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UIPM PRESIDENT SCHORMANN LOOKS AHEAD TO 2019 IN NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS



Dr Klaus Schormann, President of the Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne, has issued his 2019 new year's address.

As the global pentathlon community embarks on the third year of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic cycle, the leader of the governing International Federation has pinpointed the key priorities for UIPM Sports and the wider Olympic movement in a wide-ranging address.

Dr Schormann, who has been at the helm of UIPM since 1993, wrote:



Dear colleagues and friends of the UIPM movement,

The 2019 season promises to be one of the most exciting years in the long history of the Modern Pentathlon.

This sport was established especially for the Olympic Summer Games; it has been a core part of the Olympic programme since Stockholm 1912, and since 1948 our Union has worked to align sport development to the philosophy and heritage of our founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

I can state without fear of contradiction that if he were alive today, the Baron would be proud of the way our movement provides opportunities for sport while promoting Olympic values such as education, peace and tolerance.

Where the modern world is split along political, religious and socio-economic divides, the Modern Pentathlon brings people together, using sport as a force for unity.

There is good cause to reflect on some of the many things our global community achieved in 2018, such as:

- *The birth of the **Pentathlon Stadium** in Mexico City (MEX), where all five disciplines could be viewed from one seat in the space of a few hours*
- *The expansion of the **Global Laser Run City Tour (GLRCT)** to almost 100 cities across all continents, giving more and more urban communities an entry point to UIPM Sports*
- *Another new **pentathlon centre opening in Asia** in Jakarta (INA), coinciding with the excellent 2018 Asian Games*
- *Record attendances at various **youth competitions**, including the UIPM 2018 Youth World Championships (U19 & U17) in Caldas da Rainha (POR)*
- *UIPM's **70th Anniversary** celebrations, which included a glittering awards dinner during the 2018 Congress in Limassol (CYP)*

As a former teacher, I am especially proud of how education has come to form a central pillar of UIPM.

Sport teaches discipline and respect, both for oneself and others, and it promotes teamwork. For most of its existence the Pentathlon has been a team sport, even at the Olympic Games, but now the **Mixed Relay** has become a signature of our multi-sport movement. It is the embodiment of gender balance and a key component of the IOC Olympic Agenda 2020.

On September 9, 2018, during the Mixed Relay at the UIPM Pentathlon World Championships in Mexico City, we celebrated the 1st **Pierre de Coubertin Pentathlon Day**.

This was a landmark occasion that will be repeated during the **UIPM 2019 Pentathlon and Laser Run World Championships** in Budapest (HUN), a unique event that will combine our core Olympic sport and our most popular development sport for the first time.

Budapest 2019 promises to be one of the many highlights of the coming year, when the key goals of UIPM will include:

- To maintain smooth preparations for the **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games** with an official test event during the UIPM 2019 Pentathlon World Cup Final, one of many standout competitions in the 2019 calendar **[add link to website]**
- To recreate the **Pentathlon Stadium** in Tokyo (JPN) and in Budapest (HUN), improving the experience for all the stakeholders of our sport: athletes and coaches, VIP guests, spectators and TV viewers, media partners and sponsors
- To stimulate more Pentathlon development at youth level through **Biathle** and **Triathle** in schools
- To continue the special promotion of Pentathlon through the increasingly popular format of **Laser Run**, which will feature in the 1st World Urban Games in Los Angeles (USA)
- To strengthen our membership of **National Federations**, especially in **Asia and Africa**, by giving more support to nations in both continents that have the potential to join our global family
- To increase cooperation between all bodies of UIPM and with our **partner organisations** that form the backbone of the Olympic Movement – IOC, ASOIF, GAISF and ANOC – as well as the IPC and FISU

More and more people around the world now have a pathway to pentathlon thanks to the accessibility of our development sports and the appeal of **urban, beach** and **university** formats. We are attracting new audiences to our sport and especially younger generations, with more ways to follow our athletes on television and digital channels.

In everything we do, our global community of volunteers and professionals work hard to preserve the legacy created by Coubertin. We are also guided by the **IOC Olympic Agenda 2020**, which promotes the importance of gender equality, inclusion and accessibility, sustainability and many other important facets which are now embedded into our sport at all levels.

I wish each of you a happy new year and hope that your sporting endeavours will bring you success, happiness and good fortune throughout 2019.

UIPM President

Dr h.c. Klaus Schormann