

# Activities in 2012

The International Swimming Pond Congress in Budweis, last September, is now history and there are many well-known and some new issues that concern the industry and thus also the IOB.

This edition of the IOB-newsletter informs about many of the projects in which members of the International Organization for natural bathing waters work.

Since the discussion of the draft of the IOB Framework Directive for public pools with biological water treatment at the Congress in Ceske Budejovice there is now a new version available. It is placed as a download on the IOB homepage.

The draft Framework Directive is to be considered as a guide. It is based on the experience with the existing recommendations and laws, especially in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. Although the present Framework Directive is still only a draft, some



member associations have used it as the basis for their own national regulations, in accordance with intention of this document : to be a framework for national regulations.

For example in the UK : on the basis of the Framework Directive, the British Association for Natural Swimming Ponds

## IOB Framework Directive

The draft of the IOB Framework Directive is available on the IOB website and is already being used. Nevertheless, the draft should be further discussed with the aim to submit a new version to the next International Congress, where it then can be voted upon by the participants.

BANSP has drafted a regulation and even came to an agreement about it with the National Commission for bathing water quality (PWTAG). The final vote in the association and the publication still has to take place; nevertheless the colleagues on the island will probably be the first to get a regulation based on the IOB-Framework Directive.

For example in Iberia: Members of the bi-national federation for swimming ponds in Portugal and Spain have now elaborated their version of the IOB Framework Directive and agreed upon it at their General Assembly. At present, a Portuguese and

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a Spanish version are being translated.

For example Israel: Late last year, the Israeli National Swimming Pond Association INSPA has won an important court case.. The Supreme Court of the country was judging nothing less than the question whether the Israeli Ministry of Health must authorize the construction of public swimming ponds with a natural water treatment. It must, was the sentence and now the first communal swimming pond will go under construction in a kibbutz. INSPA will follow the recommendations provided in the IOB's Framework Directive.

For example Italy: in this country also the question of regulation of public use pools with biological water treatment is discussed. And this is to be understood literally, because the Italian Swimming Federation pond AIABN has invited officials from all over the country to a conference. On June 22nd experts from the industry and representatives of the health authorities will meet in the province of Ferrara, just next to a newly built public swimming pond. Thus, the theoretical reflection on the how to approve public projects is linked with practical exercise, so that the participants can feel

what it is like to swim in a swimming pond. This event involves IOB with a lecture on the topic.

### International Congress

The next International Swimming Pond Congress will be held in autumn 2013 in Austria. It will be organized by the Association of Austrian swimming pond builders (VÖS). The IOB-founding member has now announced that the congress will be take place from October 23rd to 25th in Bregenz, Lake Constance.

The choice of the location corresponds to the desire of many participants in the last congress who wanted this venue to be in a central location in Central Europe. Bregenz, in the triangle of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, is also very easy to reach from France and Italy. Big international airports are Basel, Zurich and Munich. Nevertheless, the town of Bregenz, with its situation on the Lake Constance and the famous Festival Hall as a venue remains in the tradition of the International Swimming Pond Congresses that always knew how to combine best congress infrastructure with the most beautiful scenery. This is what the previous venues such as Salzburg, Interlaken, Merano or Budweis have in common.

### What's new on the homepage?

"Pin board" is called a new section of the IOB homepage. It is intended to initiate international commercial projects. So messages with a commercial background can be posted here, e.g. someone seeks a franchise partner in a specific region of the world or someone has a specific job to offer and looks internationally for applicants . Thus the heading "pin board" stands for an international online marketplace for the industry.

All entries can be viewed for free. Only members of organizations affiliated to IOB can create entries. The entries have to be paid for and will be activated only after receipt of payment. Offers and requests for international internships and staff exchange can still be posted free of charge in the section "job exchange" of the restricted area of the website.