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F.l. Director Samamé, Secretary General Ong, Vice-President Nathaniel, Director Suhadolc, Oliver Hanschmidt - Chairman for MARE BALTICUM 2024 regional exhibition under FIP Sponsorship and President Chirakiti in Tartu, Estonia on 30 July 2024.

Editorial	2
The President's Page	3
The FIP	5
FIP Jury	8
FIP Congress	13
Member Federations	14
FIP Sponsorship	17
FIP Recognition	20
Associate Members	21
Responsibilities	24

Editorial

The current FLASH content is not particularly rich, but we thought it was worthwile to have an issue appear before the FIP Congress.

The summaries of the last two FIP Conference meetings are presented first, followed by some updates. The first on the new Grand Prix Club web-subsite, the second on the upcoming FIP Congress in Shanghai, China, giving more detailed information on the related venue and hotel, that will be useful for the attending delegates.

An important article on the way jurors are selected for FIP Patronage Exhibitions is very timely and will hopefully respond to many doubts and misunderstandings that have aroused in our community regarding this topic.

Two important FIP sponsored regional exhibitions were held in the last period: The Five-Nations 2024 Exhibition held in Vietnam and the Buenos Aires 2024 one held in Argentina. Both have been very successful.

Recently also two of our Associate Members have held their congresses, FEPA in Copenhagen, during the HAFNIA 2024 Exhibition, and FIAF in Buenos Aires during the FIP-sponsored Exhibition. Brief reports on both are provided.

We trust you will find also this FLASH issue informative and pleasant to read.

The Editors Aldo Samamé y Samamé Peter Suhadolc

Editorial

El contenido actual de FLASH no es abundante, pero consideramos que vale la pena publicar este número antes del Congreso de la FIP.

Para empezar se presentan el resumen de las dos últimas reuniones virtuales del Consejo Directivo FIP, seguidas de algunas actualizaciones. La primera sobre el nuevo sub-sitio web del Grand Prix Club, la segunda sobre el próximo Congreso FIP en Shanghái, China, brindando información más detallada sobre el lugar y el hotel, que serán útiles para los delegados asistentes.

Un artículo importante sobre cómo se seleccionan a los jurados de las Exposiciones con Patrocinio FIP es muy oportuno y esperamos que responda a muchas dudas y malentendidos que hay en nuestra comunidad con respecto a este tema.

Ultimamente se han celebrado dos importantes exposiciones regionales patrocinadas por la FIP: la Exposición Cinco Naciones 2024, ocurrida en Vietnam, y la Exposición Buenos Aires 2024, realizada en Argentina. Ambas han tenido mucho éxito.

Recientemente, dos de nuestros miembros asociados también celebraron sus congresos: FEPA en Copenhague, durante la exposición HAFNIA 2024, y FIAF en Buenos Aires durante la exposición Buenos Aires 2024 que tuvo Auspicio FIP. Se proporcionan breves informes sobre ambas actividades.

Confiamos en que este número de FLASH también le resulte informativo y agradable de leer.

Los Editores Aldo Samamé y Samamé Peter Suhadolc



The 77th FIP Congress shall soon be held in conjunction with CHINA 2024 the 40th Asian International Exhibition with FIP Recognition in Shanghai on December 3, 2024. As this Congress could not be held together with any FIP Patronage Exhibition like before, the FIP Board had offered a two nights hotel accommodation to each FIP Member attending the Congress in appreciation of their efforts to attend the event. The CHINA 2024 Organising Committee had also kindly arranged for the Congress venue; offered airport transfers between Pudong Airport and the official hotel, as well as a Palmares ticket to the 77th FIP Congress voting delegates.

The Board has worked on and approved proposed updates to the Jury and Commissions' Guidelines. The latter had been circulated to the FIP Commissions for their comments. The latest Jury Guidelines are posted on the FIP website and the changes made are reflected in this FLASH issue.

The Board also proposed updated to the GREX for the Congress approval in Shanghai, we hoped that Members will kindly approve them.

We are happy to inform that a second Continental Jury Training class will also be held in Shanghai on November 26 - 27, 2024.

The next upcoming FIP Patronage Exhibition will be URUGUAY 2025 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition to be held in Punta del Este during February 17-22, 2025. PHILAKOREA 2025 Specialised World Stamp Exhibition shall be held in September 17-21, 2025 in Seoul. We hope that Members will kindly support them by participating in their Exhibitions.

Congratulations to the Organising Committees of the 2024 FIP sponsorship Exhibitions, MARE BALTICUM 2024 held from 26-28 July 2024 in Tartu, Estonia; the Five-Nations Exhibition in Hanoi, Vietnam from 10-12 October 2024 and Buenos Aires 2024 in Buenos Aires in Argentina from 21-26 October 2024 for their success. In addition, the FIP Board also supported the BALKANFILA XX in Athens, Greece from 13-16 November 2024 with partial sponsorship for 2024.

We appreciate your comments, suggestions and feedback on how to promote our beloved hobby.

With Best Wishes,

Prakob Chirakiti on behalf of the FIP Board of Directors



El 77º Congreso FIP se celebrará durante CHINA 2024, la 40º Exposición Internacional Asiática con Reconocimiento FIP en Shanghai, el 3 de diciembre 2024. Como este Congreso no pudo celebrarse junto a una Exposición con Patrocinio FIP como antes, el Consejo Directivo FIP ofrece dos noches de alojamiento de hotel al delegado de cada miembro FIP que asista al Congreso en reconocimiento a su esfuerzo por asistir al evento. El Comité Organizador de CHINA 2024 ha tenido la amabilidad de organizar la sede del Congreso, ofreciendo los traslados desde el aeropuerto de Pudong al hotel oficial, así como una entrada al Palmarés para los delegados votantes del 77º Congreso FIP.

El Consejo Directivo ha trabajado y aprobado las actualizaciones propuestas a las Directrices del Jurado y las Comisiones. Este último ha sido circulado a las Comisiones FIP para sus comentarios. Las más recientes Directrices del Jurado están publicadas en la web de la FIP y los cambios hechos están publicados en esta edición de FLASH.

El Consejo Directivo también ha propuesto actualizaciones al GREX para su aprobación en el Congreso de Shanghai, esperamos que los miembros tengan la amabilidad de aprobarlas.

Nos complace informar que la segunda Academia Continental de Jurados se realizará en Shanghai del 26 al 27 de noviembre 2024.

La próxima Exposición con Patrocinio FIP será la Exposición Mundial Especializada URUGUAY 2025, que se realizará en Punta del Este del 17 al 22 de febrero 2025. La Exposición Mundial Especializada PHILAKOREA 2025 se llevará a cabo del 17 al 21 de septiembre 2025. Esperamos que los miembros apoyen participando en estas exposiciones.

Felicitamos a los Comité Organizadores de las Exposiciones con Auspicio FIP del 2024, MARE BALTICUM 2024, celebrada del 26 al 28 de julio 2024 en Tartu, Estonia; la Exposición de las Cinco Naciones en Hanoi, Vietnam, del 10 al 12 de octubre 2024 y la Exposición Buenos Aires 2024, Argentina, del 21 al 26 de octubre 2024, por su éxito. Además, el Consejo Directivo FIP también apoyó la Exposición BALKANFILA XX en Atenas, Grecia, del 13 al 16 de noviembre 2024 que tuvo Auspicio Parcial FIP.

Agradecemos sus comentarios, sugerencia y opiniones sobre cómo promover nuestro querido hobby.

Con los mejores deseos,

Prakob Chirakiti en nombre del Consejo Directivo FIP

Highlights of the 175th FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 11 September 2024

EXHIBITIONS

CHINA 2024 (FIP Recognition)

President Chirakiti made a trip to Shanghai for final discussions and visit to the Exhibition and FIP Congress Venue kindly arranged by the Organising Committee. Vice-President Tan reported that FIAP shall hold another Jury Training for the continental Asian jurors before the start of the exhibition. The Board approved that the annual budgeted allocated for Continental Training of 5,000 USD per continent per year, be approved for this training.

URUGUAY 2025

Vice-President Macedo updated that the Organising Committee was consolidating the accepted exhibits list which shall be sent for the checking by FIP Secretariat on the past awards. He shall also send to the Board the proposed jury list for discussion and approval.

PHILAKOREA 2025

Vice-President Tan updated that the IREX and agreement were being finalized.

MACAO 2026

Director Khoory updated that he was finalizing the contract with the OC to be signed at the end of the Congress in Shanghai.

PHILATAIPEI 2026

President Chirakiti updated that the agreement had been signed by both parties.

BELGRADE 2028

President Chirakiti updated on behalf of Director Suhadolc that President Milic of Serbian Federation shall be present in person in Shanghai to make a short presentation of the exhibition during the Congress.

FIP SPONSORSHIP

The Board members approved the application from LIBEREC 2025 and hence this shall be the exhibition granted FIP Sponsorship for Europe for year 2025.

77th FIP CONGRESS

MOTION FROM THE BOARD ON ADDITIONAL PROPOSED UPDATES TO GREX 8.4

After detailed discussion, it was agreed by the FIP Board that to add a Motion for an additional clause to be updated to the GREX 8.4:

Large Gold can be awarded to 8-frame exhibits (except Literature exhibits) with at least 95 points.

This was made in reference GREX 6.4 that exhibits that had been awarded LV and above has to be expanded to 8 frames in 36 months.

This is to ensure fairer judging as exhibits with lesser number of frames have the advantage of showing more of only the best materials. The title and storyline is in the control of the exhibitor prior to them forming the exhibit, hence they should not choose a frame-limiting title since they should keep in mind that ultimately the exhibit has to be a 8-frame exhibit.

JURY

ARTICLE ON "HOW THE INTERNATIONAL JURY TEAM IS FORMED FOR FIP PATRONAGE EXHIBITIONS"

President Chirakiti circulated the article co-authored with Vice President Nathaniel for the Board's comments. The article shall be published in FLASH 138.

COMMISIONS

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PICTURE POSTCARDS GUIDELINES AND SREVS

Director Khoory presented the proposed guidelines and SREVs by the Picture Postcards Working Group and there were some comments from the Board after some discussions. The document was to be further reviewed with the Working Group.

Highlights of the 176th FIP Board of Directors Conference Meeting on 27 September 2024

77th FIP CONGRESS

APPROVAL OF UPDATED CONGRESS DOCUMENT WITH TWO ADDITIONAL PROPOSED UPDATES TO GREX

Other than the first additional update as discussed and agreed in the last Board meeting, the Board also proposed another Motion to help Members with a special annual fee of 200 CHF for a few Members with more than two years outstanding dues, so that they can continue to exhibit in FIP exhibitions in the meantime, before clearing their dues:

- a) Applicable to all existing Members in Tier 1 (625 CHF) Annual Subscription fee of no more than 10 Vermeil medal and above exhibits
- b) No voting rights in the FIP Congress.
- c) Tier One Members with more than two years of outstanding dues can make up for these dues (200 CHF x number of outstanding years) and future annual fees at this new CHF 200 per year without voting rights, in order to continue exhibiting in FIP World Stamp Exhibitions.
- d) To regain voting rights, these Members have to clear the balance of their outstanding dues (425CHF x number of outstanding years before FIP approval of converting to 200 CHF Tier).
- e) Upon FIP Board approval for conversion to 200 CHF tier Membership and dues paid, these Members can participate in the immediate upcoming FIP Exhibitions.

EXHIBITIONS

CHINA 2024

President Chirakiti updated that CHINA 2024 had sent out the jury invitations.

FIP SPONSORSHIPS

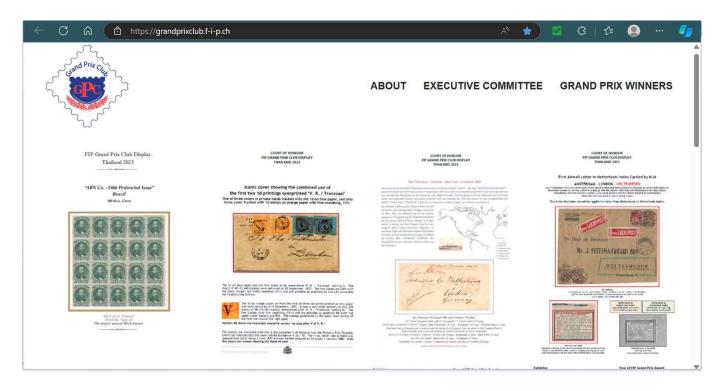
Vice-President Tan reported that the Vietnam Five-Nations exhibition would be held from 10-12 October 2024 with 300 frames of exhibits. He shall be there as FIP Representative from 9 – 13 October 2024.

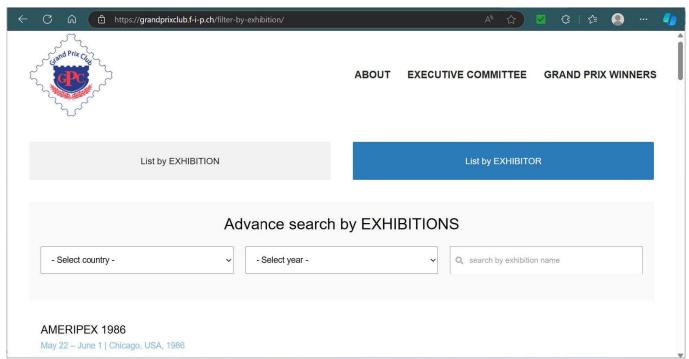
Director Samamé updated that the Buenos Aires 2024 exhibition would be held from 22 – 26 October 2024, all the team leaders will be FIP accredited jurors.

The final exhibit list was confirmed and there shall be a total of about 500 frames.

NEW FIP GRAND PRIX CLUB SUBSITE

The new FIP Grand Prix Club subsite https://grandprixclub.f-i-p/ch has been launched since October 2024. FIP hopes philatelists will like the new look and interface of the site and look forward to more Grand Prix winners joining the club in the coming years!





There is a search feature by Exhibition and by Exhibitor that visitors can search for the past Grand Prix winners in FIP Patronage Exhibitions. New features will be added, we look forward to any feedback that you may have!

UPDATES TO THE JURY GUIDELINES

The following updates to the Jury Guidelines were discussed and approved by the FIP Board members at the 174th FIP Board meeting held in Tartu, Estonia on 29 July 2024.

Existing	Updates	Reasons
Article 15: Requirements	Article 15: Requirements	
Any FIP juror, already fully accredited in one or more of the FIP judging classes, and who has served as a regular FIP juror at least twice subsequent to original accreditation, may qualify in another specified FIP judging class, under the following conditions:	Any FIP juror, already fully accredited in one or more of the FIP judging classes, and who has served as a regular FIP juror at least twice subsequent to original once in the most recent accreditation, may qualify in another specified FIP judging class, under the following conditions:	An accredited juror can take cross accreditation in another class after having served at least once in the most recent accredited class.
Article 22: Team leader Apprentice	Article 22: Team leader Apprentice	
22.7 Any juror who is already certified as a Team Leader in a Class and wishes to be designated as a Team Leader in another Class for which he is already certified as a Juror must send in a request to the FIP Board for consideration.	22.7 Any Juror who is already certified as a Team Leader in a Class and wishes to be designated as a Team Leader in another Class for which he is already certified as a Juror must have served as a jury in that new class at least once and send in a request to the FIP Board for consideration.	An existing accredited Team Leader of a certain Class who wishes to be designated as a Team Leader in another Class for which he is also an accredited juror, must have served at least once in the new class in order to be qualified to take apprenticeship as Team Leader for that class.
Article 30 Formalities	Article 30 Formalities	
30.5 The Guidelines for the duties and accreditation of Jurors in FIP World and Specialised	30.5 The Guidelines for the duties and accreditation of Jurors in FIP World and Specialised	
Exhibitions were approved by the FIP Board at their 52d meeting on August 28/29, 1999, in Beijing, reviewed at the 84th meeting on October 25, 2009, in Rome, at the 89th meeting on	Exhibitions were approved by the FIP Board at their 52d meeting on August 28/29, 1999, in Beijing, reviewed at the 84th meeting on October 25, 2009, in Rome, at the 89th meeting on	
October 11, 2010, in Lisbon, and at the 112th meeting on August 8, 2017, in Bandung.	October 11, 2010, in Lisbon, and at the 112th meeting on August 8, 2017, in Bandung and then at the 174th Board meeting in Tartu, Estonia on 29 July 2024. To be reported at the 77th FIP Congress on 3 December 2024 in Shanghai.	

How the International Jury Team is formed for FIP Patronage Exhibitions

There are many misconceptions and misunderstandings about the process of jury selection for FIP exhibitions. It is a process which is more complex than might be seen. I thought that it would be helpful to explain the process in detail.

For every FIP Patronage Exhibition, the Commissioner General or the President of the Exhibition will ask FIP Members to appoint a National Commissioner and to nominate up to three FIP accredited jurors.

The regulations related to the composition of the Jury for an FIP Patronage Exhibition is Article 30 of GREX which states that:

"Article 30 Composition of the Jury

30.1 For World Exhibitions the Jury must be appointed from the FIP list of jurors accredited in accordance with the provisions set out in Guidelines for the Duties and Accreditation of Jurors in World Exhibitions. The list will be placed at the disposal of the FIP Consultant.

30.2 The number of jury members for an exhibition is subject to agreement between the FIP Consultant and the Exhibition Management.

30.3 The term Jury Member shall include Senior Consultants, Apprentice Jurors and Expert Group Members. Apprentice Jurors as well as Expert Group Members who are not judging have no voting rights.

30.4 The Exhibition Management appoints up to 25% of the jury members from the accredited Jurors of its own National Federation, in accordance with Article 30.1.

30.5 The FIP Board appoints up to 25% of the members of the jury from the list of accredited jurors. They shall be shown as FIP appointees in exhibition publications. Such appointees are normally team leaders or other senior members of the Jury.

30.6 The Exhibition Management shall appoint the balance of the jury members from the list of accredited jurors submitted by Members. Each Member shall have the right to nominate up to three jurors in different disciplines on the request of the Exhibition Management. If possible, the selected jury members should come from those countries which are represented by the greatest number of exhibits. A maximum of two jury members (senior consultants and FIP quota jurors not included) with different specialized knowledge may be appointed from each Member.

30.7 The Exhibition Management may appoint up to three senior consultants to the jury from the list of accredited jurors."

The Process of Selecting Jurors for a FIP Patronage Exhibition

The process of selecting jurors for FIP Patronage Exhibitions is based on GREX Article 30 mentioned above, which shall be explained in more details as follows:

The number of jury members for an FIP Patronage Exhibition starts with the discussion and agreement between the FIP Consultant for the Exhibition and the Exhibition Management. The number of jurors for the international jury team will be based on:

- i) the number of competitive classes to be judged in the Exhibition
- ii) the number of frames of competitive exhibits
- iii) the number of days for the jury to judge, etc

Once the number of jury members that the Exhibition Management would like to invite is decided, the selection of jury members will follow Article 30.4, 30.5 and 30.6, and will be done in three parts.

First, the Exhibition Management will appoint up to 25% of the total number of jury members as agreed between the FIP Consultant and the Exhibition Management from the accredited Jurors of its own National Federation (if any).

In the second step, the Exhibition Management shall appoint 50% (100% - 25% (National Jurors – Article 30.4) – 25% (FIP – Article 30.6)) of the total number of jury members as agreed between the FIP Consultant and the Exhibition Management, from the list of accredited jurors submitted by Members. If possible, the selected jury members should come from those countries which are represented by the greatest number of exhibits.

In the case that the selection of National jurors as mentioned in Article 30.4 is not fully used, then the balance will again be picked by the Exhibition Management to fill up the quota from the list of accredited jurors submitted by Members.

In the third step, the list of selected jurors by the Exhibition Management will be submitted to the FIP Consultant to present it to the FIP Board. After reviewing the jurors picked by the Exhibition Management, the FIP Board will appoint up to 25% of the total number of jury members, as agreed between the FIP Consultant and the Exhibition Management, from the FIP list of accredited jurors. For this FIP selection, the whole FIP list of accredited jurors is considered, independent of the nominations submitted by National Federations. This FIP selection is to balance the jury team composition picked by the Exhibition Management, as mentioned in Article 30.4 and 30.6, to ensure that the more important roles like Team Leaders, are covered by experienced and qualified jurors.

In case that the selection of jurors by FIP does not reach the limit of 25% of the total number of jury members, the remaining jury members shall be appointed by the Exhibition Management in agreement with the FIP Consultant, similar to the filling up of any vacancies derived from the lack of National accredited jurors under Article 30.4.

In addition to the regular jurors, the various jury Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Consultants are appointed. The jury President is nominated under the procedure given in Article 31.1 of the GREX. The jury Honorary President is normally the FIP President or one of the FIP Vice-Presidents. The Jury Secretary is appointed by the FIP Board as outlined in Article 31.2 of the GREX. Similarly, the Expert team is appointed according to the Jury Guidelines Article 27.

Challenges When Selecting Jurors

- 1. When nominating up to three jurors to be considered for selection by the Exhibition Management, Member Federations sometimes keep nominating the same group of people and do not rotate amongst their jurors, so that all of them have a fair chance of being selected by the Exhibition Management. It is important for Member Federations to do this to allow all their jurors to gain further experience both in international judging and working together with fellow jurors. Such a rotation also allows Member Federations to present young and first-time jurors to the FIP exhibition world who will represent their Member Federation in the near future. And this will also help to rejuvenate the group of FIP jurors.
- 2. When the Exhibition Management selects the jurors, they can pick only from the nominated jurors list proposed by Members Federations. As a result, sometimes there is a lack of jurors in certain classes, because too few or none have been nominated. As a result, we sometimes see that some classes do not have FIP Accredited jurors to judge in these respective classes.

In some classes (for example Traditional (TR) and Postal History (PH)) there are usually many accredited jurors nominated for each exhibition. Priority is therefore first given to jurors from countries that submitted the greatest number of exhibits.

- 3. When the Exhibition Management selects the jurors under Article 30.6, sometimes they do not select nominated ones from those countries which are represented by the greatest number of exhibits, as they may have preferences or other reasons for this. The FIP Consultant plays here an important role in ensuring that Article 30.6 is adhered to.
- 4. Jurors from countries with a smaller number of accepted Exhibits have a relatively high chance of not being selected.
- 5. FIP's role is to use its 25% quota to ensure that the jury team for each class has accredited jurors to judge in that class (if possible). Usually, a team will consist of at least three jurors, one from each Continent. Exceptions are the Traditional and Postal History teams since FIP usually appoints two teams of three accredited jurors from Europe to judge the European TR and PH

exhibits, two teams of three from the Americas and the same for Asia. If the number of TR and PH exhibits from a Continent is not many then in these cases the TR & PH jurors of a continent will be combined and assigned to judge both TR and PH exhibits together in one team, since this helps the OC to save costs from having to invite two separate teams of jurors.

6. The FIP Board will usually also add to the international Jury team - qualified Apprentices; qualified Cross-accreditation Apprentices; qualified Apprentice Team Leaders and a qualified Apprentice Jury Secretary. These candidates must have been nominated officially by their Member Federations, after which their qualifications would be checked by the FIP Secretariat and submitted to the FIP Board for approval.

Strengths of an FIP International Jury Team

An international jury comprising jurors from a wide range of countries allows exhibitors to get an evaluation and feedback from experienced philatelists with diverse backgrounds and with the widest possible knowledge and expertise. They are able to impartially judge the displayed exhibits and to evaluate them since knowledgeable in the full spectrum of international philately. As exhibits have become increasingly specialized in recent times, it is important to combine the talents and experience of jurors from many different countries and regions of the world to provide a fair and consistent result for the exhibitors. They can correctly evaluate all judging criteria and e.g. properly assess the knowledge and research demonstrated in the exhibit and the importance and rarity of the material shown. The jury consultants provide a further level of knowledge and experience to jury teams.

Perspectives from a FIP Board Member

Having outlined the various regulations for jury selection and having stressed the importance of having a fully international jury, it is perhaps helpful to listen to another FIP Board member who has been involved many times in the process of jury selection. Therefore, I have invited FIP Vice-President Yigal Nathaniel to add some personal experiences gained from serving as a FIP Consultant to EFIRO 2024 and other previous exhibitions.

He adds the following experiences:

When you are dealing with jury selection, you work under the guidelines to finalize the jury list. However, sometimes different issues arise that force you to change the final list that would have represented the ideal jury for the exhibition.

At the last moment some jurors sometimes have to cancel their participation for personal reasons and have to be replaced. Their replacement may force you to change other parts of the jury list. Some jurors may be assigned to judge two or more classes and may not be replaced easily. Qualified jurors in certain classes are limited in number and therefore it is harder to find the right replacement.

The host country may place some limitations regarding the nomination of jurors.

The number of jurors is related to the total number of frames at the exhibition, the number of frames in each of the classes at the exhibition and, as a result, the final jury list may include more jurors than the organizing committee originally intended to have.

The host country may request to limit the number of jurors from distant countries to limit costs, and sometimes they may request to reduce the total number of jurors proposed.

In addition to regular jurors, jury teams require an accredited team leader. In some of the smaller classes, there are few team leaders, further complicating the process of jury selection.

In recent years, the total number of active FIP jurors has fallen due to aging. Looking to the future, a further consideration is the need to include as many trainee jurors (apprentices) and those seeking cross accreditation between classes as soon as possible.

Taking all these issues into consideration, it is sometimes necessary to make some compromises and to exercise some flexibility in applying the guidelines in order to finalize the best possible international jury team.

Challenges When Selecting Jurors

I would like to conclude by outlining the proposals to improve the jury selection process that the FIP Board has submitted in the Congress papers for the 77th FIP Congress approval in December 2024.

To improve the Jury selection process for FIP Patronage Exhibitions, the FIP Board would like to propose the following changes to the GREX to facilitate a better procedure:

- 1. For nominations under the Articles 30.4 and 30.6 by the Exhibition Management, preferably to be done in consultation with the FIP Consultant.
- 2. For the nomination of the 50% of jurors as mentioned in Article 30.6 by the Exhibition Management, the FIP Consultant should encourage the Exhibition Management that the nomination of jurors must first come from countries represented by the largest number of exhibits.

For the nomination of balance seats for jurors that are not filled by the Exhibition Management or FIP under Articles 30.4 and 30.5, the Exhibition Management shall be encouraged by the FIP Consultant to give opportunities to jurors from countries that have submitted a smaller number of exhibits.

Prakob Chirakiti FIP President



77th FIP Congress to be held on 3 December 2024, Shanghai, China



Shen Ballroom at The Portman Ritz-Carlton, Shanghai, venue for the 77th FIP Congress.

Due to unforeseen circumstances there were no FIP Patronage exhibition at the latter half of 2024, hence the Board had decided to hold the 77th FIP Congress in Shanghai, China on 3 December 2024 in conjunction with FIP Recognition exhibition CHINA 2024. The FIP Board would like to thank CHINA 2024 Organising Committee for all their kind support in hosting the Congress and for arranging the airport transfers for the delegates. Lunch and tea break shall also be kindly arranged.

The 77th FIP Congress shall take place at the Grand Ballroom at Level 4 of Portman Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, the official hotel of CHINA 2024 on 3 December 2024, with registration starting at 0900.

The Congress documents had been sent to all Members and stored in the following Google drive https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mrtiWVuIDLu33z0CIWWBTJqcraln79EY?usp=sharing, which include the following files:

- i) the 77th FIP Congress document, in accordance with Article 21 of the FIP Statutes.
- ii) The minutes of the 76th FIP Congress held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 9 August 2022

FIP had also arranged for one room for each participating Member Federation at the official hotel Portman Ritz-Carlton providing 2 - night accommodation from 2 – 4 December 2024 for up to two persons with breakfast. The FIP Secretary General had received most of the responses from Members but are still pending several Members that are unable to attend, to assign their respective proxies. There are also several Members who had yet been able to pay the dues as of end October 2024.

FIP would like to remind that according to Article 13.3 of the Statutes, FIP Members who have not paid all their dues before the opening of the Congress, will be denied the right to vote.





Frederick Patrick O'Neill Gomez

March 17, 1933 - March 10, 2024

Born in Puerto Limón, Costa Rica, he worked as a banker for 40 years in various state and private entities and as an advisor to important companies in Costa Rica. He pursued his higher studies in the United States, earning a degree in Economics with a specialization in monetary marketing.

Fred was an expert in Traditional and Postal History philately, an accredited international jury by the Inter-American Philately Federation (FIAF) and the Federation Internationale de Philately (FIP). Dean of Costa Rican philately and main reference for everyone's queries.

He was actively involved in the FIAF Commission for Philatelic Literature. He was the last surviving member of the group of philatelists who signed the Washington Declaration, which was the initial step in founding FIAF sixty years ago.

Fred founded and directed the Costa Rican Philatelic Magazine in 1951. His extensive academic and philatelic knowledge made him pivotal to the growth of the Asociacion Filatelica de Costa Rica (AFCR), Costa Rica Revenue and Postal Society and Federacion de Entidades Filatelicas de Costa Rica - FENCORI. Fred was also a renowned member of several international philatelic associations, such as the Association Internationale des Journalistes Philatéliques, Association of Philatelic Chroniclers of Argentina, Collectors Club, American Philatelic Society, Society for Costa Rica Collectors, and the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Fred was elected president of AFCR eleven times and served on its Board of Directors for many years. He joined the Philatelic Advisory Board of Costa Rica on five occasions between 1974 and 2017. He served as director and co-director of the AFCR magazine "Costa Rica Filatelica" from 1959 to 1977 and the director of the renowned philatelic space "Repertorio Filatelico Costarricense," which published 428 issues throughout his life. Also he was a President of FENCORI.

Fred published over 500 original research articles, regularly contributing to magazines such as The Oxcart and Revista Timbre. He authored two books, "Costa Rica. The First Postal Issue" and "Costa Rica. The Proportional Stamps of 1884-1888 and their Postal Use" - 1971.

He received numerous other recognitions throughout the years, including the Grand National Award Costa Rica '82 and Costa Rica '97, plus FIAF and FIP medals in multiple international shows. In 2001, at the 35th FIAF Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he received the FIAF medal for exceptional service to philately, with the unanimous vote of all the delegates present. Three years later, in 2004, he received the Alvaro Bonilla Lara Literature Medal.

Fred was always an open book, willing to share his knowledge with everyone, direct in his communication, and transparent in his conduct. His departure is a significant loss to philately for the world philatelic community.

Don Patricio, dear friend, we are going to miss you!!

Alfonso Molina Ch. Federación de Entitades Filatelicas de Costa Rica



Mohamad Aktar Sayeed

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of Mohamad Aktar Sayeed, a beloved member of our Association Sayeed departed from us on 2 May 2024, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of passion and dedication to philately that will not be forgotten.

Sayeed joined our Association in 1997 and quickly became an integral part of our community. He actively participated in international and regional exhibitions, promoting the philatelic hobby he held dear to his heart.

As a true ambassador of philately, Sayeed represented the Emirates Philatelic Association with unparalleled distinction.

He won the Grand Prix d'Honneur at the Taipei 2005 Stamp Exhibition, Grand Prix Champion at Espana 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition, and Grand Prix International award at the EFIRO 2008 World Stamp Exhibition, alongside numerous large gold and gold medals at the World Stamps Exhibitions.

We will always remember Sayeed for his kindness, boundless enthusiasm, and steadfast commitment to the world of philately. His invaluable contributions to our Association and the wider philatelic community will forever be cherished, and his absence will be deeply felt.

During this difficult time, we extend our deepest condolences to Sayeed's family and friends. May they find solace and strength in their cherished memories of him.

Emirates Philatelic Association



Yacov Tsachor (1946-2024)

It is my sad duty to report that Yacov Tsachor passed away on Thursday, October 24th. He was 78 years old.

Yacov Tsachor was active in the philatelic world as a collector, exhibitor, researcher, expert and as a dealer. His major field of expertise was Holy Land philately, and his Doar Ivri collection was exhibited 5 times at FIP exhibitions. He published two books on the Doar Ivri issue, the second of which (written in collaboration with the late Zvi Aloni) was published last year, and won a Large Gold medal at the EFIRO exhibition earlier this year.

Yacov was an accredited Expert since 1984, and an AIEP member since 1993. He was also a FIP juror since 1998, and served in the expert committee of a number of exhibitions, including at FIP level.

For nearly 40 years Yacov Tsachor operated the Tel Aviv Stamps company and held more than 50 auctions during that time. His auction catalogues are filled with extraordinary knowledge and expertise, and are an outstanding reference source on Holy Land Philately. As a dealer and auctioneer Yacov had an impeccable reputation.

In addition to his outstanding knowledge of Holy Land philately Yacov Tsachor also collected the stamps of France, and his exhibit "France 1871-1878 Perforated Ceres: Rates, Routes and Postmarks" was exhibited at the postal history category, and won Large Gold medals four times (Praga 2018, London 2022, HUNFILEX 2022, HELVETIA 2022).

Yacov Tsachor was a pillar of the Israeli philatelic world. He will be sorely missed.

Yoram Lubianiker, Israel Philatelic Federation

19th June - 22nd June 2025

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Exhibits from the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia will be presented on 400 exhibition frames.

Rare stamps from the collections of Postal Museum, world rarities, such as a Postal facing slip from the R.M.S. Titanic or a letter that travelled around the world in 100 days, as well as exceptional letters from Antarctica will be on display.















More information can be found at www.liberec2025.cz

FIVE NATIONS STAMP EXHIBITION - VIETNAM 2024

Five Nations Stamp Exhibition - Viet Nam 2024 hosted by Vietnam Philatelic Association and sponsored by Federation of International Philately (FIP) and Vietnam Post took place in three days from 10 to 12 of October 2024 at Hanoi Post Office - No. 75 Dinh Tien Hoang, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi with the attendance of representatives from Philatelic Associations, stamp collectors from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and guests from Hong Kong (China). This is a regional stamp exhibition which was recognized and sponsored by FIP. Mr. Richard Tan, Vice-President of FIP, also attended and supported the exhibition as the FIP Representative.



Representatives from 5 nations and guest from Hong Kong (China) at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Exhibition hall.

The displayed 300 frames (71 exhibits), of which 29 exhibits (134 frames) were from Viet Nam; 9 exhibits (41 frames) were from Malaysia; 7 exhibits (27 frames) were from Singapore; 9 exhibits (37 frames) were from Thailand; 11 exhibits (39 frames) were from Indonesia; and 6 exhibits (22 frames) were from the guest from Hong Kong (China). The exhibits had diversified themes presenting various styles and contents about postal exhibition history, culture, society and nature.





Vietnamese newly issued stamp sets were introduced at the Ceremony.



H.E. Bui Hoang Phuong - Deputy Minister of Information and Communications (the third from right, bottom row) attended the exhibition opening ceremony and with FIP Representative Richard Tan on his left & on his right was FIP President Chirakiti.

On October 10, 2024, the opening ceremony took place in the joyful atmosphere of Hanoi city celebrating the 70th anniversary of the city's liberation day (October 10, 1954 - October 10, 2024). Attending the ceremony were H.E Bui Hoang Phuong, Deputy Minister of Information and Communications; Dr. Prakob Chirakiti, President of FIP and President of Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP); Mr. Richard Tan, FIP Representative for the exhibition and FIP Vice President; distinguished delegates and guests from many countries, local and international stamp collectors, lovers and visitors. At the ceremony, 2 newly issued stamp sets were also introduced: the stamp set "150th Anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (1874-2024)" and the stamp set "Celebrating the 70th anniversary of Hanoi's Liberation Day (10/10/1954 - 10/10/2024)".

The 10 official jurors and 6 apprentice jurors worked with high sense of responsibility ensuring the fairness and professionalism. Out of 65 competitive exhibits (equal to 271 frames), there were 1 Large Gold award, 15 Gold awards; 17 Large Vermeil awards; 9 Vermeil awards; 4 Large Silver awards; 2 Silver awards; 5 Silver Bronze awards; 4 Bronze awards and 6 Special awards. The Large Gold award was given to Mr. Harsono Suwito from Indonesia with the exhibit "A Comprehensive study on Indonesian Postal Rate for Various items on Sumatra 1945-1950". Besides, there were also 3 non-competitive exhibits (18 frames) at the exhibition. The jury was very happy with the exhibits' good quality and many exhibitors exhibited for the first time. The Palmares night was held in the evening on October 11, 2024.



Mr. La Hoang Trung, Director of Postal Department, the Ministry of Information and Communications gave the Large Gold award to the exhibitor from Indonesia



Stamps and stamp products shop area welcomed many customers during the exhibition.

Many exciting and meaningful events were also held along with the exhibition. In the afternoon of October 12, 2024, a workshop on stamp collecting operation was held with the participation of international speaker Mr. Muhamed Salim Bin Mohd Ali - President of Philatelic Society of Malaysia, sharing stamp business and network organization experience; and Ms. Nguyen Thi My Kim, Vietnam Philatelic Association, sharing experience in building a thematic exhibit with high quality.

Thanks to the convenient location, the exhibition attracted thousands of visitors at different ages to study stamp collecting culture, selling and buying stamps and stamp products contributing to the stamp collecting movement development. This is also an opportunity for stamp collectors to learn from other Associations' experience to enhance their collections and gain higher achievements in regional, international and world exhibitions.

Especially, on this occasion, the organizing committee had the honor to welcome H.E. Dato' Tan Yang Thai, Malaysian ambassador to Viet Nam at the exhibition.

The Five Nations Stamp Exhibition - Viet Nam 2024 is the first regional stamp exhibition hosted by Vietnam Philatelic Association, marking an important milestone in its development. During the exhibition, the organizing committee always tried its best to ensure the best conditions for the juries, commissioners and international delegates visiting and working at the exhibition as well as expressed the hospitality and friendliness of Vietnamese people.

The Exhibition ended with great success. May it be the basis for the Vietnam Philatelic Association and the Vietnam Post to implement more international activities in the coming time.

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FEPA Congress at HAFNIA 2024 in Copenhagen, October 19, 2024

The 2024 FEPA congress was held on October 19, 2024, in Copenhagen, Denmark, during the FEPA exhibition HAFNIA 2024.



FEPA President, Bill Hedley addressing the delegates at the Congress.

After his welcoming words the FEPA president, Bill Hedley, distributeted the FEPA golden pins to the Presidents of the Member federations that have not yet received it. The presentation of the FEPA Medal for exceptional service to organised philately 2023 followed, and was granted to Eli Weber.

The application for FEPA membership from the Union of Philatelists of Moldova (SFRM) was unanimously accepted after the President of SFRM, Mr. Andrei Adam, presented the Union.

The President of FEPA shortly presented the FEPA future plans: Sharing information, Promoting innovation and cooperation, Supporting exhibitions, Rewarding achievements.

The FEPA Treasurer, Lars Jørgensen, reported on FEPA's financial position in 2024 and foreseen budget for 2025. The debate that followed was mainly concentrated on the deficit and the announcement that FEPA News will not be printed anymore from 2026, with only one issue printed and one digital-only issue in 2025. As a contribution to the finances the members approved an increase of the membership subscription to 200€ in 2025 and to 250€ in 2026.

Lars Engelbrecht, FEPA Director, presented a proposal for closer engagement of FEPA Members in future plans to promote philately in Europe. A series of Zoom meeting between groups of FEPA Members and FEPA Board representatives that will discuss topics of interest to all, that have to be proposed and agreed in advance.

Giancarlo Morolli, FEPA Director, reported on the revision of the Guidelines on evaluation of Philatelic Literature, that is well underway and will be submitted for remarks to an international panel of experts. It will then be forwarded to the FIP Commission for Literature for consideration.

FEPA Director, Costas Chazapis, was given a round of applause for his editing and publication of the digital bi-monthly FEPA Newsletter, much appreciated by everybody.

The two motions from the Portuguese Federation were withdrawn. FIP Director Suhadolc briefly commented that there are upcoming proposals for changes on the GREX regarding the FIP regulations for jury nominations and a related article to be published in the next FLASH issue.

Finally the Members agreed on the venue and date of the next 2025 FEPA Congress: EuroPhilEx 2025, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, United Kingdom. 11 May 2025.

Peter Suhadolc FIP Director

THE BUENOS AIRES 2024 EXHIBITION AND THE 56TH FIAF ASSEMBLY

Between October 21 and 25, 2024, the international exhibition Buenos Aires 2024 under and FIAF Auspices was organized by the Federación Argentina de Entitades Filatelicas in Buenos Aires. The exhibition was supported by FIP Sponsorship. It brought together a total of 16 countries, which presented 108 collections in 495 exhibition frames; there were also 23 philatelic literature exhibits.

The Organizing Committee was headed by Miguel Casielles and making Buenos Aires 2024 happen was not without its difficulties. Although a first-class location was chosen, both for its symbolism and its aesthetic beauty (the old Argentine central post office building).

The Argentina team, however, faced these adversities and managed to make the exhibition a success and make the visitors feel at home. Moreover, the difficulties, far from affecting an exhibition in which we were able to enjoy first-class collections, served to show the unity and camaraderie among the philatelists of the continent, who pulled together to face the problems, and managed to do so successfully. The Organising Committee who took on these challenges deserves, therefore, our thanks and congratulations.

Akthem Al-Manaseer, from the United States, was the winner of the International Grand Prix, with a large gold medal and 96 points, for his collection "The forgotten war - ief "D" and the war in Mesopotamia 1914-1918". The best national collection was "The courier companies in Argentina (1855-1892)", by the Argentinian Guillermo Jalil, who received 95 points and a large gold medal.

On Friday, October 25, the 56th FIAF Assembly was held in Buenos Aires. In addition to reviewing the reports of its directors and complying with the statutory procedures, it resolved to award the FIAF medal to the Ecuadorian Rodrigo Páez Terán and the Álvaro Bonilla Lara Philatelic Literature Prize to Jesús Sitjà Prats from Spain, for his recently published study on the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. It was also decided to grant the FIAF Patronage to the next exhibition to be held in Lima in October 2025 and to designate the Peruvian capital as the venue for the 57th FIAF Assembly.

An important point was the renewal of the Executive Council, four of whose members had completed their term and were due to be replaced. The votes of the delegates to the Assembly defined a new composition of the governing body, which was made up of Miguel Casielles (Argentina) as President, Heinz Junge (Chile) as Vice-President, Alfonso Molina (Costa Rica) as Treasurer, Juan Pablo Aguilar (Ecuador) as Secretary and Carlos Vergara (United States), Rogério Dedivitios (Brazil) and David McLaughlin (Canada) as Advisors. Francisco Barone (Uruguay) and David Braun (Mexico) were appointed as Supervisors.

It is important to highlight that during Buenos Aires 2024 a virtual youth exhibition Juvenex 2024 was held concurrently, which allowed the participation of children and young people from 9 countries and has already established itself as a privileged space for the development of philatelic activity among children and youth.

A total of 55 collections were presented, 5 of them in the Honour Class and 16 in the Children's Class. All the information about this exhibition, as well as the collections on display, can be seen on the FIAF website.

As is the case with all American exhibitions, the daily meeting space sponsored by Mi Officina allowed for strengthening the ties between philatelists on the continent.

Entre el 21 y el 25 de octubre de 2024 se realizó, en Buenos Aires, la exposición internacional auspiciada por la Federación Interamericana de Filatelia, y organizada por la Federación Argentina de Entidades Filatélicas, que reunió a un total de 16 países, los cuales presentaron 108 colecciones en 495 marcos expositivos; hubo, además, 23 participaciones en literatura filatélica.

Para el comité organizador, encabezado por Miguel Casielles, Buenos Aires 2024 no estuvo exenta de dificultadas. Aunque escogieron un local de primer nivel, tanto por su simbolismo como por su belleza estética (el antiguo edificio del correo central argentino).

Los colegas argentinos, sin embargo, enfrentaron estas adversidades y consiguieron que la exposición se desarrolle exitosamente y que los visitantes se sientan como en su casa. Las dificultades, además, lejos de afectar una exposición en la que pudimos disfrutar de colecciones de primer nivel, sirvieron para mostrar la unión y camaradería entre los filatelistas del continente, que arrimaron el hombro para enfrentar los problemas, y lograron hacerlo con éxito. El equipo de colegas argentinos que asumieron este reto merece, por eso, nuestro agradecimiento y felicitación.

Akthem Al-Manaseer, de Estados Unidos, fue el ganador del Gran Premio Internacional, con medalla de oro grande y 96 puntos, por su colección "The forgotten war - ief "D" and the war in Mesopotamia 1914-1918". La mejor colección nacional fue "Las empresas de mensajería en Argentina (1855-1892)", del argentino Guillermo Jalil, quien recibió 95 puntos y medalla de oro grande.

El viernes 25 de octubre se reunió en Buenos Aires la LVI Asamblea General de la Federación Interamericana de Filatelia, que además de conocer los informes de sus directivos y cumplir con las gestiones estatutarias, resolvió adjudicar la medalla FIAF al ecuatoriano Rodrigo Páez Terán y el Premio de Literatura Filatélica Álvaro Bonilla Lara al español Jesús Sitjà Prats, por su recientemente publicado estudio sobre la Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Se resolvió, además, otorgar el patrocinio de la entidad a la exposición que se realizará en Lima en octubre de 2025 y señalar a la capital peruana como la sede de la próxima asamblea ordinaria de la Federación.

Punto importante fue la renovación del Consejo Ejecutivo, cuatro de cuyos integrantes cumplieron con su período y debían ser reemplazados. Los votos de los delegados a la Asamblea definieron una nueva conformación del órgano directivo, que quedó integrado por Miguel Casielles (Argentina) como presidente, Heinz Junge (Chile) como vicepresidente, Alfonso Molina (Costa Rica) como tesorero, Juan Pablo Aguilar (Ecuador) como secretario y Carlos Vergara (Estados Unidos), Rogério Dedivitios (Brasil) y David McLaughlin (Canadá) en calidad de consejeros. Francisco Barone (Uruguay) y David Braun (México), son los fiscalizadores.

Es importante destacar la realización, como actividad paralela, de la exposición juvenil Juvenex 2024 que, con un formato electrónico, permitió la participación de niños y jóvenes de 9 países y se ha consolidado ya como un espacio privilegiado para el desarrollo de la actividad filatélica entre la niñez y la juventud.

Se presentaron un total de 55 colecciones, 5 de ellas en la Clase de Honor y 16 en la clase infantil. Toda la información sobre esta exposición, así como las colecciones expuestas, se pueden ver en la página web de la Federación Interamericana de Filatelia.

Como ocurre en todas las exposiciones americanas, el espacio diario de reunión auspiciado por Mi Oficina, permitió fortalecer los vínculos entre los filatelistas del continente.



Opening Ceremony of Buenos Aires 2024.



The jury team.

Juan Pablo Aguilar Andrade FIAF SECRETARY

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FIAF

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Member support; FIP GPC; UPU

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Apprentices (FEPA)

Commission & Seminar: Thematic

Open Philately

Jury Academy; Member Support; Dealers Co-editor for FLASH, Website, YouTube

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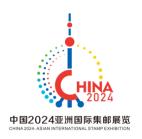
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