

CIOFF YOUTH

NEWSLETTER

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International decade for a culture of peace
and non-violence for the childrens of the world



Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore et d'Arts Traditionnels

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[EDITORIAL]

“Youth are like plants: the first fruits can show us what we can expect in the future” (Demócrito, Greek philosopher 458 b.C. 370 b.C.).

This observation of the philosopher seems to be fully reflected by the CIOFF Youth Movement. The tree that was planted almost 15 years ago has produced excellent fruit, which justifies the reasons for it being planted in the first place.

Like a child entering the adolescence age, we look back at the road we traveled through. We remember with nostalgia the stories of our grandmothers, the afternoons on the square and the school mornings. However, we must look forward, because, as the Arabian proverb goes: “The past has gone, what you expect is absent, but the present is yours”.

From the years of childhood we have, the memories of the stories of elves in the land of giants, which stay with us like indelible pictures.

“A deed is worth more than a thousand words” popular saying and the youth in different countries of the world have proved it in CIOFF.

We knew from the start that we will have a tough jury, which put their trust in us, because they were once young too, and in order to demonstrate our dedication and determination we had to make huge efforts, but in the end it was worth it.

Puerto Rico 1996 was our first great public appearance. As for a candidate who prepares himself anxiously for his first big exam, our job, to be presented to the world, had first begun almost four years before, when at the Assembly in Argentina the youth was given a memorable role.

The child conceived that year would see the international light in the South Cone of the American Continent, when in 1993 youth from Argentina and Paraguay assembled together for a meeting and spent days in intercultural dialog directed at working together to spread the Movement. That is where the first youth intercommission work in the world was established.

This was followed by the first activities that allows us to “jump the puddle” (the Atlantic Ocean). This time, Holland would give us a new impulse. The activities at the World Folkloriada in Brunssum (1996) led to the birth of a youth Commission in Luxembourg (1997), followed by the

creation of the World Working Group for Youth (1998) inspired by the youth from Argentina and Luxembourg. We have got a place in the CIOFF structure, as one of its main bodies.

All those years of work made it possible for us to obtain the support of many national delegates that put trust in their youth and in our movement, which led to the first international meeting of CIOFF Youth. Argentina made the first step in 1999, organizing the First Latin American Youth Meeting. One year later Europe held their first meeting in Luxembourg that ratified their commitments of three years earlier.

After the re-structuring of the World Working Group for Youth, the youth of the World met for the first time in United States, and since the World Assembly in Recife (Brazil 2000) became part of the Youth CIOFF work on every continent.

As a logical result of the development of youth movement in the World, the 1st Youth World Forum - with the support of the World President Mr. Kari Bergholm took place in Argentina. It was the year 2001 and the youth from 18 countries assembled to discuss their dedication and concerns regarding the preservation of the traditional and popular cultures of the countries, intercultural dialog and peace and their work responsibilities.

Now in 2006, reviewing what we have achieved, we are certain that we achieved quite a lot of positive things, but we also know that “unless you walk forward, you will go back”, so we are ready to start perusing new aims and goals.

This information Bulletin, as everything that was done during the last 15 years, intends to show the extent of the work that the youth can do and achieve if they have the chance, and CIOFF has given this chance to them.

What you read in the following pages is a resume of the activities realized since we met in South Africa. We are full of hope about the arrival of new youth members joining the movement; and we are sure that they will add their experiences and they will contribute to our meetings, assemblies, seminaries, etc. We are happy to know that soon we are going to have the 3rd Youth World Forum (2007) and that with the support of national delegates that understand us and the structures of CIOFF, we could dream with a Culture of Peace.



Teaching through folklore

**Written by: Ramiro Mansutti -
CIOFF Youth Argentina**

Like in most countries in the world, the actual education system in Argentina doesn't include in its obligatory curriculum lessons on the transmission of the Traditional and Popular Culture.

Being the youth, which are not just the observers, but the active participants of global movements, the Youth Commission of CIOFF Argentina since 1992 has developed and applied the Extracurricular Program for the Transmission of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Following our conviction that the youth must play a fundamental role in the search of cultural identity and the revival of the values that have been neglected by globalization, we strive to create a scheme that allows us to spread different aspects of our Traditional and Popular Culture and to begin a rescue work of our Cultural Heritage, engaging the youth in finding out different characteristics of their own culture, promoting intergenerational communication to identify what characterize and distinguish us. We see in this approach a valid method to stimulate the interest in children and youth in traditional and popular culture of the country, eliminating prejudices and showing the current, live and rich aspects of our folklore.

These aims are reflected in educational lessons in schools at different levels, schools for people with different capabilities and in no formal education environment. The lessons are structured to show the characteristics of the native people of each folklore region of Argentina, the influence of the environment and their ways of social interaction, the transculturalization of other countries and the influence of native people; i.e. the people who we originated from and who we owe our style of life, our values.

The description of traditional dances of each region is followed by the showing of the traditional customs, always in an interactive environment, where teachers don't pretend to know more than their pupils, and interchange is the key for the best result.

At present, the program has been implemented to youth of almost every region of the country, thanks to the particular way in which the members of the commission all over the country dedicated themselves to the program.

The program is easily adopted and can be tailored to the needs, in order to obtain the best results in both private schools and public ones, both in rural and in urban environments, in universities, in teaching it to adults and kids from initial level, in special schools and in children orphanages... we can see with surprise how, after fourteen years of development, the program has reached in a direct way a large number of children, and as the result we now have the conviction to increase it.

The project has reached its maximum point of development during the Seminar organized by CIOFF Youth Argentina in connection with the participation program of UNESCO. The results were extremely satisfactory, not just in respect of the application of similar programs in the other countries, but also in respect of the creation of new National Sections and the beginning of CIOFF work in new countries.

We have no doubts that this work that has expanded over 14 years period, makes it possible the youth to appreciate who they really are and helps them to understand who they want to be and find their own identity.



Youth and Culture Project

**Written by: Anatercia Rovani -
CIOFF Youth Brazil**

Since October 2005 the CIOFF Youth from Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil, is developing a social project called Youth and Culture in Passo Fundo city. The Group involved in the project is holding meetings every fifteen days, for three hours at a time, in order to discuss ways and means to develop activities to revive their national culture, including such traditions as cookery, music, clothing, children's plays, legends and dances, which constitute local culture.

There are more boys out there that could be reached and could benefit from the Project; however, as this project is still experimental and doesn't have enough money, everyone cannot be included. In the future we hope to be able to run this project independently, which is not yet possible due to the high costs involved.

As we do not yet have an appropriate place for these activities, we have got a temporary partnership with "Marista Conceição" School, a private institution that offers us the use of all its facilities and provides necessary equipment and money. It helps to keep the costs low to CIOFF Youth in RS, since the supportive school offers the rooms (dance room, kitchen, TV-room, DVD player, data show, a meeting-room, soccer field, gym, etc.), an afternoon snack and transportation for the teenagers to the meetings and activities held outside the School. However, the teaching materials for the activities (paper, copies, scrap, Books, etc. ...) are our responsibility.

Our main objective is to promote the PGNIU activities to the young boys and to teach leadership skills to other boys. This way, we try to keep the young people engaged and provide a guarantee that they won't go back to the streets.

To have trust in the information we provide and to get a good organization in our work, the CIOFF Youth from RS has divided itself in small groups to do a research on the 'gaúcha' culture. Then, the research is presented to

everybody in the group, creating a fast learning experience and deep knowledge.

Although only 50% of the project has been concluded, the results are already obvious, as noted by the teacher Ana Ednáia Cordeiro Montagner. She works constantly with the teenagers, carrying out various educational activities. "I have felt a great enthusiasm from all the members of CIOFF Youth and I have noticed that the results are positive, even much more than expected. It's with satisfaction that I say the students have improved a lot in self-esteem and emotional ties are being discovered, creating confidence, which in its turn creates responsibility. Besides, the knowledge about 'gaúcha' culture has been very well appreciated by the boys, who feel able to tell their families and people who they have contact with. The group from CIOFF Youth brought back the influence of those who are involved in the social works".

Our project lasts one year (the activity between two festivals) and it is divided into two stages. The first stage consists of learning the local culture and, the second, of learning a foreign culture. That's because, during the International Folklore Festival in Passo Fundo, there will be a meeting of the boys with people from a foreign country (the same country that they will have studied), included in the event program, to have an interaction and an interchange of knowledge. So, at the end of the festival, we hope that some boys will continue taking part of in the project and working as guides to a foreign group next year.

We try to achieve several objectives and our determination and dedication help us to overcome any difficulties. We realize that it's necessary to prepare and to be prepared to face the challenges of the new world, which demands a constant self-search from everyone, in view of all the new information and the necessity of being in front of the changes in the progressing society.



3rd World Youth Forum - 2007

Written by: Martina Fey - CIOFF Youth Germany

The CIOFF Youth World Forum is being organized every three years. The first CIOFF Youth World Forum has been held in Santa Fe/ Argentina in August 2001. In 2004 Istanbul/ Turkey hosted the 2nd Forum. Now Germany's Youth movement has been honoured to invite young CIOFF members from all over the world to the 3rd International Youth Forum.

The objectives are to spread and develop the CIOFF Youth Movement all over the world. To encourage the youth to promote the intangible heritage, through forms of expressions such as dance, music, games, rituals, customs and other arts. Work for the other CIOFF aims in consultative relationship with UNESCO.

Till now the CIOFF Youth World Forum is a Landmark of a developing and spreading Youth movement. It's a sign that several youth movements can act together in unity and harmony.

With the intention to raise awareness, gain friendships and have a good time together, we would like to invite Youth members from all over the World from 16th of July to 23rd of July 2007 to Laggenbeck.

We will stay at host families of Laggenbeck. Laggenbeck is a village and belongs to the city of Ibbenbüren in the district of Steinfurt. This district belongs to the state of North Rhine Westphalia near the border to Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg. Osnabrück is the next biggest City and is situated approximately 25 to 30 km away from our host village.

Because of this short distance we think that the Airport of Münster/ Osnabrück (FMO) is the perfect Place for your arrival.

If you prefer to come by train you can use the station in Osnabrück or the station in Ibbenbüren.

During our Forum the Group of Laggenbeck is also celebrating one of Germany's most important and biggest Festivals, their 10. Jugendbegegnungswoche (youth meeting week). Beside our Forum we will take part in some of the events of the Festival and we will visit historical places in the area.

Groups from Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, and Slovakia will take part.

The official invitation to the Forum will be sent at the end of the Year 2006 to every section.

At the general Assembly we would like to present a short Invitation-video. This we would also sell in Bulgaria. With the money we get we would like to help poor countries to take part in the Forum. Further money we will give to youth projects.

If you have any further questions, write to **cioffyouth_germany@yahoo.de** and don't hesitate. We promise to answer everybody as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to welcome you to our beautiful country and meet all of you in Laggenbeck.



CIOFF Youth Process in Colombia

Written by: Freddy A. Gomez Lopez
**Published by: Communication and External
Relationships Commission -
CIOFF Youth Colombia**

Colombia in itself is a World of experiences, knowledge, values, techniques and ways of understanding and enjoying life, reflected in the expressions of our cultural heritage.

Because of that it is necessary to draw the attention of the youth to this World in order to ensure its creative appreciation, and the values of memories and heritage objects.

CIOFF is an International Organization that includes in its objectives the ways to promote friendship between people of the world, through the diffusion of their own heritage.

In 2005 CIOFF Colombia National Section programmed a meeting between youth of different parts of the country to start the involvement of CIOFF Youth in Colombia. Prior to this meeting, in Bucaramanga city the first activities of CIOFF Youth were initiated. Since February, by analysing of experiences of Argentina and France, we started to create our own organization model, adapted to our reality.

The creation of a Youth Commission arose in response to a necessary of strengthening the national section, where the connections with the CIOFF work allows the Youth to develop tools to stimulate this process.

During the preparation of our first National Youth Meeting, in Duitama city, we realised that CIOFF Colombia performs an important work in the diffusion of artistic activities of our country at a national and international level. With the presence of 25 youth delegates from different regions, representing different customs, histories, etc. but with the same passion for the music and Folklore dance, our organization was established in this way:

The National Commission of CIOFF Youth Colombia will involve all the youth that belongs to different groups that can be constituted in any location of the country. Each commission will be represented at the National Assembly where it will nominate a Working Group that will draw the outlines to allow the development of methodologies and strategies for the program created by the Commission Members.

The Working Group will consist of the commission representative and the coordinators of the working commissions, Projects and Educational Activities, Communications and External Relations and Thematic Studies and Researches. All the Working Groups distributed their tasks aimed to achieve a better development of our objectives.

As a conclusion of our first meeting, we adopted the Manifesto of Colombia Youth, where the ideological basis of our commission was reflected.

At present, we carry out different activities that strengthen our movement all over the country, and we are waiting for the Youth Commission to gain the status and be included into the National Section. This topic will be discussed in the next meeting of the National Section.

At the moment, Bucaramanga Group is developing a project, in cooperation with an NGO, which should result in regular Educational Lessons.

These are not just Educational Lessons, those lessons are very special because of who will participate in them. The participants are children, children from families that suffered forced displacements by the armed forces. The lessons are given at their school. In those lessons we spread our knowledge about our folklore, but also we strive to teach the important values, the love for the dance and music, and tolerance and respect of our differences.

Finally, we expressed our desire to work in order to reach the objectives set out by other youth meetings that were carried out before, and it is our intention to share with the world our multicultural wealth.