

2013 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In my last report at the end of 2012, I informed you about the many projects we were working on. In my opinion, I am sure that we have been very successful with these WDSF projects, which only commenced over the last 5 years.

We have been able to finalize most of the projects, such as the new Associate Membership agreements. In this project, we have now been able to evaluate how well the Agreements have been accepted by the Associate Members bodies and if they are ready to sign the second agreement, where we will all need to compromise to come together particularly in the different national member bodies.

Irrespective of the challenges, we believe that it has been a positive experience for everybody, particularly considering the new and different Games we are now organizing, and, the positive future for all of these Federations inside WDSF.

I believe that the time has now come to restart negotiations with IDO. We believe that IDO are finally ready to find a pathway to collaborate with WDSF, since they have decided not to belong to any other body. However, as I mentioned before, we did negotiate a partial agreement with IDO on Salsa and Hip Hop for the 2013 World Games and the 2013 WDSF World DanceSport Games, but only for the countries where IDO were represented by WDSF member bodies.

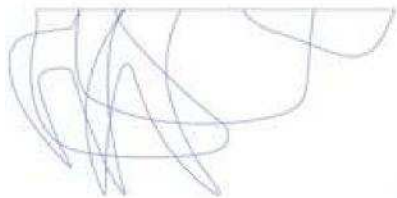
I also confirm that this last year has brought many more important decisions.

FIRST OF ALL -THANK YOU ALL

Let me thank all of our officials and Member Federations who during this last year have been supporting the work of the Presidium. Your advice and suggestions after our last AGM in Berlin has been very important, and we have again been encouraged by the amount of feedback received from all of you.

As also mentioned, we are working on the next stage of the Vision 2012 project, but this can only be achieved with the help of all our members. I explain that the Vision 2012 Project is integral in doing whatever is necessary to consolidate and strengthen our position inside the Olympic movement.

I also want to sincerely thank all my Managing Committee and Presidium. Most of the decisions we have taken, have been unanimously supported and this means that we are all working in the same direction.



Let me specifically mention some of the Presidium members:

Lukas Hinder has again been the leading person developing the new Grand Slam five year contracts, as well as TV, Media and Sponsorship issues and everything related to our Marketing agreements with the company which is now helping us with these projects. I know that Lukas has spent a great deal of time on these projects and I also thank him very much for his very important support. Thank you, Lukas.

Of course I cannot forget Roland Hilfiker, John Caprez and all other persons related to the Communication, Youtube and Website.

I ask you to please read Lukas's report for additional information.

Let me also thank **Marco Sietas**. Marco is always out of the office, as practically every weekend he has to take care of our competitions, Championships and events worldwide.

Marco is also the leading person working on the World Games and our important World DanceSport Games. I am sure that you will all understand just how much work and responsibility rests with Marco in bringing these amazing projects to their successful conclusion.

I know that you can also see the success of Marco's efforts in developing Latin America which is becoming more and more important. There are now many competitions being conducted with over 300 couples.

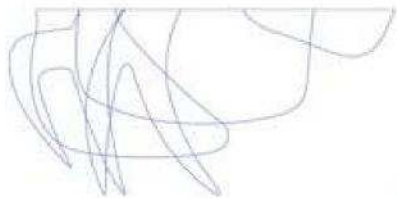
Thank you Marco, for your invaluable work and commitment.

I ask you to please read Marco's report for additional information.

Thank you also to **Tony Tilenni** for your difficult work in balancing our incomes and expenditures and controlling WDSF's financial affairs. As you will see from Tony's Treasurer's reports, 2013 is the year that the Presidium is asking Members for the first time to support a strategy of potentially risking a small part of our substantial Capital Reserves. We believe that this strategy will assist in developing our role as an Internationally Recognized Sports Federation through new projects and hopefully new income streams for WDSF.

I ask you to please read Tony's reports and the 2012 WDSF Audited Financial Statements for additional information.

Let me also thank **Shawn Tay**. It has not been easy for Shawn to monitor and fulfill all the work as General Secretary. Every day Shawn confronts challenges worldwide and has to be immediately prepared to seek to find solutions.



Shawn is also coordinating many Asian issues as well as supporting our members.

As you may also know, over the last 12 months Shawn is also looking after the development of our Academy and everything is starting to significantly improve. This Academy work includes coordinating all Congresses, Workshops and the new Adjudicators and Trainers preparation. I sincerely thank Shawn for efficiently taking on this very difficult and demanding workload.

I ask you to please read Shawn's report for additional information.

Thank you to **Natasa** for the important work on the Academy and mainly on the Technique books..... on which Marco was also involved...

It has been very hard work but we can all be proud to have our new WDSF Technique books ready for our AGM in Shanghai. As you will understand, these Technique books are a "working project" which will definitely continue to be refined and developed in coming years.

I confirm that due to health issues with long distance plane travel, Natasa has been unable to attend this AGM.

I ask you to please read Natasa's report for additional information.

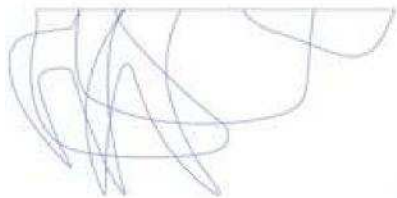
Of course I thank **Heidi Götz** for her extraordinary work regarding Communications and our website. Heidi attends most WDSF Championships and you can see her interviewing work with athletes on our YouTube either before or after Championships.

Heidi, please accept my sincere thanks for spending your valuable time on this very important work.

I ask you to please read Heidi's report for additional information.

I also thank all other **Presidium members** for their work, their support, their input on all decisions, and, for spending their time and energies for the development and growth of our remarkable and growing Sport Federation. Specifically, I thank Jim Fraser, Keiji Ukai, Michael Eichert and Ken Richards.

My thanks are also extended to Alexander Melnikov. His work during this past year has not been easy and we have to appreciate that the PD is growing very quickly. Every year more and more of our top athletes accept the sporting pathway offered by the PD. This has resulted in the quality of PD competitions dramatically improving in a very short period of time.



The PD was always a project which we considered could take 10 to 20 years to fully develop and yet, a great deal has been achieved in less than 5 years.

I also thank Zoran Plohl, the Chair of the Athlete's Commission. Zoran has performed an incredible amount of work to bring all athletes together. In my opinion, for the first time a real and representative Commission of athletes from all Continents has been created.

The Presidium and I take Zoran's and the Commission's advice, considerations and questions very seriously.

I ask you to please read Zoran's report for additional information.

I also thank all the Associate Members. These members are taking part in our Presidium meetings and their input is very important and valuable for the Presidium's work and decisions.

We are also delighted to have the support and contributions of Grethe Anderson and the IPC Wheelchair Committee.

REPORT TO MEMBERS

Please be so kind and take your time to read all of the reports available.

The reports are very important and will give you a detailed overview of what has been achieved during the last year by the different Commissions and persons inside the Managing Committee and Presidium.

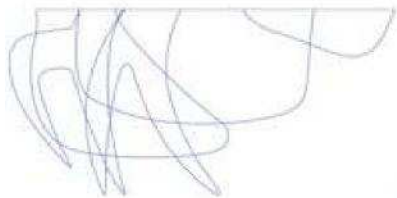
IOC

Our relationship with the IOC continues to be very strong.

There is now a new person inside the IOC Sports Department responsible for our Federation and we are working to meet at least twice a year.

I confirm that we have invited the IOC Sports Director, Christophe Dubi and the new Responsible person for our DanceSport Federation, Christian Wassmer to come to our WDSF Games in September in Kaohsiung. Of course we hope that they can find the time to attend.

The IOC still considers that our way of focusing the Federation offers the correct pathway for the development of our DanceSport.



Recognised by the IOC - Member SportAccord, ARISF, IWGA and IMGA

NEW JUDGING SYSTEM

I confirm that after three years testing we have decided to use System 2.0. We are convinced that we have developed the best solution for everybody - Athletes, Adjudicators and Media. Please refer to the report from the Sports Director.

This new system allows for the judging of the four components - Posture/Balance; Movement to music; Partnering Skills & Choreography and Presentation, and, we believe that we have found the right balance. I also explain that this new system allows us to start judging from the Quarter Finals and this offers an added value to this very important new system.

ID CARDS

As we all know, we had to postpone the date of commencement of the ID Cards until April 1st this year. Unfortunately, some of our members are still not ready, despite the fact that they have had more than one year to prepare.

We are, of course, disappointed about this and we are doing whatever is necessary to help our athletes to be able to compete. But we again have to ask some of our Federations, to fulfill their obligations and bring all athletes competing in WDSF events into the system as soon as possible in order to avoid more problems.

This is a perfect and necessary system used by many International Sports Federations and we are very happy to have implemented it. It will make everything easier and more effective. At this moment, we have printed about twenty five thousand cards and many more still need to be produced for members

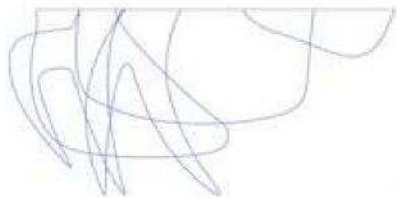
ACADEMY

With Shawn Tay as the newly appointed Director, we are entering a more effective way of working. We are starting with workshops, mainly for our new Technique books, more Congresses and immediately we will have the first Training course for Adjudicators, Trainers and Chairpersons.

We will try to find some cities where every year and in the same venue we can organize courses and Congresses. This will make the Academy more efficient.

Let me remind you that the main objectives of our Academy are to:

- provide different training levels for adjudicators & trainers
- deal with problems
- provide Medical information



- offer Sports Psychology
- offer Nutritional advice

Please, read the report from the Academy Director, Shawn Tay.

TECHNIQUE BOOKS

During the last AGM in Berlin, we presented for the first time our new books. Since then, we have had the books reviewed by independent experts, the Professional authors and also the PD as represented by Drago Sulek and Manfred Orth.

We are confident that we have found the correct approach to develop them as our WDSF Technique books for the future. We look forward to everybody inside our Federation accepting and following the books.

We are very proud of this achievement and I want to sincerely thank the authors and the reviewers of these books, for the very valuable time which they spent to have them ready so quickly. Thank you to Davide, Fabio and the rest of the team.

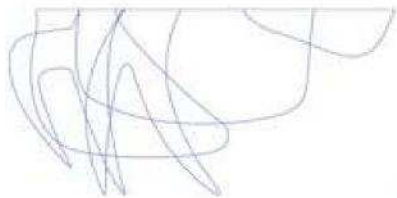
These books form an essential building block for the future of our Federation and of course, as every important issue, will be reviewed from time to time to update and refine them.

AN AMAZING RANGE OF SPORTING EVENTS FOR WDSF MEMBER BODIES AND THEIR ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE IN:

- **THE WORLD GAMES (IWGA)**
- **THE MASTER GAMES (IMGA)**
- **THE ASIAN INDOOR GAMES (OCA)**
- **THE ASIAN GAMES (OCA)**
- **THE WORLD DANCESPORT FEDERATION GAMES**
- **THE WORLD ARTISTIC GAMES (SPORTACCORD)**
- **THE EUROPEAN GAMES (EOC)**

As you can see from the above list, for WDSF Athletes and WDSF Members bodies there are many elite Games being organized worldwide and some will be held this year. The world of sport is not an island, it is a living breathing and interconnected worldwide community of interests.

The next World Games are being conducted in July this year in Cali, Colombia. We have no doubt that they will again be a big success for WDSF and DanceSport. For the first time we are including Salsa, which is the main DanceSport discipline in Latin America, and everybody in Latin America is waiting for this extraordinary event.



The 2014 Master Games in Canada will also have DanceSport as a Core sport and we are proud to be recognized by this association as one of 23 of the important sports out of 105 possible sports inside their Games. I am sure that many of our athletes will participate in this important event.

This year in July, the Asian Indoor Games will be conducted in Incheon, Korea, and of course DanceSport will again be featured as one of the most important events. We are also working very hard to try to again be part of the next Asian Games, which is also to be held in Korea in 2015.

One of the biggest successes for all of us will be our own Inaugural World DanceSport Federation Games in Kaohsiung in September this year. We are extremely proud of this milestone achievement and we are sure that all of Kaohsiung will be part of the slogan for the event "Do your dance in Kaohsiung".

The expectations are enormous and all the DanceSport disciplines inside the redefined WDSF as presented by Vision 2012 will be present. We also have invited Cheerleading to be part of this big sports presentation, as perhaps in the future they can become part of WDSF as Associate Members.

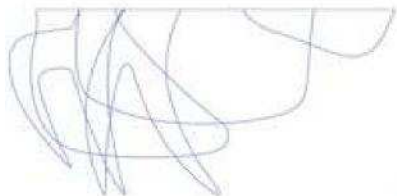
It will be a memorable week and we hope that all our 800 athletes will stay the whole week, from the Opening to the Closing Ceremonies to make these Games an outstanding success.

Depending on the success of the Inaugural WDSF Games, Kaohsiung is willing to consider holding these Games every two years. In the meantime, we have received enquiries from other cities who are interested in hosting future WDSF Games.

Another important event will be the World Artistic Games, where we expect 8 different Sports Federations to take part. Although WDSF first developed this concept Games, SportAccord has taken over the lead of these Games and are working to find an Inaugural Host City interested to conduct them. We know that there are Cities who want to start in 2014, but for the moment, nothing has been definitively decided.

One of the most amazing opportunities which could be available to WDSF and DanceSport will be the Inaugural 2015 European Games, which have been created by the European Olympic Committee (EOC). If we are included in the Program of these Games, this would be another important milestone for WDSF and DanceSport.

We are in contact with the responsible officials and for the moment it looks like we could be part of these Games. We are currently only one of two International Sports Federations which are not included in the Summer Olympic Games Program which have been invited to participate. We are working very hard to be included in these Inaugural European Games.



Let me also mention that during the next Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, it appears that we will have DanceSport included in the Opening Ceremony. A total of 2500 athletes from DanceSport have been invited to provide an extraordinary display, and we hope that this can be a good sign for our sport.

EUROSPORT

We are also delighted to confirm that for the first time, EuroSport is interested in televising DanceSport. As a result, we expect to be able to secure some important sponsors.

The first important sponsors will hopefully be willing to work with us starting in this year - 2013.

We have now received approval for live transmission of our Grand Slam events in 2013. In addition, agreements are being negotiated for the next five years for all Grand Slam events and the Grand Slam Finals.

Please be so kind and carefully read the report from Lukas Hinder.

OPEN DISCUSSION MEETINGS

We commenced with this new kind of open members meeting in Bratislava after a big celebration of the Slovakian DanceSport Federation.

Present at this meeting were representatives of Hungary, Czech and Slovakia. We had the opportunity to honestly and openly speak about many different issues.

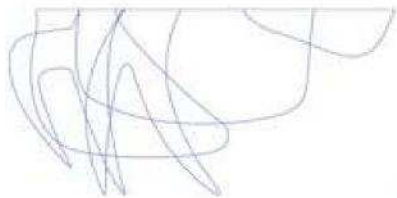
We had a second Open members meeting in Barcelona in March with ten countries being represented. The result was again excellent. We want to continue to speak to our members in this way. In these forums, everyone has the opportunity to express what we feel, our problems, our thoughts, our dreams, our goals, and we believe that this is the correct way to understand each other much better. It was a really positive experience for all concerned.

Our next Meeting will be in Shanghai.

ATHLETES COMMISSION

As I have mentioned above, our Athletes Commission is now working very strongly. They have organized meetings and the Commission is taking care of most of the problems occurring inside the Competitions.

The athletes are now truly represented worldwide and the Chair of the Commission, Zoran Plohl, is doing very positive work. Please be so kind and read his report.



WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATION

As also mentioned above, Heidi Götz and Roland Hilfiger, as well as John Caprez are doing extraordinary work.

Our website is updated daily. In addition, Heidi and Roland are present during most of our Championships and assist Ferran with the live streaming to our members through our website. We know that our website is one of the most viewed websites of all sports.

I would specifically thank Helmut Roland and Ferran Castañer for the extraordinary work they are doing for our sport, practically on all Championships and important competitions.

For your information, until now, our WDSF Youtube and our website have had the following viewers and only a very few sports can show these very high numbers:

Period: 1 May 2012 – 1 May 2013

Visits to worlddancesport.org: 2.4 million

Pages viewed: 11.1 million

Average pages viewed per visit: 4.67

Average time spent on site: 5 minutes

Record visits per day: 27,000

Videos viewed on YouTube: 10 million

Subscribers gained: 10,000

Cumulative time watched: 39 years

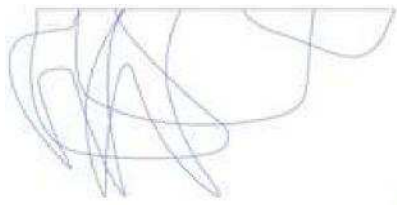
Record views per day: 142,000

Period: 1 February 2013 – 1 May 2013

New likes on facebook: 3,400

People talking about: 49,000

At this moment, DanceSport is one of the most popular TV sports, with viewers on Youtube streaming transmissions and in general, and this makes us very proud of our sport. One day such exposure and success could provide another reason for DanceSport to be included in the Olympic Program.



Recognised by the IOC - Member SportAccord, ARISF, IWGA and IMGA



SPORTS MATTERS

The Sports Director has presented a new Chairperson's reference book which will make the work of our Chairperson's much easier.

The Handbook for our WDSF Rules and Regulations, after being presented during the last AGM in Berlin, is also ready and can be used.

At this AGM, we are presenting some minor changes on Sports matters and we hope that they can be accepted by members.

The Sports Commission is controlling the judges and different competitions and is responsible for the random selection of judges for a range of World Championships.

I again confirm that anybody can be present when the computerised random selections occur.

Please read the report of the Sports Director.

MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION

As you have probably realized during this last year, we have improved and developed in a very important way our competitions in Latin American and in most of the South American countries. I am pleased to confirm that our Sport is represented and will be part of the next World Games in Cali which will for the first time include Salsa Athletes.

We have worked very hard and even sent trainers to Latin American during the last few years, and I am convinced that finally we are achieving the excellent results that we were all expecting.

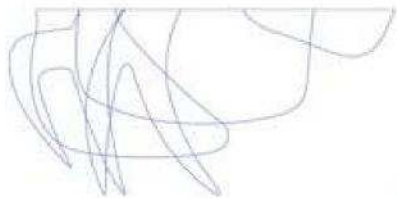
Commencing next year, we will focus on Africa and I hope that with the help of our Membership Commission, we will be able to again have very strong activity in that Continent with the help on our existing Members like Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, South Africa and others.

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

This year we also have elections for the Professional Division.

The work the PD has performed is generally good, but we all know that there is room for improvement.

The most important improvement is that the Professional Division cannot have their own Rules and Regulations. As a Division of WDSF, they must have the same obligations, but perhaps with a very few modifications, which in each case have to be discussed between the PD and the WDSF Presidium.



Therefore, the elections this year will be important for the PD in order to allow them to develop in the way we all expect from our professionals.

The motion presented by the WDSF Presidium to this year's AGM on the PD has been accepted by the PD Director.

We hope that our members can understand that in future all Divisions which are in essence dependent on WDSF have to follow in the same direction.

Please see the report from Alexander Melnikov.

EXTERNAL COOPERATION

It was with great sadness that we received the terrible news about the tragic passing of Ko de Mooy.

He was helping WDSF and working for DanceSport, even during his recurring illness.

As Chair of The Anti-Doping Commission, Ko de Mooy was a highly respected person inside WDSF and WADA and by all officials inside the world of sport.

Ko was performing very important service for DanceSport to ensure that WDSF was always one of the first International Sports Federations to be in compliance with the WADA Anti-Doping Code. As you know, WDSF last year received its Anti-Doping Certificate of Compliance for DanceSport from WADA. Ko was the force behind this important development.

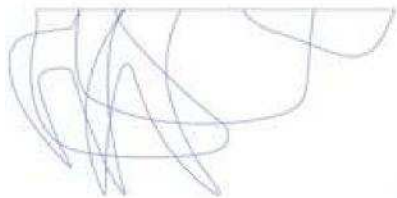
Thank you to Ko for all that he did for our Sport and we express our sincere condolences to his family.

Now we have to do whatever is necessary to find a person who can do this very important job and deal with all the Anti-Doping obligations for our Federation.

I thank our Chair of the Medical Commission Dr. Jürgen Weineck.

Since Daniel Stehlin's appointment at last year's AGM as the new Chair of the WDSF Disciplinary Council (DC), Daniel has shown how professionally competent and committed he is to this work. His strong legal background and sense of fair play is a fantastic addition to lead WDSF's DC.

I would also like to thank all members from outside of our Presidium who are providing us with very important help and support. We need this input in order to have more information on what is going on and try to help if necessary.



Let me also thank our Secretary Txus Pedraza and our new staff inside the Barcelona office - German and now Lidia. They are all making excellent contributions and providing outstanding support to all members from our office. I can assure you that all work is performed as efficiently and competently as possible.

I also would like to thank our Sports lawyers from Carrard's, Mr Ross Wenzel and Mr Jean-Pierre Morand for the extraordinary work they continue performing for WDSF. We feel very comfortable when we ask them for help and we greatly value their advice. There is no doubt that they assist in finding the correct solutions for the future.

ELECTIONS FOR THE NEW PRESIDIUM

And now comes probably the most difficult issue for all of us in this election year.

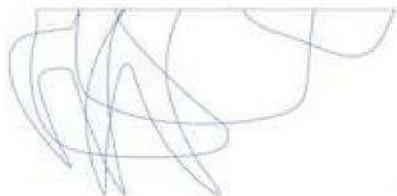
As mentioned in my last report at the end of 2012, I believe that it is important for the Presidium to continue to work as a unified team during the next four years, so that we can finalise all the projects that we have been working on as well as commencing new projects for the future.

In particular we must work to:

- fulfill all our roles and responsibilities as an Olympic Recognized Sports Federation which at all times must include looking and acting like a Sport.
- evolve, develop and do whatever is necessary to become part of the next Shortlist of IOC Sports, which will be decided in less than two years.
- maximize our exposure through the web and TV because as you all know a sport that can generate substantial TV revenue for the Olympic movement has the best chance of entering the Program.

For the next Presidium, we also have to take into consideration that some very important member bodies are currently not represented inside the Presidium, like Russia, China and Italy. In my opinion, these Members have legitimate aspirations, they have very strong credentials, and, they are incredibly active. Therefore, I think that they should be part of the next Presidium.

This year I will not present in this Report a list of possible persons for the next Presidium. We only will do it for the Annual General Meeting, as foreseen in the WDSF Statutes and I hope that between all of us, we will be able to elect the right persons to bring forward our DanceSport Federation.



FINAL REMARKS

Dear Delegates, in conclusion, thank you all for your support, for all your work and I hope that with your help, we will achieve our next ambitious goals for DanceSport and WDSF.

Carlos Freitag
WDSF President