

**GENERAL MEETING OF UNICA 2002  
LUXEMBURG 29 August 2002**

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF IFTC (UNESCO)**

The IFTC has carried on this year with its efforts to regain a firm position within the NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) of UNESCO.

Under the impetus of its new president, Mr Isanori ISOMURA – an opportunity for me to congratulate him for the time and effort he has put as the head of our organization - the IFTC passed with flying colours the "exam" held by the Executive Committee of UNESCO. On 17 May 2002, on the occasion of its 164th Session, the NGO Committee admitted IFTC as an umbrella organization for a six-year term of office.

I would like to submit some excerpts out of the Minutes of this Meeting as an appropriate illustration of this. *"a new managing committee has has breathed a new life into IFTC, increased contacts with professional partners and foundations, and thus given rise to a new potential for action that now make of IFTC a reliable representative and a trustworthy partner in this area... There is no other umbrella organization in the world in this area which is in such a favourable position to offer similar services to UNESCO... UNESCO expects IFTC in the future to provide valuable assistance and service, in particular in the Culture Sector for the continuation of efforts to create an information site on the policies that have been initiated in the area of film making since the year 2000, and to set up a list of film masterpieces of worldwide value, in cooperation with museums and festivals and other competent NGOs prepared to join the project. Steps have been taken to ensure that the initiatives launched with the Education and Science Sector be continued. Finally, the IFTC is invited to attend the talks with NGOs for the preparation of the World Summit on Information by the Communication and Information Sector".*

UNICA should now give some thought to possible ways to participate and contribute to the actions initiated by or expected from IFTC. Among other things, we could consider a contribution to the compilation of the most significant cine works made by non professional film-makers, according to a procedure that could be developed and also be profitable to our own Film Library and would involve all UNICA member federations and also provide openings towards new potential members. For the creation of the new IFTC communication portal which Robert KALMAN - the Secretary-general whose action has been decisive for the rejuvenation of IFTC - is currently developing, UNICA should obviously be involved and offer a contribution, on the basis of our experience of the UNICA Internet site. The Luxembourg congress, which Robert KALMAN will most probably attend, will be an opportunity occasion to liaise with the UNICA Committee and with the delegates of member federations and specify the forms of cooperation for the various projects conducted by IFTC.

Among the outstanding events of this year, I would like to mention the homage paid to George MELIES, on the initiative of IFTC, May 30 2002, to celebrate the Centenary of his film "Travel to the moon". This show had been organized at Palais de l'UNESCO and was sponsored by Electricité de France (French Electricity Board), the Cinémathèque Française and the Méliès Film Library. The president of IFTC took this opportunity to give information about the actions launched by IFTC to the Director-general and the numerous members of the Executive Board of UNESCO attending. The event, which marked the official launching of the project for the compilation of "Cine Masterpieces" has a very positive impact for IFTC.

Among the other actions in which IFTC was involved last year, we can mention:

the "A l'affiche du Monde" competition and the "Camera" Prizes in October 2001, on the occasion of international conference "Image and Science";  
the program "Cartoons for Peace" for films designed by young students and screened by the Italian channel RIA at Christmas time in 2001;  
the Round Table about "the key elements for European film and the audio-visual sector" under the aegis of the European Community, in January 2002;  
the International Day dedicated to Dance and organized at UNESCO, in April  
the second worldwide conference "Infopoverty" in Milan, in May;  
the "CIAK Junior" Festival, a festival for children's films at Treviso, Italy in June;  
a Animated Film Festival, in cooperation with ASIFA (International Association of Animated Films), in June.

UNICA was again in 2001 a partner at the the International Conference "Image and Science" mentioned above, and the Spanish film "Dancing" was selected for the "A l'Affiche du Monde" Show in 2001. After the Iranian film "Kelou" in 1999, which illustrated the themes of ancient traditions in a film document about the manufacturing of felt hats, after the Italian film "Pianissimo" shown in 2000, which illustrated the sense of friendly togetherness by offering the spectators the opportunity of sharing the enthusiasm and passion of retired musicians living at the Giuseppe Verdi foundation in Milan, the film selected for the 2001 Programme was a fiction mirroring the theme of doubt, a work made in a style so different from the former two, thus testifying to the diversity of the modes of expression used by non professional film-makers. "Dancing", once again, was a great success The theme selected for 2002 is "language", a topic that should obviously appeal to script writers !

The final word is therefore to ask the delegates to the General Meeting of UNICA to give a vote of confidence to IFTC and confirm their willingness to support the initiatives to be taken by UNICA to contribute to the actions launched.

Serge MICHEL

Vice-president of UNICA

Member of the Executive Board and Board of Directors of IFTC.