



Welcome from International Association of High Performance Sports Training Centres, IAHPSTC

The first four International Forums on Elite Sport were held in 1999 (Sydney, Australia), 2001 (Sant Cugat, Spain), 2003 (Loughborough, United Kingdom) and 2005 (Montreal, Canada). Those four Forums were successful meetings to discuss about the common interests and to share experiences between different countries and centres.

At the 2001 Forum at Sant Cugat in Spain was established a Working Group to explore ways of formalizing collaboration among High Performance Centres. In Loughborough in 2003 a new Working Group was elected. In 2005 The Association was registered officially in Spain and the first Board of Directors was elected in Montreal. The group consists of President Jukka Lahtinen (Finland), continental vicepresidentes Caroline Carpentier (France), Patrice Milkovich (United States), Takashi Kawahara (Japan), Wes Battams (Australia), Said Lamrini (Morocco), Wayde Clews (Singapur), Gogo Mangoyi (South Africa), treasurer Liz Nicholl (United Kingdom), secretary general Francesc de Puig (Spain), host of the IV Forum Jean-Pierre Tibi (Canada), host of the V Forum Chi Jian (China), secretary Josep Escoda (Spain).

The Working Group prepared a draft Charter of Collaboration as guidelines of the cooperation among centres. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum in Loughboroug the Working Group has prepared the registration process in Spain and the constitution of the association international of the centres. In April 2005 in Malaga, Spain official establishing documents were signed and a new association was established.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Forum here in Beijing will be showing a new direction of the cooperation among the centres. A new more formalized way to work and a well working office in Sant Cugat are offering more possibilities to share experiences and to work with other international organizations. In the Forum we have a good opportunity to hear excellent presentations about different ways to prepare towards to the Olympic Games in the three differents cases. I want also to thank our chinese hosts about the good job done before the Forum. I'm very confident that this meeting will help us to work better with our athletes, to understand different conditions in the another countries and to get stronger the international cooperation among the centres.

Looking forward to sharing good time in Beijing.

Jukka Lahtinen  
President

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