

Antwerp, 1st October 2016

Letter of intent
Candidacy President of OISTAT 2017
Ivo Kersmaekers

Dear all,

First and foremost, we are a network.

The actions we take have the direct or indirect goal to expand and build this network.

We should not only focus on expanding our own organization, but more and more link ourselves with other existing organizations.

Over the years, I've encountered so many: to name a few: Opera Europa/America, ALD, Theatres Trust, Perspectiv, SIMBAS and many more.

Also the relationship with the PQ must be re-established.

Through joint projects we can establish contacts, we would otherwise never make, and as president I intend to be in the forefront of this.

The force of OISTAT are individuals that take action.

Sometime backed and supported by a specific commission or working group, often on their own with a few friends.

I see the president as a facilitator.

Together with the EC and the secretariat; he has to create possibilities for individual initiatives to blossom.

We must dare to ask ourselves: is the present OISTAT structure of commissions still the best for our present actions and goals?

The communication through the OISTAT centers with the center members must be better.

We need to take more initiative in this.

I'd suggest the different communication tools of the centers (magazines, websites, and social media) would coordinate amongst each other, and promote each other's events internationally.

I feel the EC must communicate better, and include more people at certain points.

We can invite people who work on initiatives, and individual OISTAT center chairs.

As president I will set it a goal to make direct contact with all the OISTAT centers.

The emphasis of the commission chairs should be on communication, not only to the commission members, but to all OISTAT centers and beyond.

Although a nice start has been made by the secretariat, we definitely need a marketing department, promoting the OISTAT initiatives in a professional way.

If we're invited by a center, we must organize ourselves so that the centers and their members have the feeling they got back more than they put into it.

Financially, we need to be sure of our future.

Apart from the membership fees there is only one income source: and the government of Taiwan. The latter apparently costs us a lot of effort to live up to their expectations.

There is a chance this source will dry up in 4 years, and even if it doesn't, we must ask ourselves if there aren't any better sources of income and organization.

We only have a few associate members from the industry.

I'm sure there are many industry partners with international ambition that can benefit from our network and that are prepared to pay for it.

On the other hand we need to keep on looking for alternatives of income and of secretariat.

Keeping contact with the OISTAT centers will help keeping an overview of possibilities and collaborations.

Everyone who got to know me over the years, knows OISTAT is very dear to me.

Being active in the Technology Commission, the Governing Board and the Theatre Timeline Group has broadened my horizon and made my life so much richer and I want to share this with everybody.

I want to give something back, and make the organization blossom so that more people can enjoy the experience of being an OISTAT member.

And that's why I'd like to run for the function of president.

Best regards,

Ivo Kersmaekers.