

How should be the best way to start at the end of 2006?

This has been the most incredible, rewarding, personal and professional consuming time, enjoyable, contradictory, emotionally exhausting, fascinating year I can remember since INPEA was founded.

Highlights being the Global planning and launching of the first WDAEA at the UN Headquarters and all over the world in June 2006 and the first ever Worldwide Environmental Scan on Elder Abuse which was born as a DREAM by our Vice President, Dr Elizabeth Podnieks but pretty well could have ended as a NIGHTMARE, due to the enormous challenge and countless problems the Organization had to face as the Scan started going around: translation and specially validation of the tool in other languages, so many questionnaires per country and per region, getting the right people willing to answer, a rather difficult task; but don't the United Nations have much more difficulties than us when they try to make understand their message and get responses from so many countries of the world?...

And then go back and translated into English as the researchers wouldn't be able to understand that ***“my Country, your Country and all Countries of the World “ are all the same: DIFFERENT....***

As the INPEA President, sometimes too democratic that proved to be necessary, there could be many ways of introducing one's perspective, but I try to use “imagination, creativity and direction” as something personal, following my Past President and mentor Dr Rosalie Wolf's ways of dealing with challenging situations by setting priorities in a very professional fashion, being cool, and trying hard to forget my Latin American blood and original background.

What a fantastic task INPEA does still have ahead!...While we had five previous years already working together with most of the present team, and we certainly did an awful lot in that amount of time, we do have yet a long way to go...

Never ended paper work, new information, questions and proposals coming from all sort of people and every where to be analyzed and try to give a proper answer, by- laws to review following the IAGG, new regulations to be filled, update the INPEA website and important decisions to be made as the Organization continues to grow rapidly worldwide and at all levels.

We have six huge different Regions to cover and thanks God six wonderful Regional Representatives which are very capable and supportive and of course, ***as humans beings all the same, “ but different”..***

We now have dozens of very active National Representatives meaning an incredible amount of people to deal and work with....

Nevertheless, I was blessed to inherit the most professional, dedicated, unconditional people anybody could ask like my unique Vice President Dr Elizabeth Podnieks, and my present Secretary General Dr Susan Somers, who from the very beginning showed to be the most reliable, clever, unpredictable, generous, stubborn, trustable and workaholic person anybody like me would like to have around and keep...and who very graciously wouldn't take NO for an answer.

Now, I feel that I am capable to look forwards.

At the beginning on those initial hectic days I questioned myself “if we really had a plan and an agenda”....

Now, I realize **WE HAD ONE** but always ready for discussion, timely review and updating.

We are quite ready to recognize that still needs some rewriting, but there is a tremendous amount of careful and creative work being done at present as the Organization now finds itself in a very different position and a bigger and more demanding global framework.

Elizabeth Podnieks, Susan Somers, our Regional Representatives, some of our Board Members, Advisers, National Representatives and myself had spent so many hours brainstorming with a blank sheet of paper and set about laying down some new ideas, trying to identify a good number of pressing situations, activities to address and priorities to be taking into account...I can tell you, not an easy job at all..

It is our intention to use the Newsletter and the Website to inform members and sympathizers hoping to get your feedback and letting you know about how progress is being made in relation to these matters, and of course keep the track with the usual thousand of e- mails we keep sending to each other and to all of you. .

I personally hope to focus attention on some achievable targets at time, rather than attacking everything available at once.

Looking inwards to me stands for a better operational management to make sure INPEA`s objectives are protected and improved as frequent and necessary.

This means trying to find out and listening to National and Regional Representatives as they come up with new ideas on how to improve their respective areas of responsibility, taking their proposals for serious discussion and forward them to the Board for their approval.

One of the main objectives of the INPEA Executive body is to provide members and colleagues with a permanent and seamless background Service and be a source of reference when they need one.

“With a bit more time and a fair wind”, we might be able to produce an even better Website in the near future, hopefully before 2007 ...

Looking outwards present us even with more challenging issues.

This is where more strategies come in to design.

Where is INPEA aligned on policy matters affecting the elders, and how are we going to keep playing a leading role on doing it?

Striking up a stronger relationship with other Organizations is another high priority.

I believe it is rather important to have a sound relationship with as many partners as possible and look forward working with them, so that we get to know what others colleagues are thinking, planning and doing, and might add our own weight and influence when appropriate and get their support for our projects when need it.

Indeed, we must do that, as the world ageing population rapidly expand and exert even more pressure on resources in both developed and developing countries.

It is my intention the list to grow in such a way that people in general, including the media, will actively seek the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) viewpoint and listen to us, regarding Health and Human Rights Issues related to Elder Abuse and Neglect, as the learned International NGO with UN Consultative Status we undoubtedly are.

So, if one looks at different positions, one can see nothing but outstanding opportunities and new challenges waiting for us to be brought up to life.

We hope to keep increasing our Membership and being able to succeed in one of our weaker points: **FUNDRAISING**.

I am looking forward to continue working with all of you, and to seeing as possible through to a successful conclusion.

I have been very fortunate with the support of all my INPEA colleagues; whatever I have achieved, it is as much their success as mine, as nothing could have been done without them and I am much and permanently in their debt.

I wish you all a fine end for 2006 and a prosperous and peaceful 2007.

Dr. Lía Susana Daichman

INPEA

President