



Letter from the PRESIDENT

N°41

By Prof. Bruno Grandi, FIG President

FIG Office Lausanne (SUI), July 1, 2009

Dear Friends,

Our future is founded on the following premises, and it is imperative that we address them in the very near future: credibility of results; transparency with incidences that have occurred on-site and Development (publicising, culture and Gymnastics for All).

This is the challenge we face within the FIG first and foremost.

It is a situation that requires clear-cut and immediate solutions; if we close the door to other sports, whether traditional or innovative (and new sports develop with every passing day), we will come up against ferocious competition.

If we rely on tradition, our customs, and limit our perspective to the experience of the past, this critical and fertile moment in time will simply pass us by and we will inevitably enter a regression. Creativity and inventiveness are the keys to a renewed and revived sport; our competitions need to spark the interest of an audience that absolutely must come to better apprehend them.

Merely believing that our sport is spectacular will make gymnastics a ceremonious window display rather than the phenomenally spectacular sport we want it to be; the one it is in its own right.

While watching gymnastics, an audience needs to feel that, like other disciplines, gymnastics is within the reach of every individual. This process of identification has never taken root in our sport, whether on a political, social or economic level. Gymnastics for All is an ideological and cultural platform through which those who observe our champions find the door into a world where health is of utmost importance, and then find the motivation to go there.

The International Gymnastics Federation needs to reclaim its status as a highly spectacular Olympic sport, accessible to the public at large because of its direct connection to every single form of human movement.

Ambitious objectives! The wealth that is ours has heretofore been neglected, and we must exploit and wield our sport's potential with deft skill when the time is ripe.

Time has slipped through our fingers, my friends. Yet our discipline, which harbours a long-standing tradition and is capable of phenomenal entertainment, is yet highly respected. With it come health and physiological wellness that improve a person's quality of life when harnessed wisely.

This is a call to arms: Let us have the courage to revitalise our entire system!

With my compliments.

Bruno GRANDI
President of the FIG