

OIFE's 13th Annual General Meeting September 2005 in Schwarzenberg / Switzerland

This year 13 OIFE member associations were represented at the Annual Meeting (Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Ecuador, Spain, Finland, Georgia, Croatia, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the Help-OI-Foundation, from NL). The organisation "padrinoS-OI" had applied for membership and was accepted as 19th member during the meeting. Representatives of the Austrian OI-group were expected as guests, but couldn't come due to a (mild) car accident.

The parallel annual autumn meeting of the Swiss organisation took place in the same hotel, so that much exchange between the OIFE-delegates and the members of the Swiss OI association was possible during meals, on Saturday evening and on an excursion by bus to Luzern.

News from some OIFE members:

- The Georgian association started the construction of a swimming-pool for water therapy; a rehabilitation centre for physical therapy is also planned. They are in contact with other OI-groups from neighbouring Caucasus-countries.
- The Ecuadorian organisation now offers the complete medical care for children with OI. Current project is the Latin-American OI congress in February 2006, to which OIFE will send a delegation.
- The Spanish organisation extended their offers and now provides following services: orthopedics, physical therapy, dental care, sotai and shiatsu, psychological care. They plan a first OI-Medical Meeting for medical specialists and medicine students next autumn.
- Norway set up a "Help each other group" – a network of helpers giving advice on different matters and situations.
- The Dutch Help-OI-Foundation now offers a possibility to spend vacations in an adapted cottage.

News from other countries:

- The idea to set up a sponsorship program, similar to the one in Ecuador and Peru, for children with OI in Bulgaria is actually supported by the OIFE.
- In Slovenia 12 families are in regular contact with each other and had organised a rehab week.
- There is a new OI-group in development in Belarus.
- OIFE made contacts to "KOIA", Korean OI organisation, founded in January 2003. The organisation pays subsidies for wheelchairs, PCs, operations, medical seminars and organizes a summer camp.
- The OIFE President has new contact to the Mexican OI association, that wants to become a member of the OIFE.
- A medical congress will be held in October 2005 in Mendoza / Argentina.
- The foundation of several new OI-societies was reported from Dominican Republic, Chile and Canada.

Other News:

- OIFE contacted pharmaceutical industry about pamidronate-production and approval for treatment of OI and especially OI-children.

- The OIFE President took part in the International Scientific OI-Conference in Maryland / USA this summer. Mainly research topics have been discussed. The next Scientific OI-Conference will probably take place in Belgium in 2008.
- A new edition of the OIFE leaflet has been published in June 2005.
- The next edition of the "OI pass" is actually prepared and shall be printed in 2006.
- A forum in English language will be established on the OIFE homepage.
- First OI-Youth weekend: 35 young people from five countries enjoyed a two days meeting in Netherlands in June 2005.
- The Making friends project had a spectacular growth of 400%. Currently 40 participants come from many different parts of the world.

Next interesting goals and projects of the OIFE:

- Exchange program for visits to OI-meetings: neighbouring countries could invite smaller groups (up to 10 people) to each others meetings.
- A small OIFE delgation will travel to the Latin American OI congress in Quito / Ecuador in February 2006.
- International Meetings for Medical Advisors on specific topics will be organised. The first one will be next year in Italy.
- A (national) weekend for young people is planned for the next summer in the south of Italy.

AGM 14 will take place in Rom / Italy in June 2006.