



AIMS Association of International
Marathons and Distance Races

Athens, 4 March 2016

**To: All AIMS Race Directors
All AIMS Partners**

Subject: 21st World Congress of AIMS in Athens/Greece, 10-12 November 2016

Dear AIMS Race Directors, dear Partners, dear Friends,

Following our recent communication where I informed you about the cancellation of the 21st World Congress originally scheduled in Quito, I am pleased to inform you that the **21st World Congress of AIMS will take place in Athens/Greece on 10-12 November 2016.**

Since the very beginning of this unpleasant and unusual situation, I felt that the natural alternative was to try hosting the Congress in Athens, the city of AIMS-HQ and the place where we annually organise the AIMS Symposium and other events with our friends, the Hellenic Athletics Federation (SEGAS) and the Athens Marathon, The Authentic. Towards this direction, I immediately asked SEGAS (our Patron sponsor) and Athens Marathon, giving them the priority to examine the case and undertake the responsibility and organizational costs to organize the 21st World Congress of AIMS in Athens, on November 10-12, 2016 along with other AIMS/SEGAS events as well as including the Authentic Marathon.

SEGAS came back to us with a positive reply and we are all looking now towards the future for staging a successful Congress in Athens. As you surely understand, as we had to deal with an unusual situation, the final decision was exceptionally determined by the AIMS Board of Directors without the vote of the Congress member attendees, procedure established in our Articles of Association and always followed at all congresses up to now..

At this point, I would like to thank all of our members for their support and especially the 15 AIMS member races that generously offered their assistance to stage a replacement Congress. Your significant support on this issue, at this difficult time for us, shows your personal interest for the future of AIMS along with the significant growth of our Association, facts that make all of us proud of belonging in this big AIMS Family.

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Right now, we are in the planning phase of the Congress along with SEGAS, and soon you will be informed about registration process, topics, timetable/schedule as we have done successfully in the past. In any case, highlight these dates in your agenda: **10-12 November 2016 in Athens/Greece**, where the **21st World Congress of AIMS** will take place and where we will enjoy the parallel events such as the 10th AIMS Symposium, the AIMS Best Marathon Runners Awards, the Opening Ceremony & Marathon Flame Lighting at the archaeological site of the Marathon Tomb, and of course the whole event of **Athens Marathon, The Authentic on 13 November 2016** along with 5k & 10k races.

Looking into the future, I encourage all the 15 AIMS member races having expressed their interest and any other member interested in hosting the 22nd World Congress (to be held sometime between June 2018 and May 2019) to get in contact with AIMS Secretary, Hugh Jones aimssec@aol.com for Congress guidelines and access to an application form. These forms should be completed and returned by 31 October 2016.

Dear AIMS Race Directors, dear Partners, dear friends,

Once again, thank you for your support and understanding; moreover, a special thank you to all who by their messages and offerings make me feeling so proud of our association.

Looking forward to meet you in Athens, in November 2016, please receive my best sportive and friendly regards.

Paco Borao
President of AIMS