a great idea! and as our experience shows, it can serve as an effective tool in publicizing the work of the National Sections as well.

Submitted by Eva Hera, CIOFF Hungary
We, in CIOFF Israel, would like to share with all CIOFF National Sections our experience in initiating and developing, in cooperation with other organizations and institutions, projects in the fields of preserving and exposing traditional Cultures to young people.

One of the projects is the establishment of Permanent Forum “The Dostrovski Forum for Music and Dance education”, led by the "Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance" which is the National Academy of Israel. The Forum is composed of 35 leading experts, in the fields of music and dance education; "practitioners" and "theorists", administrators and teachers, artists and researchers, and leading people in the fields of preserving and exposing traditional cultures (Jewish and Arabs).

I was a member of the initiating committee and continue to be a member of the steering committee of the Forum. The Forum convened first time on 15.10.09. The plan is to meet four times a year and deal with the basic principles and issues of "Music and Dance Education" and the preservation of traditional cultures in a changing world. At the first gathering I presented an opening paper on "Music and Dance education in a changing world", dealing specifically with the issues of "what", "how", "when", "where", "to whom" and "by whom" – we transmit cultures from generation to generation. The paper dealt with issues such as, "how" we preserve our "collective memory" in multicultural societies in the world. How we preserve traditional cultures in a world - "Global Village" - which is so heterogeneous; a world in which traditional cultures disappear rapidly.

In my presentation, I emphasized CIOFF policy in which the concept of "multiculturalism" means recognition of the right to live in one's born culture; the right of cultures to continue to exist, develop, and not to be evaluated by the values of other cultures.

Our other experience of cooperation is with the Ministries of Education and Culture, the purpose is to extend and improve Art Education, and specifically traditional arts as sources of inspiration to artists. In order to succeed in preserving traditional cultures we have to include them in the school's curriculum. To achieve this purpose we need the cooperation of the leading people in the educational and cultural systems.

In November 09 we took part in the annual meeting of all the dance teachers in Israel, in which, we stressed the importance of the arts, traditional and contemporary, in recognizing the cultures of the "others" (Israel is very heterogeneous with more than 100 ethnic national and religious groups).

To reduce the influence of "Ethnocentric attitude" – which emphasize the "centrality" of one's own culture; to improve the ability to solve problems and to explore alternative solutions, to encourage innovations, to enrich the sources of inspirations, to create and to encourage excellence etc. – Art Education is important and the folklore is a rich resource.

CIOFF National Sections, could and should, take a leading part in these areas of Art Education; we should do our best to convince educational authorities, to include in the school curriculum, formal and informal, diversified elements of folklore as art and a "way of life" a way of strengthening communities and identities and the sense of belongings. One of the main CIOFF roles is to contribute to the education of young people to strengthen their roots and their cultural identities, to expose them to their families own traditional culture and the cultures of the "others" – folklore and the arts are very important to achieve these educational aims.

Submitted by Dan Ronen, CIOFF Israel
The CIOFF UK Irish Dance Group “Absolutely Legless” attended Montignac Festival in France in 2009. At the Festival there they met a young local dance group called Ballet Whyte, who did a mixture of various styles of dance, including some Irish. They clearly wanted to develop their skills in Irish Dance but did not have the relevant training, or a teacher who could help them. Dianne Newman, the leader and choreographer of “Absolutely Legless” spoke to the director of the group, and offered to go over and spend some time with them doing a workshop on technique, and new steps. She went to France in November 2009, taught 3 different groups and have been helping them buy shoes and learn Irish dance which they can incorporate into their own dance performances. The feedback she received after the workshop, was great. Young French dancers enjoyed learning new techniques and are now inspired to carry on learning more Irish dancing. Your enthusiastic approach really worked for them.

It was funny to see them the following morning rubbing their sore backs, legs and bums. Dianne really seems to have put them through their paces. They carried on practicing in the living rooms when they got home from the lessons and all seemed to be "buzzing".

Dianne will be going again in the New Year.

Submitted by Dianne Newman, CIOFF UK

The tour of the South Coastal Network of International Festivals of Cultural Diversity affiliated with CIOFF Venezuela - International Festival of Cultural Diversity of Virgen de la Chinquínquira; International Festival of Cultural Diversity of Guacara; International Festival of Cultural Diversity of La Serena; International Festival of Presentation of Dance and Traditional Music of Pijiguao took place from 8th November till 12th December 2009, with the participation of the following artistic groups: POLAND, ROMANIA, MEXICO, COLOMBIA, ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA.

The following activities took place: Planting of trees, Official visits, Meetings of experts and interested individuals, “Miss Folklore”, Folkloric Parades, traditional Weddings, Exhibits of traditional costumes and accessories, Workshops and Conferences, handicraft and gastronomical exhibits.

The targets of this tour were: The involvement of the Community Councils of each State in the organization and presentation of the event; the attendance of an average of 1,000 persons per event in each community and 500 students and 50 teachers in each educational institution that was visited; and that the media take advantage of the opportunity to disseminate information on the events that took place. A total of 20 events took place in the State of Zulia; 20 in the State of Carobodo; 60 in the State of Anzoategui and 60 in the State of Bolivar.

Participating were 150 international artists in each State.of the Tour and 110 national artists in the State of Zulia, 100 national artists in the State of Carobodo, 120 national artists in the State of Anzoategui and 100 national artists in the State of Bolivar.

Submitted by Maria Grisel, CIOFF Venezuela
Focus on National Sections

CIOFF Turkey
International Symposium “Preservation of Traditional Cultures”

“The problems and solutions concerning the Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Cultures within International Culture and Art Organizations.”

Symposium was organized between 24-28 June 2009 at the Conference Hall of Kucukcekmece Municipality, with the cooperation of CIOFF and Municipality of Kucukcekmece, with the contribution from Istanbul Technical University Turkish Music State Conservatory Scientific Board.

At this international symposium, 20 academicians from Hungary, Argentina, Poland, Switzerland and Turkey, presented their papers. A lot of other academicians from Turkey, men of science and folk dance groups’ members took their places among the audience during the symposium.

The Mayor of Kucukcekmece Municipality, Mr. Aziz Yeniay, summarized the topic in his opening speech with his below rightful words:

“Today, a teenager in Sofia and a teenager in Buenos Aires listen to the same music, eat at the same restaurant chains, wear the clothes of same brands and watch the same movies simultaneously. At this point, it is a must to get under control of the culturel diversity in the world and the global lifestyle that alienates from daily lives. And this is only possible with the preservation of the local culture and motives and their transmission to the next generations. Our symposium is therefore very important. I thank to everyone who extended their hard work in it.”

On behalf of CIOFF, the Vice President Mr. Jerzy Chmiel and on behalf of CIOFF Türkiye, the President Mr. Savas Tugsavul gave their speeches.

The symposium where it has been told about the culture heritage of ages at the world, multicolorism and multiculturalism, enlightened the attendants in five sessions. Every lecturer of each session sheded a light to World Culture with their explanations about the topic of the symposium. A very useful platform has been constituted with the exchange of knowledge on cultural level that went on with the questions of the attendants and responses of the lecturers.

Within the symposium, the performance of Balet Folklorico de Paipa – Colombia folk dance group and Mr. Üstün Gürtuna’s own exhibitions of “Traditional Anatolian Costumes” and “Turkish and Friendly Nations’ Instruments” attracted great attention.

During his closing speech, Prof. Fikret Degerli has emphasized the importance of these kinds of symposiums in looking after and passing on our culture and values that are tending to be forgotten as a result of fast technological developments.

At the end of the Symposium, all the attendants received their participation certificates and also the deputy mayor of Kucukcekmece, Mr. Ahmet Turan Koçer presented the plaquettes and certificates of the lecturers.

The symposium ended on June 27th, with an organization of sightseeing tours to Miniaturk, Dolmabahce Palace, The Bosphorus by boat, Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar.

The symposium papers will be prepared as a booklet and as soon as the editing gets completed, it will be published by December to compose a permanent source.

Submitted by Muammer Aslan, CIOFF Turkey
Brigham Young International Folk Dancers were among the groups participating in this remarkable event. In 2009, in addition to participating in various events at BYU, Mary Bee drove her own car between the States of Utah and Washington, where she spent a good part of the Summer on one of the San Juan Islands, located in the channel between Seattle (Washington), USA and Victoria (British Columbia), Canada, all this in addition to a trip to Alaska, to round out Mary Bee’s summer. CIOFF USA and the whole of CIOFF owe Mary Bee Jensen a great debt of gratitude, and we wish her continued enjoyment of her retirement for many more years to come.

Submitted by Rolf Kaufman, CIOFF USA

FOCUS ON CIOFF FUTURE EVENTS

CIOFF WORLD CULTURAL CONFERENCE, Anseong, Korea 16th -24th April 2010

CIOFF World Cultural Conference will take place in Anseong, Korea between 16th and 24th April 2010, covering 3 main topics: Significance of the Festivals Network; Importance of Intangible Cultural Heritage and significance of CIOFF and Significance of a Folklore festival. Along with the Cultural Conference CIOFF EXCO & Council Meeting, Meeting of the Asian and Oceanian Sector, Joint Meeting of the Festival Commission and Working Group on Public Relations and Meeting of Folkloriada Working Group will also take place.
The CIOFF Newsletter “Entre Nous” is published twice per year: after the Spring Council Meeting and after the CIOFF annual Congress. The ninth edition of CIOFF newsletter will come out in June 2010 with the deadline for information submission of 15th December 2009.

If your Festivals, National Sections, CIOFF Sectors, Commissions or Working Groups have any interesting or important information, which you would like to submit to be included into the next CIOFF Newsletter, please send it to:

CIOFF Working Group on Public Relations by e-mail:
newsletter@cioff.org

CIOFF Working Group on Public Relations would like to thank everyone who sent their contribution for this edition of the Newsletter, and especially to thank CIOFF Spain, Rolf Kaufman for their help with the translations.

CIOFF, Working Group on Public Relations & Festivals Commission bear no responsibility for the content of the articles received from CIOFF members and published in this Newsletter.

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NEXT PUBLICATIONS OF CIOFF NEWSLETTER

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2001-2010

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD
DECENNIE INTERNATIONALE DE LA PROMOTION D'UNE CULTURE DE LA NON-VIOLENCE ET DE LA PAIX AU PROFIT DES ENFANTS DU MONDE
العهد 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