

02 May 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our General Assembly Meeting in Washington, DC.

I am very glad to see amongst us and in good shape, our Immediate Past-President, Joe Maggio,.

Joe, as I said in Tokyo, both at the Opening Ceremony and the General Assembly, we missed you. And I surely missed my personal coach this previous year...

And speaking of Tokyo : our 9<sup>th</sup> Congress was, after Athens and the previous Congresses, another highlight in IFEA's existence.

Professor Hideaki Suda, the Congress President, is to be complimented for his successful achievement. In the name of us all, I wish him a rewarding retirement. Dr Kawashima, I count on you to transmit him this message in person. Also thank you for providing us with a copy of the amazing video that was shown at the Opening Ceremony.

IFEA has grown : we now have 35 Member-Societies. Iraq and Colombia our latest members are joined by Egypt this year (upon approval of the General Assembly).

Dr Mark Wotzke and Professor Luke Kim will give us all relevant information later on.

The management of our Website has been a challenge. Thank you, Joe, for keeping up, despite your surgeries.

We also thank Axis SybronEndo for the years of financial support for the original development and continuous update of the Website.

Shortly from now, I will step down and transmit my gavel to President-elect, Professor Sam Dorn.

I have great pride to have been chosen to serve as President of this prestigious Federation.

Thank you fellow Officers, Joe, Sam, Luke, and Mark, for your constant availability.

Changing of the guard is mandatory in a democratic society. We have a Dream Team coming up. More information about this later on but at this point, I have pleasure in welcoming Catherine Ricci (with a record of 9 years as Regent Director of Europe) onto the Board of Directors.

The Education Committee is still chaired by President-elect, Sam Dorn. He offered to stay on as no candidates were found to replace him.

May I remind the Regent Directors and the Country Representatives from each of our Member- Societies of my message at our last year's General Assembly to go headhunting and look for candidates for our different Committees ?

This world organisation relies on too few individuals !

We wonder if any candidates are sitting with us today ?

In the meantime, as Past-President-to-be, I will continue to serve IFEA, if and when needed.

Thank you all, Officers, Regent Directors, Country Representatives and the members of the Research Committee : Drs Markus Haapasalo, chair and Gary Cheung, Gustavo De- Deus, Alan Gluskin, Robert Love and Stéphane Simon for your commitment and dedication to IFEA.

Patrick Bogaerts, President