

Foreword



2000

Welcome to Morocco
Bienvenue au Maroc

Bienvenidos a Marruecos
Willkommen in Marokko

Issue 52 of Mutuality magazine for 2001 is completely dedicated to the future of Mutuality as discussed at AISAM's 21st General Meeting, held in Fez (Morocco) from October 11 to 14, 2000. A separate issue will cover the other topics.

In 1998, during the previous AISAM congress in Chicago, the Moroccan members of MAMDA, the company selected to organize the next congress in the year 2000, had shown the delegates a film about the royal city of Fez.

The reality went far beyond the images projected. Everyone admired and acknowledged not only the beauty of the city and the country, but also the Meeting's organization and the festivities.

The congress was an immense success, attracting 160 delegates from twenty-three countries, representing more than 105 mutual insurance companies, and totalling 250 participants in all.

The quality of the event was excellent, as was acknowledged by all, thanks to the speakers and the members of the Association. It should have a major impact at international level.

The organization lived up to our wildest hopes, offering every delegate the assistance and infrastructures worthy of such an event. We would like to pay a special tribute to the staff of Abed Yacoubi Soussane, President of MAMDA, for its faultless organization not only of the congress, but also of the pre- and post-congress activities listed below.

Many thanks to our Moroccan friends!

After a trip through the Atlas mountains via Marrakesh, the participants in the pre-congress events joined the members of the Committee and Board to be welcomed by Abed Yacoubi Soussane, president of MAMDA, and his wife in their residence at the centre of the city royal of Fez, a typically Moroccan palace which revealed the splendours of Moroccan architecture to the guests.

The very first evening gave the congress participants an opportunity to appreciate the quality and variety of Moroccan cuisine.

The Board and Committee met on the following day (October 11) in order to put the finishing touches to the programme, among other things.

During an evening cocktail reception, our hosts invited us to attend the inauguration of the illuminations at the main historical sites in Fez. These are sponsored by MAMDA, which is also planning to build secondary schools in rural areas.

The subsequent dinner, with an orchestra and delicious food, was held in the opulent hall of the Prefecture.

The congress began on the following day. After an opening speech by Emiel Aldeweireldt, President of AISAM, and a welcoming speech by Abed Yacoubi Soussane, followed by an analysis of the Moroccan economy by a government representative, the following issues, directly connected to current affairs, were dealt

After an initial day of deliberations, and various cultural activities reserved to those accompanying the delegates, a typical Moroccan marriage ceremony was presented during the gala dinner offered to participants in a very old residence in Fez. For the purposes of the show, the bride was chosen from among the guests.

During the last morning, the deliberations were dedicated to:

- ***Sponsorship and ethical investments: a "must" for modern mutuality***

Round-table discussion chaired by Bent Knie-Andersen, Alm Brand (Denmark)

- ***The AISAM international support network***

Round-table discussion chaired by Ulf Solheid, Reale Mutua (Italy).

As usual, the congress concluded with the Statutory General Meeting during which the following were elected:

PRESIDENT

Bent Knie-Andersen, Copenhagen, Denmark

VICE-PRESIDENT and TREASURER

Patrick Peugeot, Paris, France

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Julio Castelo, Madrid, Spain
Werner Görg, Cologne, Germany
Remo Segnana, Trento, Italy

MEMBERS

José Bagioli, Santiago, Chile
Roy Hurley, London, United Kingdom
Cor Ensing, Emmen, the Netherlands
Asmo Kalpala, Espoo, Finland
Rolf Mehr, Lausanne, Switzerland
Dioulde Niane, Dakar, Senegal
Takahide Sakurai, Tokyo, Japan
Dirk van de Walle, Brussels, Belgium

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Gérard OUTTERS

As the outgoing President, Emiel Aldeweireldt made an emotional farewell, praising his period as President of AISAM and the excellent work carried out by the members. His speech was strongly applauded by the delegates.

Bent Knie-Andersen, the new president of AISAM, then presented the closing speech, stating that the next AISAM congress in 2002 would be held in Bordeaux (France), and would be organized by mutuals which own vineyards in this wine-producing region.

All the interventions concerning the future of Mutuality can be found in this brochure.

The lunch and the ensuing afternoon brought all the congress delegates together for a moment of relaxation at the sports club, featuring Moroccan culinary traditions once again.

The members challenged each other during the golf tournament on the Saturday, during which Mr. BAZEN won the gentlemen's cup while the ladies' cup was won by Ms. Montal Costa, giving spectators an opportunity to stroll around the course admiring the landscapes and fine players.

One of the two subsequent post-congress excursions took the participants to Rabat/Marrakesh, while the other explored Erfoud, Ouarzazate and Marrakesh.

***AISAM's 21st congress in Morocco can be epitomized by the words
"emotion, beauty, quality and professionalism".***