

E.O.T.A. 2008 in Greece

“Everything was in tune !” was to be heard from everybody.

The hospitality of E.O.T.A.-Greece was perfect again!

This year the meeting of our European Ohara Teachers’ Association took place in Kinetta, at the Aegean Coast in Greece, as it did already in 2005 and 2007.

61 Ikebana participants from 10 countries enjoyed together very exciting but also relaxing days at the seminar from October 26th to 28th, 2008.

The common hobby does not only unite. In all past years true friendships have been founded and relationships have been expanded and deepened.

The meeting took place in the pleasant environment with cosy accomodations at the seaside, where the warm late summer weather invited for a swim.

The instructive lectures and the interesting mediterranean Ikebana material, which we were allowed to cut and collect ourselves from the historic ground of this land, carried us away from the routine of the every-day life at home.



Our Japanese Masters were:

Associate Professor Mr. Hirokazu Yokohigashi,
member of the Council of Ohara Professors.

Assistant Professor, Mrs Kumiko Miyazaki, here
with E. Gagneux, E. Kokocinski.



The 3-days seminar consisted of 5 lessons during which, pretentious but also smaller interesting Ikebana arrangements were created by the students. The program included Realistic Landscape, Hana Mai, Rimpa, Colour Scheme and Modern Free Style Sculpture. Shohinka was also demonstrated out of the program. Both Ikebana Professors have corrected the arrangements accurately and consciously. They showed new ways and encouraged us with much empathy and esthetic sensitivity.

At the Farewell Party on Tuesday evening the participating countries played their part in the entertaining mixed program. To share together Fun and Laughter was not the sole “Must” of the program but to pay homage and gratitude too to those who had contributed to the success of the congress.

Beside the thanks to the Japanese Professors and the Ohara School, special honour was paid to Jenny Banti Pereira, who had founded E.O.T.A. in 1979. Thanks to her tireless engagement through all these years, E.O.T.A. has reached today’s high level.



After having practised Ikebana for three days, a two days' excursion took us to Lake Plastira and the Meteora monasteries. It was a breathtaking experience of culture and history and a beautiful finish.

Such a comprehensive congress is not organized by itself! The E.O.T.A. President, Joanna Barczyk and her Team (inclusive her husband Günter) have, once again, planned, organized and realized all the Congress and the accompanying program.

While for us, the participants, everything was a kind of holidays, our greek friends probably needed a relaxing vacation after the congress!!! But they should know that their effort was worthwhile and all the participants were most grateful.

The message of the welcome-arrangement, which was placed by our greek friends in our rooms, an Olive branch with a red Rose, symbols for Peace and Friendship, will remain vividly in our memory.

Loaded with unforgettable experiences about country and people in Greece and a new motivation for Ikebana, we happily returned home, grateful that we enjoyed to study together, to experience the common Solidarity and to share together our Joy in our E.O.T.A.-Family.

The next Presidentship will go to Belgium. Greta Vervoort as the following E.O.T.A. President will prepare the next meeting. We are all looking forward to our 2010 meeting in Spa, Belgium.

Annelie Wagner



The Greek Hostesses and Eliane Gagneux



The arrangement with Olive branch and red Rose



The E.O.T.A.- President, Joanna Barczyk and her successor Greta Vervoort