

Bio-Cultural Olympiads – A Revival of the Ancient Olympic Spirit



One of the most important goals of the Biopolitics International Organisation has been to raise awareness of the need to promote environmental preservation through the Olympic Games. The hope for the Olympics to evolve from merely sporting events to cultural and creative initiatives has also been stressed in this context. Furthermore, since its inception in 1985, the B.I.O. has been proposing the instatement of cease-fire during the Olympics, as a vehicle for the attainment of world peace. Recently, at a major conference at the International Olympic Academy in ancient Olympia, the B.I.O. proposal for the environment to become the core theme for cultural Olympiads in the next millennium was adopted as a primary conference resolution.

In the quest for new societal values for the

next millennium, a revival of the ancient Olympic spirit can contribute the necessary dimensions of unity and harmony to the development of every aspect of human endeavour. The Olympic Games, held in Greece for over ten centuries, constituted important political and cultural events, promoting a unifying vision of peace, kinsmanship and reconciliation.

Currently, the Olympic Games, a beacon of world peace and hope, award medals only for physical prowess. Moreover, the concept of athletics is synonymous with sports and feats of the body. Yet we should be reminded that the term athletics comes from the Greek word *athlos*, meaning achievement. Therefore, athletics encompasses all possible achievements of humanity, whether physical or spiritual. It is thus important that the concept of athletics regains its original significance and becomes redefined, on the basis of a new system of values.

The bios theory embraces the spirit of harmonious development, both mental and physi-



cal. People should not confine themselves to striving for excellence in sporting events only. In order to promote the bio-assessment of technology and a global bio-culture for the new millennium, the B.I.O. has been proposing the creation of multidisciplinary international committees, assigned with the responsibility of assessing progress and awarding Bios Prizes to individuals, or institutions, that have

significantly contributed to the preservation and appreciation of the environment.

International competitions take place in various fields, such as music, poetry, theatre and scientific research. However, these competitions represent a fragmented view of human achievements. In order to re-establish the harmony and unity behind all expressions of human creativity, an overall recognition and award of achievement in sports, arts, and science may be carried out simultaneously, every four years, on the occasion of the Olympic Games. For example, legislators could be awarded for developing new legislation regarding bios rights; architects, for having worked in

the construction of *biopolis* models; corporate leaders, for including environmental protection in their business activities. Prizes could be awarded in several disciplines, such as ethics,



legislation, economics, business, theology, architecture, diplomacy, or philosophy, with the hope to eventually include all human accomplishments. The Olympiads should be periods of world peace and occasions for all citizens of the world to celebrate the unifying concepts brought forth by the Olympic spirit. At the same time, the global community can be sensitised to the value of a harmonious co-existence as a vehicle for achieving a better quality of life. Within the spirit of bio-culture, the B.I.O. has been proposing the revival of the ancient ideal of *cease-fire* during the Olympics. The hope is that the bio-environment will act as a unifying force for peace, leading to a new social structure, where respect for bios will be at the core of every action and thought.

I.U.B.E. - 3rd International Youth Bios Olympiad in St. Petersburg

The Biopolitics International Organisation, in collaboration with the Ecological Club of Post Graduates, Students and Schoolchildren of the Baltic/Ladoga Region and St. Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, held the Third Annual International Youth Bios-Olympiad in St. Petersburg September 13-16. This timely endeavour was made possible thanks to the efforts of Professor Alexander Shishkin.



On the threshold of the 21st century, the International Youth Bios Olympiad '98 deals with the urgent problems of biopolitics and the bio-environment, and explores approaches for the control of technological development and for the creation of



prerequisites for a new bio-culture - the culture of the next millennium. Environmental conservation, the bio-assessment of technology on an international level, and the bridging of the gap between technological development and societal values are stressed. The purpose of this event was to promote bonding among young people on the basis of the bio-environment and to help build a biocentric society for the future. More specifically, the goal was to:

- Estimate: -the capacity of youth organisations to solve the



- environmental and biopolitics problems of society
- the state of public organisations aimed at environmental protection and environmental education
- the level of environmental development the promotion of biocentric values in society

- Outline approaches to solving environmental and biopolitics problems by:
 - selecting the most promising projects
 - setting criteria for the bio-assessment and bio-control of productive, cultural and creative, and educational activities
- Create data banks on:
 - methods for the investigation of the state of the environment and human beings
 - public movements, projects, and programs to unite young people



through their participation in environmental protection actions -Try new forms of international youth forums for the promotion of environmental, bio-cultural and bio-athletics values.

Three hundred and fifty young participants from several countries engaged with great enthusiasm in all Bios Olympiad '98 events. They presented very interesting works dealing with different aspects of environmental protection and focusing on biocentric principles and values. Bios-Olympiad '98 Awards were given for excellence and creativity in original works. Topics included: Democratic participation in the solution of environmental problems; On the threshold of the third millennium; Bio-environment and biopolitics in the future; Human achievements in environment.

350 young people from 11 to 22 years of age participated with enthusiasm in the International Youth Bios Olympiad '98.



The International Youth Bios-Olympiad '98 was held in co-operation with: *The Baltic/Ladoga International Ecological Club, the Leningrad District Committee for Family, Childhood and Youth of the St. Petersburg Administration, the Committee for Environment and Natural Resource Protection of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad District, the International Academy of Environmental, Human and Nature Safety Sciences, the Leningrad District Ministry of Natural Use and Ecological Safety, the Department on Environment Protection of the St. Petersburg Administration, the Consulate General of the Netherlands in St. Petersburg, the Russian Union of Culture Workers, the Research Institute for RES and Extreme Situation Prediction, the Interschool Centre for the Ecological Security of Children - Pushkin Town, "Coastwatch Europe" International Organisation, the "Clean Town" Association, "Bio-Centre," St. Petersburg State Technological University for Plant Polymers, St. Petersburg Universities, State Technical University*



The International character of this unique endeavour stressed the importance of synergy and co-operation in the building of a brighter future.

INTERNATIONAL BIOS OLYMPIAD '98 YOUTH