

# The first year of the International Organization for natural bathing waters (IOB)

End of September, IOB celebrated their first birthday. To this end, representatives of member organizations and the Board for gathered for an ordinary general meeting in Portugal. All participants of the meeting agreed that in 2010 IOB has fulfilled its statutory aim to promote and spread the idea of natural bathing waters with fully biological water treatment on an international level.



With the support of the IOB national organizations of the swimming pond industry were founded in France and Great Britain this year. In December, joined the association being set up in Israel. IOB now has member associations in the above mentioned countries and in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Czech Republic, Spain and Portugal.

About a year after its founding, the IOB represents about 400 individuals and companies dealing primarily with planning and construction

On this picture, from the left to the right: Jiri Hajek (Czech Republic), Udo Schwarzer (Portugal), Guido Manzke (Germany), Stefan Bruns (Germany), Anja Werner (Italy), Peter Petrich (Austria), Claudia Schwarzer (Portugal), Dirk Esser (France), Peter Enge (Spain), Heiko Frehse (Germany) und Paul Luther (Italy).

of swimming pools with biological water treatment.

## Draft Framework Directive for public swimming ponds

Even in its task of coordination of regulations on construction of swimming ponds, the IOB has taken an important first step. With the draft of a framework directive nature baths in Europe

IOB has taken the initiative for a discussion over national borders. The goal is to make the existing regulations for public natural ponds comparable and, for countries in which arise such rules, submit proposals, which give an, appropriate structure to harmonize the regulations on an international level.

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Der IOB-newsletter wird herausgegeben vom Vorstand der Internationalen Organisation für naturnahe Badegewässer (IOB) und versteht sich als vorzugsweise monatlich erscheinendes Mitteilungsorgan des Vereins für eine Information der Einzelmitglieder in den Mitgliedsverbänden der IOB. Behandelt werden Themen rund um die Arbeit der IOB und seiner Mitglieder aus der internationalen Naturfreibäder-Branche. Der IOB-newsletter erscheint nach Möglichkeit monatlich in digitaler Form auf der homepage und wird über die Mitgliedsverbände der IOB an ihre Einzelmitglieder versandt. Beiträge mit namentlich gekennzeichnetem Autor geben nicht unbedingt die Meinung des Vorstandes der IOB wider. Kontakt: [www.iob-ev.eu](http://www.iob-ev.eu)

Congress 2011  
in Ceske Budejovice  
(Czech Republic)

Another important task of the IOB is support the organization of all biennial International Swimming pond Congress. The 6th International Congress swimming pond and Exhibition will be organized by the Czech swimming pond association. Under the auspices of the IOB it will take place from 28 to 30 of September 2011 in Ceske Budejovice, Southern Bohemia. Just two days before the Congress begins, on 26 and 27 September, there are rallies, with starts from the neighboring Germany and Austria. During the trip there will be excursions to public swimming ponds in those countries and in the Czech Republic. The International swimming pond congress takes place every second year in autumn. After Geisenheim (Germany), Salzburg (A), Interlaken (CH), Hannover (D) and Merano (I), Ceske Budejovice is the sixth edition of this gathering of 300 representatives of the swimming pond industry. The event will have its own homepage ([www.schwimmteich-kongress.com](http://www.schwimmteich-kongress.com), coming up soon) with all about the conference, trade fair, the rallies and stay in Ceske Budejovice. The site will be available in English, Czech and German.

From the work of the Board

By the end of 2010, the Board held **11 board meetings**, including 9 as telephone conferences.

At the beginning of the year IOB dedicated a leaflet to the **UNESCO Year of Biodiversity** which was acquired by swimming pond colleagues in Portugal, Italy, Switzerland and Germany. The leaflet shows the basis of 6 animal species (amphibians, reptiles and insects) for which swimming ponds may be second hand habitats.

[www.iob-ev.eu](http://www.iob-ev.eu) In the first year of the association this website is created as a key communication platform where discussion forums and internship placement services, an online library are available for all individual members of organizations associated to IOB. Furthermore, there is a central event calendar where members can announce. One can choose if it should be an internal or a public event. The Board invites all to send information for the calendar or the message section of the website.

In September 2010 the Board organized in cooperation with the British Association swimming pool BANSPP a **mini-conference in London**. More mini conferences are planned. This means events for a day on swimming ponds in a particular country, on the one hand below the national point of view (National Association) and as well from a European perspective (IOB). With the participation of the press and government officials, the mini conferences are mainly intended as start-up events to make the topic in a country better known.

2010 were also two **extraordinary members** are accepted (from Turkey and Greece). Extraordinary members are people comparable to ambassadors. They send information to IOB on natural swimming ponds in their countries, thereby assisting the Board in its work. In return, these extraordinary members are helped to build swimming pond associations in their countries. Associate members are there already in Denmark and Australia.