



FAREWELL ADDRESS IOC

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Thanks to Dr. José Alberto Magno de Carvalho for giving me the opportunity to make a few remarks before the closing of this Conference.

As you all know, and according to IUSSP tradition, the preparations for this Conference considered the recommendations and suggestions on scientific themes and other key issues arising from IUSSP Council and Chairs of Scientific Committees to be covered during this event.

The elements that guided the selection of themes for our scientific program were new visions of well known themes in light of updated theoretical and methodological benchmarks, the incorporation of new topics for research, the exploration of studies on emerging issues and the expansion of the frontiers of interdisciplinary knowledge in the field of population.

The structure of this conference explored some innovations while preserving others, successful in recent Conferences, all of which aim at improving the traditional format of our meetings. The scientific sessions, grouped under the single reference of “regular sessions”, in number of 87, surpassed all prior editions of the Conference. Such a volume of necessary and significant expositions and debates determined that six sessions take place simultaneously in order to carry out our agenda within five days. The “call for papers” aimed at making access of participants to the program more democratic. The session organizers, invited by the International Organizing Committee, carefully read all submissions and based their selections on the relevancy of the contributions to aforementioned sessions. The great success achieved by the call for papers, approximately 1200 received, led the session organizers to recommend a large number of high quality abstracts for a poster presentation due to the strict limitation of four expositions in regular sessions. At this Conference there were approximately 825 selected papers, 349 of which within regular sessions and 476 as posters.

Another innovation to make this Conference even more stimulating, were the four “debate sessions”, that took place separately so as to allow for full participation of all present. The themes for these special sessions, chosen by the Steering Committee, are polemic and certainly



ensured heated debates. I believe the success of this format recommends itself to the Organizers of the next Conference.

This conference also offered participants the chance to improve their effectiveness at communication with peers, general audience and the media.

Taking place in a Latin American country, the significant participation of young demographers from the region was stimulated, and to this end, the Brazilian Government and the Brazilian Association for Population Studies (ABEP) did not measure their efforts.

This Conference is the first to use the resources of the world web in its preparation. The Home Page of the Conference offered all scientific information. Abstracts are on the web and were published in a Book of Abstracts. Whole papers have been recorded on CD and are available on the web. Technological innovations as of Beijing allowed National Organizing Committee to offer to participants of the Conference all audio-visual resources integrated in a network connecting all session rooms, facilitating the presentation of their contributions. All sessions had, for the first time, simultaneous translation in three languages (English, French and Portuguese).

This Conference also included discussants in the regular sessions, and as we thank all who accepted invitations in this capacity, I would like to mention that the role was also perceived as a positive and stimulating procedure. The rigorous observation of time allotted for debates after presentations allowed both speakers and public an opportunity to clarify, share and discuss views with one another. For the evaluation of these Conference we hope you all fill-out a questionnaire you will receive either by e-mail or by mail. The participants of the XXIVth Conference will also receive the additional benefit of a final overview from a Senior Demographer, Dr. James Trussel.

The organization of this Conference was made possible by the tireless and generous participation and cooperation of the IUSSP Council, the IUSSP Scientific Committees, the International Organizing Committee, the Steering Committee, the Session Organizers, the Conference Secretariat, the Conference Coordinator, the National Organizing Committee, the National Population and Development Commission - CNPD, the Brazilian Association for Population Studies – ABEP, the National Coordinator and the Community Advisory Committee.



It is my hope that the XXIVth IUSSP International Conference has contributed to furthering the studies in population not only within the scientific and academic frameworks, but even more so, in the implications and dissemination of this knowledge towards the improved quality in the lives of our populations.

As we come to a close, it is time to thank Dr. José Alberto Magno de Carvalho for the IUSSP achievements under his guidance. At the same time, I would like to congratulate Dr. Jacques Vallin, wishing him the best during his mandate, as well as success to the members of the board and Council yet to be elected.

And so I take my leave, thanking all those who took part in the XXIVth General Population Conference for their participation and wishing all a pleasant and safe trip home.

Elza Berquó
Chair, International Organizing Committee