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## IML News

### The walk in Brno

Kudrna goes around Brno - is not longer suspended.

Concerning the contents of the letter dated January the 14th, the board has decided to lift the suspension and to give the organisers of the walking event "Kudrna goes around Brno" a last chance.

The board invited them to come to the board meeting in Chantonnay to present their plans in order to achieve the IML standards. They have to explain 'what action they will take' and 'when the action will be completed'.

## The walk in Bern/Belp

In October 2006 the Board of the IML received the following text from the Swiss organisation committee 'The 48th Two Days march will not be held. We hope to thus bring the long standing honourable tradition to a dignified close. The organisational committee regrets the move and is prepared to take all necessary measures to ensure an ordered conclusion. Accepting the motion means the end of the Swiss Two Days march.'

The General Meeting in Arenzano in 2007 accepted this decision, so Bern/Belp is no longer a member of the IML. Walkers wrote to us last year that there was a walking event in Bern/Belp again. The IML board has contacted the Swiss organisers and asked them if they wanted to become an IML member again. The new Organization Committee of the Two-Days-March of Bern wishes to become a member of IML, but the formal decision is has not been taken yet.

### For 2008 the Schweizerischen Zweitagemarsch is not an IML event.

Maybe they will become a member again, but this will require the support of the Board of the IML and the agreement of the Annual General Meeting in Nijmegen this year.

You can read the following text on their new website <http://www.2tm.ch>.

*"Das OK freut sich, mit dem Schweizerischen Zweitagemarsch, einen völkerverbindenden Marschevent mit nationaler und internationaler Beteiligung, durchzuführen.*

*Mit der Teilnahme zur Absolvierung eigener Marschleistungen, fördert man seine eigene Gesundheit und schafft neue Freundschaften.*

*2008 – 17. und 18. Mai*

*2009 – 16. und 17. Mai (50. Austragung)*

*2010 – 15. und 16. Mai"*

## Criteria to become an International Master Walker (IMW)

Due to the cancellation of the "Swiss Two Days March" the General Meeting of the IML has decided to temporarily adapt the "Master Walker" reward system as follows: Until further notice the walker can earn his "International Master Walker" clip by participating in the walks of the 7 remaining founding members and by walking in 2008 at one of the other European IML walks at choice.

The 7 remaining members are:

- Blankenberge (Belgium)
- Diekirch (Luxemburg)
- Viborg (Denmark)
- Castlebar (Ireland)
- Nijmegen (The Netherlands)
- Seefeld (Austria)
- Higashimatsuyama (Japan)

The other European members are:

- Gilboa (Israel)
- Wellingborough (England)
- Chantonay (France)
- Vaasa (Finland)

- Verdal (Norway)
- Arenzano (Italy)
- Fulda (Germany)

## International Korean Walking Festival

There were some rumours that the International Korean Walking Festival had moved from Wonju to Seoul. In November the board had several talks with KAPA (the official member of Korea in IML) and KWF (the organisers of the walk in Wonju). In favour of the promotion of walking in Korea we urged both to work together more closely. Late December we received a confirmation that the walk in 2008 will be held in Wonju.

## Calendar IML events 2008 and 2009

European Region	Days	2008	2009	Comment
Gilboa	2	4/5 April	27/28 March	March/April
Blankenberge	2	26/27 April	2/3 May	May
Wellingborough	2	10/11 May	9/10 May	May
Chantonay	4	1/4 May	21/24 May	May
Diekirch	2	17/18 May	6/7 June	May/June
Viborg	2	28/29 June	27/28 June	June
Castlebar	4	3/6 of July	2/5 July	July
Nijmegen	4	15/18 July	21/24 July	July
Vaasa	3	8/10 August	7/9 August	August
Verdal	2	30/31 August	29/30 August	August
Arenzano	2	13/14 Sept.	12/13 Sept.	September
Seefeld	3	19/21 Sept.	18/20 Sept.	September
Brno	2	27/28 Sept.	26/27 Sept.	September
Fulda	2	4/5 October	3/4 October	October
Barcelona	2	11/12 October	17/18 October	October
<b>Pan Pacific Region</b>				
Rotorua	2	15/16 March	21/22 March	March
Canberra	2	29/30 March	4/5 April	March/April
Vancouver USA	2	25/27 April	24/26 April	April
Dalian	2	17/18 May	16/17 May	May
Arlington USA	2	18/19 October	17/18 October	October
Won-Ju	2	25/26 October	24/25 October	Oct./Nov.
Higashimatsuyama	3	1/3 November	6/8 November	November
Taipei	2	8/9 November	14/15 November	November

## Co-operation IVV - IML Walking Association

*Speech IML president at the opening ceremony & welcome party of the anniversary of the Japan three day march on November 1st 2007 in Tokyo*

*Ladies and gentleman, good evening.*

*It is a honour and pleasure for me to be here to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Japan three day march and the 20th anniversary of the IML together with you.*

*The IML and the JWA are closely linked to each other. On November 4th 1987 we had a seminar in Higashimatsuyama called "In search of the colour of the wind" and the IML was founded. I must say: "Japanese people have a nice way to say things". If you ask what walking is all about they say: "If you are walking you will see the colour of the wind". This says almost everything.*

*To be honest. The 8 founding members of the IML were lucky. They started with a formula that turned out to be successful. Now 20 years later the IML has 23 members. It was the JWA who opened the doors in Asia for us. I like to remember Kaneko san and my good friend Prof. Shinshiro Ebashi. And not to forget the silent force behind the JWA in all those years, Kitani san.*

*Celebrating anniversaries ladies and gentleman is nice. But you can also say we are one year older again and how does the future looks like. For us it is important to look at the future and to ask ourselves: Are we still up to date? Do we understand what is going on in society? Do we know what our customers want in the future? Looking at the formula of the IML we can say: "Nice, a lot of people like it". But what do they like? Do they like they award system? Do they like to travel to other countries and to make friends all over the world?*

*I am certain they do. But is this enough to be certain that there will be a 30th anniversary of the IML in the future? It is also a fact that the average age of the walkers is above 45. I am always surprised if I walk in Asia that there are so many children walking with their parents. In Europe however we are worried because our kids don't move enough and a lot of them have obesities. I am not talking about the USA because people over there almost don't walk at all. I think the prices of gas over there are to low.*

*On the other side of the demographic tree we see an ageing population in the industrialised countries. A very nice way to keep them out of the nursing homes is walking.*

*Why am I telling you all this? I am telling this because I think there is a lot of work to do. We should make some analysis and ask ourselves: "What kind of products in the field of walking we could develop to serve the community. And ladies and gentleman: We could use some help. Referring to the speech of Mr. Sakamoto (maire Higashimatsuyama) he looks like me as a father who like to give his daughter away because he is very much in favour of a marriage between the IVV and the IML. I am wondering if they are ready to get married. The IVV is almost 40 years old and the IML 20. I always learned that a good wife should have half of the age of a man + 7 years. So maybe the IML is a little bit too young to get married.*

*But ladies and gentleman she certainly is old enough to get engaged. What I am saying is that I really like to investigate the possibilities to cooperate with the IVV because in my opinion together we could make a difference looking at the future.*

*Ladies and gentleman, to finish my speech. I wish you a good and enjoyable anniversary and I hope to walk with you in Higashimatsuyama, the city of the trees on the east side of the mountains.*

## The Dalian International Walking Festival

The Dalian Walking Association held the 5th Dalian International Walking Festival over the weekend of 26 and 27 May 2007.

A new IML-member and at the same time (with 270.000 participants in two days) the biggest walking event in the world. (so at least 135.000 walkers every day !)



The event kicked off on Friday afternoon with reserved VIP-seats for the foreigners at the opening ceremony of the 18th Acacia Flower Festival with cultural (Chinese) dances by more than 20 coloured groups of dancers.



On 18:30 there was a meeting for all foreigners with a big buffet dinner including friendly speeches. All speeches translated in English, Russian, Korean and Japanese. After this speeches several groups of Chinese dancer were dancing in action on the stage.

Saturday a lot of reporters, photographers, filmers, radio and television were present at the Xinghai Square because they were proud and made a live on radio and television of the admission to the IML-circuit; with highly attention for the first delegation of European walkers.

Most of the Chinese walkers walked 5 and 10 km. On behalf of the foreigners there was an interesting mix of walkers. The biggest group was a Russian group of Vladivostock, the second biggest group were the Korean mainly from Seoul and third biggest the Japanese from all over Japan. I saw overseas walkers from the United States the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Australia, Denmark and more than ten countries.

The 5 km walkers walked to the western direction; the 10 km, 20 and 30 km walkers went into the eastern direction. As the longer routes (20 and 30 km) turned back through the hills near the Yellow Sea the overseas walkers were amazed to see the beautiful views of the Yellow Sea and Xinghai Square (biggest city square in Asia) from above.

In the evening there was a big social dinner and you can bought your IML-awards there. Especially the Russian bought a lot of them; because for them it is rather cheap to travel to China and Korea (and Japan). More then 100 Russian will book the Wonju IML walk in 2007; Slava Kitaev told me.

The Dalian Walking Association already has an agreement with the Korean and Japanese walking organisers. If you finish the walks in Dalian and Wonju and Higashi-matsuyama the walkers will be awarded with the East Asia Flower Master Walker medal (see photo)



Sunday was another sunny day and all walkers started in the eastern direction following the Bing Hai Road to Hai Zi Yun(Sea charming park). At the end of walk every walker returned by public transport. DWA and DCWITS provide free buses service for foreign walkers group. On behalf of the IML there was only a stamp at the end; no awards available. We received our achievement medals for the walk and IML awards the other day. No certificate for the only PPML-walkers (Hans van Putten) ; but nevertheless a very successful event.

For those who weren't here, you missed a great weekend and the Dalian Walking Association hopes to see you on 17 and 18 May 2008.

Ben van der Velden; Trans – World.

## Congratulations

Leibniz-Gymnasium des Kreises Ostholstein in Bad Schwartau (276 girls, boys, parents and teachers) have participate successful in 24 IML Events / 16 countries during the last 19 months.

Five of us got the European or Master Walker Medal. Our youngest European Walker is Corvin Lerche (13 years).

He accomplished the lesson 2007 in five and a half months: Blankenberge, Diekirch, Viborg, Nijmegen, Arenzano, Seefeld, Fulda and Barcelona.



## Call for papers

Dear walking friends,

This is our fourth edition of the Newsletter for walkers. For the moment we send to you a lot of information about IML and the different walks. For the future we want to transform the Newsletter in a media for and of the walkers. So we ask you to send us funny stories about an IML walk, what happened to you at the walk, your personal experiences, ... and why not some beautiful photo's or pictures.

A few examples:

My first example is the two walkers some 3KM off route. Walking along a main road. When we found them they complained that there had not been any route markers for 3Km and no other walkers. When asked why they had turned right instead of left with the other 1,000 walkers we got the answer. We knew they were all going the wrong way!

Another was about the route planner who always made a fuss about Health & Safety. We must be safe, We must check all of the Walkers, We must take them safely along paths - all his phrases. So.....it rained and he went on the walk. No one has planned a safer walk he said. Along the Canal bank it was muddy. Guess who fell in and had to be rescued by a boat?

The committee of marketing - Editorial board of the Newsletter for walkers

## In Memoriam EO Pederson

Dear members of the IML, dear walking friends,

It made me sad to receive the message that our good friend, Eiler Otto Pedersen (EO), died yesterday on the age of 74.

In 1986 he was the representative of Denmark in Papendaal, where the first meeting took place about a co-operation between multi days walking events, spread all over the world. EO was, as one of the founding fathers of IML, present on the founders meeting in the Nippon Centre in Tokyo on 29th of October 1987. During nine years he was vice-president for the European region of the IML. A couple of years ago, being in a bad health condition already, EO accepted the presidency of the IML in order to solve a continuity problem within the Board of the IML. Always he wanted to be amongst his IML friends, his walkers in Denmark, Europe and the world. Even the last year, when he was very ill, he was in Blankenberge and participated at the general meeting in Arenzano.



He was a real ambassador of the walking sport and IML and an important force behind the Haervejsmarchen in Denmark.

We will miss him and remember him as a good friend and a advocate of walking, especially for the ML Walking Association, and of course we will meet him again.

Signed for the Board of the IML Walking Association  
Ron Hendriks  
President

## Members

An overview of all IML members can be found online at:  
<http://imlwalking.org/members.htm>

## Contact the Editor

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