

July 20, 2018

## FINA INAUGURATES LAUSANNE HEADQUARTERS ON 110TH ANNIVERSARY



The FINA Family gathered today in Lausanne (SUI) for the celebration of FINA's 110th anniversary and the official inauguration of the new FINA Headquarters. Many IOC members and other distinguished sport dignitaries were also present in the ceremony, where a symbolic ribbon was cut by FINA President Dr. Julio C. Maglione, IOC President Thomas Bach, ANOC President Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and ASOIF President Francesco Ricci Bitti.

Addressing all the guests present in Lausanne, Dr Maglione was naturally a happy man: *"Our 110-year history is made of many achievements and sport Stars. It was built on unforgettable competitions and exciting moments. It was dictated by the challenges of our world and the opportunities it may offer. It was shaped with the essential support of our members. FINA was founded by eight national members in 1908. 110 years later, our International Federation has 209 partners in the five continents. We have a solid past behind us, brilliantly conducted by many generations of great leaders"*.

On the new Headquarters in Lausanne, the FINA President declared: *"For the first time, FINA owns its Headquarters. This inauguration in the Olympic Capital is also a testimony of our growth and sustainability. We are a leading International Federation in a very competitive sport environment and we surely constitute one of the pillars of the Olympic Movement"*.

In his speech, IOC President Thomas Bach congratulated FINA for this double celebration: *"It is definitely a great day for Aquatics, but also for the entire Olympic Movement. You have a 110-year-history of success. You had great and outstanding athletes, strengthening the role of Sport in society. This house is simultaneously a symbol of tradition and a commitment to the future"*.

After concluding his tribute to FINA, Mr Bach presented to the FINA President a special IOC President Trophy. *"The title of this piece is 'The sky is the limit'. I believe it fits FINA quite well"*, considered the IOC President.

Sheikh Al-Sabah was the third speaker at the ceremony. *“Without offending any other International Federation, I can say that FINA has an unparalleled level of popularity. You may start your programme at the Olympics at any time – morning, afternoon or evening – and your levels of audience are always outstanding!”* considered the ANOC President. *“FINA’s work on Development issues is also outstanding. You are truly helping athletes all over the world”.*

A second ceremony took place a couple of hours later, gathering specifically the FINA National Federations that wanted to be associated with this celebration.

“You are doing a superb work in each of your countries. Your devotion and commitment to Aquatics has produced great stars, and is constantly inspiring the youth to our disciplines. There are more nations winning medals at the highest level, there are more athletes from more countries getting their selection to the Olympic Games. Our Sport keeps growing in a more harmonious way”, stated FINA President Dr Maglione.

A second cut-of-the-ribbon was then performed by Dr Maglione, FINA First Vice-President Husain Al Musallam and FINA Second Vice-President Sam Ramsamy.

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## FINA HEADQUARTERS - A LITTLE HISTORY...



By the time Robert Helmick (USA) was elected to the FINA leadership (1984-1988), the FINA Congress decided that a FINA permanent office was necessary to run the administration in a more professional way.

The inaugural office opened in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1986.

Rebecca Shaw was appointed as the first Administrative Secretary. Some months later, in February 1987, Cornel Marculescu, a former international water polo player, coach, referee and administrator, was appointed FINA Director. In 1989, and for three years only, the FINA office moved to Barcelona (ESP), and in 1992 it definitively returned to Lausanne.

Until the official inauguration of its headquarters on July 19, 2018 – also marking the 110th anniversary of our International Federation – the FINA offices were always used on a rental basis. Four locations were established – the longest one being in Avenue de l’Avant-Poste, from 2001 to 2014 -, and in September 2016 the FINA staff finally moved to a FINA property in Chemin de Bellevue 24a/b, 1005 Lausanne.

The FINA Office is now located in a two-building structure: one villa originally constructed in 1876, then enlarged in 1923, and acquired by FINA in 2010, plus an adjacent pavilion, erected to host part of the FINA staff. The old property is an architectural protected site in Lausanne, so its façade had to be preserved. The internal structure was then adapted to the needs of a modern office administration – the original staircase to connect the three levels of the villa was refurbished and constitutes of the most significant remains of the past life of the property. The two structures – villa and pavilion – are connected by an underground passage.

Besides the space for offices, the FINA headquarters (about 1600m<sup>2</sup>) also have two large Conference rooms, designed to host not only staff meetings, but also any FINA Committee/Panel gathering.

The two properties are surrounded by a nice garden, for a total area of almost 4000m<sup>2</sup>.

Benefitting from a privileged and central location in Lausanne, the new facilities are the perfect working space for the 38 FINA staff members.

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## FINA 110TH ANNIVERSARY AND HQ OPENING

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**Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA)**

The Fédération Internationale de Natation, FINA (founded in 1908) is the governing body for aquatics worldwide. Its five disciplines - Swimming, Open Water Swimming, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming - are all included in the Olympic programme. High Diving is on the World Championships programme since 2013. FINA organises World Championships, World Swimming Championships in 25m-pool and World Masters Championships every two years. FINA counts 209 affiliated National Federations on the five continents and has its headquarters in Lausanne (SUI).

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