



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

**CIOFF YOUTH**

# newsletter

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

## editorial

by Ramiro Mansutti (Argentine)

Germany was witness of the range of cultures, the languages diversity, and the joint work of twenty seven young people from Germany, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Taiwan, Cuba, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, Paraguay, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey and the Netherlands. People from different parts of the world that united by the same ideals raised the flag of the confraternity, friendship and the fight for our roots.

Because the organization of an event such as the forum deserve it, we have decided to destine this new edition of our Newsletter to all that had happened in opportunity of this important word-wide event.

Such as a little introduction to the articles, we need to make some special considerations concerning the development of the Forum:

On the first place, for CIOFF Youth the forum meant a very important citation. Not only because of the importance that this kind of event has, also for the reality that the CIOFF Youth was living before the meeting. The forum has had the goal of restructure the youth movement by the way of retake the ideals that had been the base of it creation 15 years ago. For that reason, the meetings were developed in an ambit of seriousness and responsibility. The working program established for the next three years is the best example of the compromise that the young people have adopted for the construction of a new future.

The Executive Committee – headed by our president Udomsak – has demonstrated since the beginning a total support to the development of new youth commissions in different parts of the world. The advices of the EXCO had their answer

in the future proposals of the Youth Coordination Committee which found in the application of the "World-wide Program of re-valuation of the traditional games" the opportunity to develop a joint activity between all countries that find - in the safeguarding of this important aspect of our traditional culture - a good way to rescue and disseminate of values that have been lost with arrival of other kinds of games that attack children of the new millennium.

The conferences and workshops were other remarkable aspect of the meeting. Specially the ones developed in frame of the Games Program and the one that the young people did after a shared work with a South African dance group which were participating in the folklore festival of the city.

The work done to the inclusion of new National Sections to CIOFF Youth also warrant a point apart as same as the proposals of activities to develop in the next World Folkloriada in China.

As a corollary of the meeting, it was elected the new Coordination Committee with the compromise of responsibility and union in the concretion of an amalgamated work that helps to the concretion of CIOFF objectives and permits us to grow up in order to achieve the participation of more young people of different countries.

We wanted to give to the Newsletter the special touch that the young people have, the freshness of spontaneous texts, the informality and good humor. But principally the goal to share information with you... For us, the Newsletter is the best form to show how we have decided work. Enjoy it!





# What we did at the 3rd Youth Forum in Germany

by Anne-Wietske Enequist (The Netherlands) & Kreete Mägi (Estonia)



To start honestly from the beginning,

## Montag

The first day, Monday, we held a full day Youth Coordinating Committee (YCC) meeting which we continued at night in the swimming pool. In the mean time the other arrived via air, land and water facilities. While Finland stuck in a thunderstorm in Amsterdam (the planes did not leave), we at only three hours driving distance had wonderful weather. Of course the first diner consisted of sausages and beer, according to good German food traditions.

## Dienstag

Started very early, as we continued to do during the whole week (most heard sentence: "I am so tired.") Our acting president, Ramiro Mansutti, opened the forum by welcoming the participating countries: Argentina, Paraguay, Turkey, Germany, Taiwan, Italy, Austria, Finland, Estonia, Switzerland, Brazil, South Africa, France, Cuba, the Netherlands. The conference room was wonderful: we really had our own place to meet the whole week. Only the decorations of the room made Estonia cry (allergy).

On this first day there was a lot to explain to

the newcomers. We kept our strict deadlines perfectly and moved on very fast in the morning through the report part (point 1-7 of 20 on the agenda). In contrast, point 10 took us two and a half days.

## Mittwoch

Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning were completely dedicated to the structure of future Youth World Forums. The new youth commissions also participated lively in the discussions, about time, length, translation issues and so on. On Wednesday afternoon we had planned to have presentations from Kari Bergholm and Hugo Ifrán, but sadly they had to cancel on short notice. Luckily we had Ramiro who covered their parts without any problems: one presentation on the structure of CIOFF and the history of the Youth Movement, and one about the World Wide Program on Re-valuation of Traditional and Popular Games (the World Games Program). Actually, discussing the World Games Program (point 10) was the most fruitful part of our meetings.



## Donnerstag

On the next day, Thursday, we brainstormed in smaller groups about several aspects of the World Game program: what to do in the Folkloriada, how to implement the game program in general. There was also one group making a plan for how to start a new youth commission in your own country, which resulted in a list of different important steps. During the whole Forum countries with a good working commission gave the newcomers ideas and courage to start their work when they will return home.

## Fritag

Sector meetings and discussions about how to improve the communication between the youth commissions. We decided that the age of the letter doves is over, so we will stick with emailing.



## Samstag

Saturday was the big day of the elections. It turned out to be even more exciting than we thought. We had two good candidates for the presidency, Elise Meunier and Ramiro Mansutti, and as a surprise to all they both got 9 of 18 votes. The Forum was completely confused and in panic: phonecalls were made to the CIOFF Council and EXCO members which we could reach, to ask for their advice. Unfortunately, they were as smart as we were and the regulations did not foresee this kind of situation. Finally Elise and Ramiro had to work it out together. Luckily we can now report that Ramiro Mansutti from Argentina is our new president, with Elise Meunier from France as vice president, working in full harmony.

## Das Festival

Of course we also participated in the festival held in Laggenbeck at the same time. We walked in different processions, all in our own traditional costumes. We watched the concerts, attended the opening and closing ceremony, evening activities at the festival marquee and the handicraft market. We also had a very special visit to the Wasserwerk: the company who pumps up the drinking water for the area of Laggenbeck. There we saw a lot of pumps, pipes and water. The group was thrilled.

The funniest situation though was when the busses to the next town were one of the concerts was, left half an hour earlier than we had been told. So there we were in our costumes, the concert already starting and no bus. However, the Germans showed some flexibility and the nicest busdriver came all the way back to pick us up.

On Friday we also had a very special workshop from the Matsamo Cultural Group from South Africa. They thought us a song and dance (three voices!!!) in Swazi, which we then performed on the festival marquee at Saturday.

Because we were accommodated in host families, we had to find other ways to socialize within the CIOFF Youth group at night. Therefore we held two parties at different host families. One thing is now proved: Italians really can cook pasta!

Altogether it was a successful Forum: meeting new and old friends; laughing, crying and working together; coming up with fresh ideas and proposals for the next General Assembly in Monterey in October.

We would like to thank the national section of Germany for hosting the Forum. Vielen Dank!



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

# workshops

### Workshop #1 Youth Activity in CIOFF Folkloriada

Coordinator: Elise Meunier

The workshop on Folkloriada took place in a relaxed but studious atmosphere. For the 6 participants from Italy, Finland, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Paraguay, the target was to imagine actions which could be implemented by the Youth in the next Folkloriada in 2008. The Folkloriada are a fantastic opportunity to spread the Youth movement since all national sections are present. The CIOFF Youth has to be there and has to show its abilities. We had to imagine a project which could be part of our programme of revaluation of the traditional and popular games. To organize animations with children is probably one of the easiest actions and the most efficient way to enable exchanges between the artists and the audience. But to make these actions more visible, we advise the integration of a day dedicated to the game in the programme of the Folkloriada: the Game Day. In several places, the groups will teach their traditional games to the young Chinese. At the same time, we can imagine the organisation of a conference on the game, as well as the presentation of an exhibition. To make this day successful, each of us will have to contact the group representing its own country to present the project and make sure that the group will prepare an animation on games. It will also be very important to obtain information on the games showed, and to collect photographs and videos of this day. This ambitious project will be presented to the working group Folkloriada at the next world congress in Monterrey by our representative Irene Pimpinella. We hope that the working group and the organisers of the next Folkloriada in 2008 will approve the project and we rely on you to make the Game Day become a reality.

### Workshop #2 How create a new youth commission

Coordinator: Ramiro Mansutti

Participants from Argentina, Austria, Chinese Taipei, Germany, Italy, South Africa and Switzerland have established a series of steps that, on the view of previous experiences, have constituted fundamental elements for the correct development of the youth commissions. Explaining the work of CIOFF to new young people, who do not know anything about the organization and its rules, has to be done through concrete activities. The information meetings are necessary, but sometimes they can not be interesting at all for young people. New young people must not be shown CIOFF as a giant organization, that they may not be able to be part of.

Activities like the ones for the transmission of our culture in schools, by "didactic lessons" are the most interesting to start with. They are constituted by explanatory talking given by members of the youth commission to children in the schools. These talking must be given firstly into schools that allow members of the CIOFF to talk during school time (generally one hour is sufficient), so that the children could receive a small conference about the major cultural aspects of their country.

For these activities, it is not necessary to be professional, for the majority of us are used to dance in folkloric groups, and consequently aware of lots of things about these aspects of our culture. To teach dances and to show traditional costumes helps a lot to get the attention of the children. The experience of several youth commissions who work this way at present has demonstrated the value of such activities, thanks to the contact that is created between young people and children, and to the great interest they represent for new young people in the CIOFF.

An other activity can be really rewarding in the work for the protection of our culture: the Worldwide Program for Revalorization of Traditional and Popular Games. The wide amount of possibilities that this program offers allow our commissions to start a work for the conservation of the games, through elements in our reach. These activities can be adapted perfectly to the CIOFF festivals, to meetings with children, or even with adults.



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

## Workshop #3 Games Program

By Elodie Cuissard

One of the main topics of the last CIOFF Youth World Forum was the “world-wide programme of re-valuation of the traditional and popular games”, more often called “world programme”, it is shorter! Set up by the Argentinean Youth commission, this programme must be used as a support to the action of CIOFF Youth in the next years, on the level of the national sections and on the level of the sectors as well, and more generally to the action of CIOFF Youth International. We thus devoted several parts of our agenda to this project. Ramiro and Daiana, being part of the founders of the project, could share with us the actions already implemented in Argentina. Through videos and photographs, they showed how their group teaches traditional games to children of different ages, but also how they collect by old people and also play with them. Then each one had to think about this project, or present what already exists in our countries. A workshop was devoted to do a list of actions which each national section can implement, in order to facilitate the work of each one: collecting of

course, workshops in schools, specific animations during the festivals, exchanges between groups of children... The sector meetings were the opportunity to set up projects on a broader level than the national one. This programme aims at safeguarding parts of our inheritance, but also at enabling the young people of CIOFF to work together on the same project: that was already the case at the time of this forum. Indeed, various workshops, one on the games and one on the Folkloriada, took the same direction: set up a “game day” at the next Folkloriada with the participation of the invited groups. And then, proving that, like music and dance, games are a meeting place for the cultures: whereas two French girls were trying to explain to a Dutch a hobby of their respective groups at dinner time, namely to pass a glass to its neighbour while following the rhythm of a song, the Finnish girl came exclaiming that the same game exists in Finland, exactly on the same music, but where you have to pass shoes, sitting in a circle on the ground. And so we left our theories to practice and the “traderidera” became the game of the week.

Then... Savez vous passer le traderidera, savez-vous passer ceci sans vous tromper !

## *new YCC*

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# *World-wide Traditional Games Program* by Ramiro Mansutti (Argentina)

\*Extract: Hueney Mapu Magazine, #11, CIOFF Youth Argentina 2007

From the same existence of the human specie the man has developed the game like a learning tool. The man plays, learns, is related, and stimulates his creativity and intelligence, constructing culture since that. It is the game and, by means of it, that the human being develops his more primeval quality: its creativity. That fundamental characteristic of the man finds its development through game like training phenomenon of values of solidarity, cooperativism and friendship.

We understand the game as an immaterial cultural heritage and as that, we are convinced of the necessity to rescue it, to preserve it and to spread it, considering, mainly, that is in risk of losing its essential characteristics by the threat that present the “new games” disseminated by homogenized and globalized cultures. Big world-wide economical centers that promoted by means of that kind of games anti-values like the violence, the individualism and a less creative development.

One of the aspects most excellent of the culture of a town is its folklore. In all its diversity, this one constitutes a part of the humanity heritage, its tradition, its collective memories, the alive museum of our civilizations. Its poetic and pedagogical power, its symbolic force, does of him one of the privileged instruments of the creation, the education and the transmission of values. And the transmitted game of generation in generation becomes of significant way essential means.

The folklore not being able to exist without transmitting agents, these will have to be protected and being used in the educative processes, so that their wisdom is well-known, taken advantage of and valued.

To foment the intergenerational dialogue, to analyze the evolution of the game like result of the evolution of the society, being considered the factors that influence in their origin, evolution, and/or disappearance, to generate the intercultural dialogue, observing the different manifestations from the game and establishing comparisons, to rescue social, cultural, pedagogical, and communicational value that it has in the development of the individual, to stimulate the development of intellectual potentialities like the creativity, imagination, expression, etc, to spread the game like traditional element: that's what we aspire with our World-wide Program of re-valuation of the traditional and popular games.

The activities covered by this program allows a wide range of alternatives taking into account the reality, the creativity and the own idiosyncrasy of the community where the projects take place. In order to the development of the activities, the chosen criteria could take different ways, for example the activities could be: investigation activities, educative, diffusion, intergenerational and intercultural dialogue activities, rescue activities, extension to the community activities, etc

Nowadays, the Program is in the first stage: development and analysis of the first activities that the youth commissions are implementing.

The young people want to demonstrate –through activities like this one – that we are not only spectator of the humanity changes; we are characters in the social reality of our communities. We have the commitment to achieve – by the way of the our roots rescue – a culture of peace.



# *Communicate better through the internet forum* *by Elise Meunier (France)*

Communication is recognized as the main weakness of our Youth movement. Members admit that they do not exchange enough between two world congresses. National Youth commissions complain that they do not get information about what is going on on the international level.

Since September 2007, the French Youth commission put their internet forum to the disposal of all young people of CIOFF. A new section in English gives the opportunity to share documents and opinions. Created four years ago, this forum contributed to the development of the Youth movement in France. All young people involved in the French festivals and groups have easy access to basic documents (regulations, manuals for guides, newsletter); they are kept informed about the decisions made in the meetings even if they could not come; they can share their photographs of our festivals and of our meetings. The forum has become our first internal communication tool.

Now, this forum could do the same thing for the international Youth movement. It is the responsibility of each one to register, share its experience, and put its documents to the disposal of everyone. The most interesting in this form of communication is that it is available to the great majority. The information is not kept in the hands of few lucky ones who can participate in the international meetings.

The only small obstacle today is the fact that the registry form is in French. But on request, I can send you guidelines in English which will allow you to get a login and password in a few

minutes.

If everyone makes an effort, the forum could become the key of the revival of the Youth movement. We will be the single actors of our success. I am looking forward to reading you on

**[www.cioffjeune.fr](http://www.cioffjeune.fr)**