



FEDERATION  
INTERNATIONALE  
DE NATATION

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** FINA NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

**FROM:** FINA, Lausanne – FAX: (41-21) 312 66 10

**DATE:** April 28, 2008

**RE:** **FINA 1908-2008 CENTENARY - Speech FINA President**

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BUREAU 2005 - 2009

PRESIDENT  
MUSTAPHA LARFAOUI  
Algeria

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BARTOLO CONSOLO  
Italy

HONORARY TREASURER  
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COARACY NUNES FILHO  
Brazil  
PIPAT PANIANGVAIT  
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Nigeria  
QIUPING ZHANG  
China

HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT  
LIC. JAVIER OSTOS MORA  
Mexico

Dear Presidents, Dear Colleagues,

Some FINA Member National Federations have expressed the desire to receive a speech from the FINA President for their National or local FINA Centenary celebrations.

Therefore, we have the pleasure to forward you a message from Mr. Mustapha Larfaoui, FINA President.

Furthermore, as we would like to publish a report in our magazine and on our website, we would very much appreciate receiving comments and photos of the Centenary celebrations that were, or will be held in your country on this occasion.

We would also appreciate receiving a set of the commemorative stamps produced for this celebration by your country, if this was the case.

I thank you for your kind collaboration on the activities above and we remain at your service for any assistance or questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Cornel Marculescu

CM/jlm

**Speech from the FINA President Mustapha Larfaoui to be read during National or Local events at the occasion of the FINA Centenary**

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Throughout 2008, FINA, the governing body for the development of swimming, diving, synchronised swimming, water polo and open water swimming, is celebrating its Centenary, as it was founded on July 19, 1908 on the occasion of the London Olympic Games. Eight countries were present at the time of its formation: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Hungary and Sweden.

Delegates from these countries acted as the founders of FINA. A hundred years later, FINA is represented by National Federations in 195 countries of the world.

On this special occasion, which celebrates a hundred years of efforts and success, I would like to testify, in the name of FINA, of the importance of our sports in the social life of each national community.

Swimming and its disciplines are more than just sports; they also offer lessons of life:

- A school for physical education: no other sport offers a better contribution to the harmonious development of our children's bodies.
- A school for safety education, as learning to swim can contribute to saving people from drowning.
- A school for relaxation and well being for the body and the mind.
- A school for social harmony from participating in a community in and out of the water.
- A school for fair play, as it is often demonstrated by the public who follow the example of the extraordinary attitude of our athletes full of respect, tolerance and friendship, whether they be competing or supporting.

Each of our National Federations has a mission: to use these advantages with the best possible interests.

Despite the indisputable success of our elite competitions, such as the Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cups and Grand Prix that continue growing stronger and stronger, there is still a lot to be done in many countries. I appeal to all concerned authorities to help our National Federations by giving them the means to set up a development programme for aquatic sports encompassing the following points:

- To preserve water, of course.

- To build pools and develop streams to allow for more play and training areas.
- Learning to swim should be mandatory at school.
- To develop a permanent cooperation with all local and national public authorities: health, education, and equipment ministries, town halls, etc...
- To seek positive support by the media in their information-sharing role. Wish for them to support all our volunteers in their capacity as teachers and organisers.

It is not always easy to find funding for such actions. However, international cooperation should be increasingly present in the world of sport, as it signifies one of the ways to foster freedom and harmony.

Today, we honour all those who have contributed to the history of FINA; the athletes of course, but also their coaches and their officials.

Exceptional pages of the history of sport have been written, not only at the international level, but also at local levels. Today we especially thank all the volunteers that have dedicated their time and energy for our youth. Our success is down to them.

**Mustapha Larfaoui,  
President**