

EVENTS

Dr. Jacques Rogge, International Olympic Committee President - Doctor Honoris Causa of Oradea University

Dear friends,

◆ I am very pleased to receive the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Oradea University.

◆ I am proud to accept this honour, on behalf of the Olympic Movement, from an institution which has always defended physical education and sporting values.

◆ As you all know, it was at a university, the Sorbonne in Paris, that the International Olympic Committee was founded in 1894 by an educator, Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

◆ When he decided to revive the spirit of the Olympic Games of Ancient Greece, de Coubertin and his peers strove to use sport to teach the youth of the world basic human values that would enable them to lead better lives and build better communities.

◆ De Coubertin dedicated his life to developing a movement that supported his ideas, and then brought the youth of the world together every four years in competition to celebrate that very dynamic between sport, education and culture.

◆ This century-old philosophy still remains that of the IOC in the 21st century.

◆ Today, our mission is not only sports development.

◆ We also have an important mission to educate youth through sport.

◆ We have a social responsibility to show, by our example, that sport teaches us to respect ourselves and others and to strive for excellence in all we do; but, perhaps above all, it shows us the importance of friendship and peace.

◆ Sport is a tremendous educational tool. The sports field is like a classroom.

◆ There, we learn to live together in society; we learn solidarity and friendship; we learn respect for others, be they male or female, young or old, from Asia, Africa, Europe, America or Oceania.

◆ Sport is all these things. And it is also health.

◆ In today's society, it is more and more obvious that sport has an important place and role in a healthy lifestyle for the wellbeing of the youth of the world.

◆ However, we should note that the practice of physical education and sport is declining on school curricula for various reasons in developed countries.

◆ One of the most important aspects of this decline is addiction to the screen (TV, video, computer) that leads to inactivity and obesity.

◆ Therefore, increased access to basic physical activity, as well as to high-level training, is essential.

◆ It is the same concern for a Faculty such as yours, which assumes the responsibility of educating, sharing knowledge and building the minds of today's students, who will be tomorrow's leaders, experts, coaches and educators.

◆ The graduates of this Faculty, like those of other institutions elsewhere, are the backbone of the development of sport and the promotion of its values in Romania and even beyond.

◆ The sports world and the academic world must continue to encourage young people to participate in sport and physical activity in a spirit of fair play, hence contributing to their overall well-being.

◆ As de Coubertin often said, Olympism remains more than just a question of competition sport: it is a state of mind.

◆ Our hope is that if young people can learn to respect each other on the field of play, they may transfer this sentiment to other elements of their daily lives.

◆ This is what the new IOC project, the Youth Olympic Games, is all about: to inspire young people around the world to participate in sport as well as to learn how to balance sport, education and culture in their daily lives.

◆ And the first edition in Singapore last August was truly a success showing us that a new generation is ready to embrace and share the Olympic values.

Dear friends,

◆ I firmly believe that the Olympic Movement is more relevant and has more to offer, especially to young people, than ever before.

◆ On behalf of the Olympic Movement, may I express once again my deep gratitude for being honoured with such a prestigious distinction.

◆ Thank you for your attention.

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From left to right: Prof. Dr. Sorin Curilă – scientific secretary of the University of Oradea, Prof. Dr. Herman van Coppenolle, Prof. Dr. Cornel Antal – Rector of the University of Oradea, Dr. Jacques Rogge, Prof. Dr. Octavian Bâc – Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Prof. Dr. Vasile Marcu – Director of TTD, University of Oradea.



Dr. Jacques Rogge, showing the audience the Doctor Honoris Causa diploma awarded by the University of Oradea.



Dr. Jacques Rogge delivering his speech after receiving the Title of Doctor Honoris Causa.



Prof. Dr. Jacob Hantiu – Pro-Rector of the University of Oradea, handing Mr. Octavian Morariu – President of ROSC, the diploma of excellence on the occasion of the 230th anniversary of higher education in Oradea.



Audience at the ceremony of awarding the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to Dr. Jacques Rogge, President of IOC. Row 4 is the “Row of Deans”. Among the participants, from left to right (first row): Prof. Dr. Viorel Cojocaru – Rector of UNEFS Bucharest, Doina Melinte – President of the National Authority for Sports and Youth, S. Soloveychik – Vice-President of IJF, Marius Vizer – President of IJF, Yasmine Braeckvelt – IOC, Cristian Butnariu – ROSC, Mrs. Rogge, Mrs. Morariu, Mr. Octavian Morariu – President of ROSC.



Prof. Dr. Cornel Antal (left) and Dr. Jacques Rogge (right) inaugurating the Territorial Center of Olympic Studies, founded on this occasion at the University of Oradea. Second row from left to right: S. Soloveychik – Vice-President of IJF, Marius Vizer – President of IJF, Octavian Morariu – President of ROSC.