

19th AIMS WORLD CONGRESS

Prague, May 10-12, 2012

Closing remarks

Paco Borao, President of AIMS

Dear friends,

As anything in life, the AIMS World Congress comes to an end...

Before anything, let me thank and congratulate Carlo Capalbo and his PIM team for this magnificent organization: your logistics, attentions, professionalism, and overall ambiance surrounding us with a deep friendship results on what we can now say has been a great, really great success. Carlo, please extend our thanks to your civil and sportive authorities, sponsors, all partners, and more specially to everyone of your team.

Thanks again, and good luck for your Prague International Marathon tomorrow, I only wish that the weather turns to better, I am sure that your team will take care of everything else.

It is our hope that all of you attending this Congress go back home with the feeling of having learned new concepts, listened to new ideas, met new people to correspond with, and in overall feeling proud of belonging to the AIMS family...

From what we have done, let me summarize:

- The Board of Directors reported AIMS progress made between last Congress in Athens to this date in relation to its main objectives, and we all saw the good health of our Association, basically from two aspects:
 - The continuous growth of runners participating in distance races around the world.
 - The permanent increase of races applying to become members of our Association.

Something which allows us to conclude that even if with the difficulties we face, even if we can make errors from time to time, our aim, our dedication, our work is without any doubt devoted to giving the best services to our members and to their runners.

Our relationship with IAAF remains strong, even stronger as the demand of our sport grows and grows, so our cooperation is more and more necessary for the wellbeing of running.

And this Congress has been the best opportunity of sharing information, expertise and knowledge, and above all, friendship between members of our Association.

- We addressed what we believe are the most important areas for Race organizers: Sponsors for smaller events, Disaster Recovery Plans, Community involvement, Innovative technologies, Impact of races in overall environment, and we thank the Race Directors and their teams for the excellency of their presentations.
- We launched the “Women in Running” subject, presented by the main speakers of the Congress Kathryn Switzer and Roger Robinson, showing the old and current concerns on the “equal opportunity” for men and women in the running environment.
- We acknowledge the will and the quality of the presentations made by the venues of Comrades, Kosice, Medellin, Omsk and Two Oceans to host the next Congress of AIMS; all perfectly prepared, explained, showing their local and regional assets ready to hold a wonderful event; the audience decided that the 20th AIMS WORLD CONGRESS will be hosted by the Comrades Marathon after a long and tough process of selection. Congratulations to Comrades and a big thank you for the other four events which took part of the venue election process.
- We accepted the changes of some Articles of Association, made to simplify some areas of membership management.
- We voted for the election of one Vice-president and three new members of the Board, and the Race Directors attending decided that Dave Cundy (Great Wall Marathon, China) is elected for two terms as Vice-president; and that Mark Milde (Berlin Marathon and Half Marathon, Germany), Gary Boshoff (Comrades Marathon, South Africa), and Bruno Boukobza (Marathon des Alpes Maritimes, France) were elected as Board Directors also for two terms.

I would like also to thank Jim Moberly (Prague Marathon, Czech Republic) and Andrea Ybe (Vancouver Marathon, Canada) who stood up for election, honoring thru their will the image of AIMS.

New people coming always means people leaving, and our friendship and sense of justice requires thanking those who leave the Board after an important, extraordinary services provided to AIMS: Those are Carlos Moya (Vice-president since 2005) who becomes Honorary Vice-president; Gordon Rogers after 20 years of service as Technical Director; and Carlo Capalbo, what to say about after having attended this Congress hosted by him and his team.

In summary, it is our hope that you have enjoyed your participation in this 19th AIMS World Congress, hoping to see all of you and hopefully many more people in 2014 at the 20th AIMS World Congress in Durban, South Africa.

Thank you all for sharing your ideas, for being here together with all your colleagues and friends, and let’s keep working towards the continuous progress of our loved sport: RUNNING, carrying health, friendship, peace, and solidarity.

My deepest wish: that you go back home feeling proud of being a key piece of the AIMS family.

Thank you and good luck.