

PRESIDENT'S LETTER NO.6

Dear IAA artists from all over the World,
Dear friends and colleagues,

As we are ending a very tormented year again, I am addressing you from a part of the world that is unfortunately under constant turmoil or terrorist attacks. This was not the world we had expected in the 21st century, and we have to face this sad dramatic truth, which is hitting us everyday. Not just the near or the Middle East, but also so many different areas of the world are going through heavy dramas and are suffering losses. We remember intensely the last 18 months where Paris, Nice, Brussels, Istanbul, Ankara, Berlin, Diyarbakır, USA hit by waves of attacks, while in the middle-east Syria and especially Aleppo have been almost totally devastated. The problems of the refugees are becoming major and primary concerns for every human being or country that carries a heart. These are definitely issues we have to talk about, discuss in depth and eventually raise projects around.

In those unfortunate moments of tension and grief we must still look to the future with hope and solidarity. We must believe that art and creativity will really help keeping the flame of humanity alive: the show must go on...

We have had an intense year here at the President's Office, with important travelings done to several places of the globe, the USA where in Los Angeles and Mexico City World Art Day has been celebrated in very wide organizations, Tunisia where we met with several North African and Arab countries artists and art associations, and finally Korea where we had an international art festival at Suncheon with IAA artists as well as Korean colleagues. It was a very successful meeting. We thank you for all your collaborations...

There is one last thing I must remind you with your permission: We are four months ahead of World Art Day. We will stay in touch on this issue also of course. But please make a note that you should already plan your timing to find sponsors for shows or celebration dinners, you should prepare exhibitions, spread the use of the logo in the galleries and museums for April 2017, prepare panel discussions, events, children activities etc. I advise you to organize a much broader committee of WAD organization and not just your NC.

All the members of our Executive Committee, Anne Pourny, Marta Mabel Perez, Franklyn King Glover, CHO Hang-Hoong, Pavol Kral, Dolores Ortiz, Maria Moroz, Ryoji Ikeda, Katarina Jönsson Norling, Christos Symeonides and myself, we wish you all a merry xmas and a very happy new year, far better than 2016!

We have to hope still for the best, even if the language of the clouds has been telling us something different!

With best wishes, hugs and solidarity!

Bedri Baykam
World President
IAA -Official partner of UNESCO