

Address by the President ANNEX 1

XVIII. Congress of IBSSA and 3rd International Joint IBSSA-IPA-IAPA Conference

28th September 2013
Budapest / Hungary

Dear Friends, distinguished guests,
dear members of IBSSA and of our partner organisations,

it has already become a tradition that every year, when we gather together for the IBSSA Congress, we evaluate our past activities and discuss the further plans, and also set the main directions for the future. These are of utmost importance, since time of solitary activity and fight has ended.

In today's globalised world only cooperation, and collaboration can lead to results, making the world a better place, and solving our social problems. Therefore we launched several years ago the „Partnership for Security” program, where more and more organisations joined yearly.

Serving this noble goal we organise for the third time with increasing attendance – together with the XVIII. Annual Congress of IBSSA – the International Joint Conference on „Partnership for Security” with the active participation and support of IPA, IAPA and other international organisations.

Considering that the scene of the IBSSA Congress is Budapest, Hungary again, and in the year 2012 Hungary won the „PIN Award” of the European Union (receiving this prestigious professional recognition by being the most successful country in suppressing traffic accidents), the IBSSA Board of Directors has decided that this year the theme of our international conference will be „Traffic Safety on land, in water and air”. For this event we won the support of the Ministry of National Development (NFM) and also of the relevant police forces.

I wish to mention here that years ago IBSSA joined the so-called „Way of Life” program and also collaborated to organise numerous traffic safety events, or organised such programs by ourselves. Among these are outstanding the training and programs for safer motoring.

IBSSA activities and the „Partnership program” remain unchanged and will focus invariably on the „Child – Family – City Safety”, as it was defined years ago, since its important part is road safety, but also continues to fight against drugs and substance abuse, crime prevention and fight against terrorism.

In addition, we participated many common rifle competitions, cooking competitions and other sporting events together with our partner organisations, and we significantly stepped forward also in collaborating with international and Hungarian associations in the fight against drugs.

Before I go deeper in describing the last years' activities – which might not be necessary in great detail, since we have reported in detail on almost everything at the IBSSA Web pages and Facebook –, please allow me to say a few words about the organisational life of the IBSSA.

As you know IBSSA was founded in 1994 by 14 individuals of five continents, representatives of private security companies. I am delighted that some of them are still active participants in the every day's activities of IBSSA.

The Association is now present in 120 countries around the world and cooperates with hundreds of national and international organisations worldwide. We regularly participate at the security conferences of the UN, the EU, the Council of Europe, or other continents' committees.

This activity is growing day by day, more and more new committees are formed, and we connect up numerous new topics.

There is significant development in the area of regional structure too. The activities of our national organisations grow and become more organised in many countries, which is indicated by the current high level of education in more and more countries.

Here I have to emphasize the IBSSA sections of Latvia, and Macedonia, as well as the African Security Academy, which is about to start in Angola.

Our activities have significantly increased also in the USA, thanks to the dedicated work and high level activities of Mr. Karl DelaGuerra and Mr. Tamás Török.

As we move forward steadily, I can not do it, not to speak about the difficulties that has an impact of us due to the protracted global economic crisis.

The former corporate members of IBSSA went bust in large numbers in many countries of the world, a growing number of our individual members have lost their jobs and they are not only unable to pay the membership dues, but to maintain themselves and their families is extremely difficult.

Of course in such circumstances we can not control properly the obligations of paying the membership fees, and it is obvious that while our increased activity is associated with rising costs, our revenues are far less than planned.

The Independent International Audit Committee of IBSSA – elected by the Congress – has recently completed a comprehensive financial audit of our association, which documents are available, and furthermore the Chairman of the Audit Committee will report about these ascertainments to the IBSSA Executive Committee and the Congress.

Much by way of introduction – in respect of the compliance with the financial discipline and rules – the audit committee found everything in all right, but unfortunately the many years of deficit is not resolved, and even the balance of incomes and expenditures shows an increasing negative.

The existence of our association is due solely to the fact that the elected and appointed leaders and officials not only work completely free of charge, but also their work-related costs have been taken over and covered by them for many years now!

It is understandable that those, whose company was bankrupted and have difficulties of living, we can not expect such sacrifice and unfortunately this means that a number of officers – who have contributed significantly to our association's activities over the years – are now unable to do so involuntarily. In these cases numerous officials asked for acquittal and be discharged from their positions, which was approved by the IBSSA Board of Directors, but hereby I would like to express my thanks again for their many years of dedicated work!

Traditionally, after the IBSSA Congress and the International Joint Conference of IBSSA – IPA – IAPA an Award Ceremony will take place, where all these activities and works can be recognised and appreciated with merits and awards.

Recognising the fact that the crisis is not over, this year for the first time we spread the adoption of a significantly reduced budget proposal, which is based on the real earnings in the last 2-3 years. Unfortunately this means that in the future we will still need the support of wealthier companies and the assistance of our officials by bearing their own costs.

If all goes well membership fees and other incomes cover the expenses of ID cards, diplomas, pins, badges, passports, other publications and incurred postage costs. There is no money left to cover the travel expenses and honorarium!

This year, according to the Statues of IBSSA, members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for the coming five years, and of course it is not certain that the nominees are all able to do their work under the current economic situation.

During the Congress preparations we followed the well-established principle that all officials, who have worked successfully and well, should be elected again, while those, who did not work during the past few years should be dismissed and replaced with new ones.

According to the IBSSA Statutes the Headquarters sent out in time the relevant calls for proposals.

It still remains an important policy that the Board of Directors should be a powerful, effective team, who can work well with each other, therefore during the Congress the Executive Committee of IBSSA is going to come up with a complete proposal, so the Congress delegates can vote for a team to give them mandate for the coming 5 years.

All official mandate expires on the date of the Congress. Members of the Auditing Committee and members of the Board of Directors are elected solely by the Congress, and appointing all other representatives will already be the powers of the new Board. I am sure that the new leadership will entrust again every successfully working chairmen and will appoint new ones instead of the passive ones.

Before the Award Ceremony, I would like to express my thanks now to all the active members and officers of IBSSA, who contributed much to the steady development and strengthening of our association over the past years.

In the last few years – particularly due to the economic crisis – we installed the practice that the General Assembly of IBSSA is organised only in every 5th year, and in the meantime we organise regional congress yearly. This practice went quite well.

Highly successful events were the European Congress in Zlate Moravce, Slovakia last year, the Congress in Arad, Romania in 2011, and also three years ago the IBSSA Congress – for the first time – in Asia, in Cambodia.

It is essential to mention the extremely successful Balkan conferences, most of which took place in Banja Luka, Bosnia. These events could not have been taken place without the selfless and generous support of some IBSSA members and without the help of the host city or organisation. In addition to the above significant events were organised in a number of countries and regions.

Finally, let me briefly list a few areas and regions, whose development was remarkable in recent times:

In the field of organisational life there is significant development in the USA, France, Macedonia, Latvia, and in several Western European countries, thanks to the excellent work of Karl DelaGuerra, Ronan Chatellier, Branislav Jovchevski and Andrey Shishov.

In relation to education and teaching I have to mention on first place the more and more successful “SEC-tember” annual international special advanced training of the Headquarters, for which event and its organisation Ms. Erika Macsári and her assistants are commended, but also outstanding quality of education is going on – as I already mentioned – in Latvia, and Macedonia, the Academy develops in Angola, and the activities of our partner organisation – PSA (Protection and Security Academy) is remarkable as well.

For the success of these trainings we can be thankful to our world famous lecturers and Master Teachers.

An increasing number of departments are active, here I must mention the Narcotics Policy Department, which has strengthened its cooperation in the past year with NATEA, and EDDKE, and joined the government's anti-drug program in Hungary, too.

This year's choice of topic for the international conference shows well that in recent years activities of the Traffic Safety Department were outstanding, thanks to the dedicated work of Mr. Zoltán Schváb and Mr. László Tímár.

The three most active classes of IBSSA indisputably are the VIP Security Department, the Education and Qualification Department, and the Shooting Department.

Dr. Rony Kluger – President of IBSSA-ISF will report about the activities of the federation, but I definitely have to emphasize the dedicated work and highly effective actions of Dr. Frank Philipoom, General Secretary of IBSSA-ISF, which he carries on for years now in spite of his very serious illness.

Representatives of some other active departments prepare for separate reports, which statements are annexed to the Congress.

Thank you all for your work so far, and also the support and your presence at the IBSSA events!

Thank you for your attention!

Prof. George POPPER
President of IBSSA