



by Mrs Margaret SIKKENS AHLQUIST, President of FIG Gymnastics for All Committee.

Lelystad (NED) / Moutier (SUI)

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International Colloquium – ‘Gymnastics: A way to a healthy life’

The FIG, through their Gymnastics for All Committee, continues to demonstrate the valuable role that the sport plays by the successful staging of a recent International Colloquium in Singapore. Over 30 representatives from across the world attended the four day Colloquium sharing ideas, experiences while also considering latest research findings and the role that Gymnastics can play in the field of Health. Thanks are extended to the Singapore Federation who coordinated the local Colloquium arrangements for the FIG. A summary of key outcomes and future strategies will be forwarded to all participating Federations in the coming weeks. The work completed will assist the FIG GFA Committee in setting their priorities for the oncoming years within this field.

International Relations

One of the key roles of the FIG is the continuous promotion of gymnastics at the International level. This includes representation on the IOC Sport for All Commission by the President, Bruno Grandi and Margaret Sikkens Ahlquist, President GFA Committee. A key activity of the FIG has also been involvement in the World Sport for All Congresses organized every 2nd year by the IOC in collaboration with GAISF (General Association of International Sports Federations) and WHO (World Health Organisation). Following on from the last Congress the FIG was requested to submit a report to GAISF on their activities undertaken within the GFA area across the 2006/2007 period. We are pleased that a positive response on the report was received along with a request to publish the FIG GFA report as part of the 2008 Congress papers. This is a very important result and again recognizes the valuable role Gymnastics plays across the world.

World Gymnaestrada

Preparations for the 2011 World Gymnaestrada have started well with the staging of a Joint Evaluation meeting involving representatives from the 2007 Organising Committee, 2011 Organising Committee and GFA Committee members. Across four intensive days Representatives reviewed detailed evaluations from all key organisational areas, visited key Lausanne venues selected for 2011 and formulated the working schedule for the coming years.

Lausanne will open its doors to National Federations for the first time in March 2009 when the FIG stage the 1st World Gymnaestrada Information Meeting for the 2011 event. In the coming months the 2011 Organising Committee will begin to prepare the new Gymnaestrada web site so all is ready when the official Invitation is issued by the FIG by July 2008.

International Course – Group Performances & Shows

With over 30 representatives from across the World coming together in Amsterdam last December the International Course: Group Performances and Shows was set to be an outstanding success. Across 3 days key experts shared their ideas and experiences with National Federation representatives responsible for this area of work within their countries. The FIG will continue to play an active role in facilitating the sharing of information, ideas and experiences through such informative courses and Colloquiums.

International Event - World Gym for Life Challenge

The first World Gym for Life Challenge will be held in 2009 with the FIG Council taking a decision on the host Federation during their May meeting.



THE GFA NEWSLETTER

FIG Foundations of Gymnastics Coaching Course

Development of the FIG's new Foundations of Gymnastics Coaching course, that will form the base of the Academy program, is progressing well following the staging of our 1st pilot in Namibia in November 2007. Final preparations are now being made to the supporting resource manual and course content with a 2nd pilot course set for April this year. The GFA Committee will then stage a Course Presenter training workshop in the later part of 2008, extending invitations to key presenters across the world. Following this it will be possible, as with all Academy courses, for National Federations to apply to host a course within their own country.

Gymnastics for people with a disability

Following return of the Questionnaire circulated to all National Federations at the end of 2007 the GFA Committee have now collated all feedback and ideas provided. It was interesting to note that out of the 21 Questionnaires returned by member federations only 6 are active at this time within the field of Disability. Many Federations however, work in partnership with other key National organisations and focus on inclusion at local level. The GFA report will now be presented to the EC for consideration.

FIG Gymnastics for All Committee

The GFA Committee is extremely active with many projects, meetings and events being supported by the FIG. Please make note of the following future opportunities to ensure they are included within your planning and budgeting:-

2008: Proposed dates

- Join the Gymnaestrada course – August, Mexico
- Join the Gymnaestrada course – North Africa
- Foundations of Gymnastics Coaching Course, Presenter training, Denmark

2009: Proposed dates

- World Gymnaestrada 1st Information Meeting: March, Lausanne
- Join the Gymnaestrada Course, Asia
- World Gym for Life Challenge, July
- International Colloquium: Gymnastics for All, November Lausanne
- Foundations of Gymnastics Coaching Course

Sincere thanks are extended to the Singapore Gymnastics Federation for hosting our February meeting. The next meeting of the GFA Committee will be held in April in Stockholm. Remember, visit the FIG web site for all the latest information on the many exciting projects that our Committee now has underway.

Should you have any questions or require further details on any of the activities we have outlined in this Newsletter please don't hesitate to contact us directly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Margaret Sikkens Ahlquist".

Margaret SIKKENS AHLQUIST,
GFA Committee President