13th International Symposium
Adapted Physical Activity
Wien 3. - 7. Juli 2001¹

¹ Logo von Andreas Schleicher
Preface

Not all of those who are interested in the proceedings will be familiar with the term “Adapted Physical Activity” (APA). For that reason a short explanation follows. APA deals with the most favorable conditions, which promote movement, play and sports for persons with disabilities.

An umbrella organization for scientists and practitioners who work in this field is the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (IFAPA). IFAPA primarily supports research and cooperates worldwide with organizations, which dedicate their work to people whose development and fulfillment of life is hindered. In public it struggles against every form of discrimination and segregation. Under the constitution of IFAPA an International Symposium of Adapted Physical Activity (ISAPA) takes place every two years. The symposium serves as a forum for the presentation and discussion of actual results of research and practical developments.

When Gisela Gerber and I visited one of these symposia in Berlin in 1989 the outstanding scientific level and the informative practical programs impressed us. Since then we have taken part in nearly every symposium including the one in Oslo in May 1995. Gudrun Doll-Tepper was the president of IFAPA in 1995. During one of our talks she asked me if I could do something to promote public awareness and growth of IFAPA in Austria. For that reason, I established a committee with a small group of enthusiastic young people. Our aim was the foundation of an Austrian Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (AFAPA). Moreover, I invited Raimund Sobotka and Maria Dinold of the Institute of Sports Sciences and Gisela Gerber of the Institute of Special and Remedial Education to participate, which proved to be very fruitful. Our efforts resulted in the nomination of the AFAPA as an organizer of the 13th symposium during the 11th ISAPA in Quebec in May 1995.

From July 3rd – 7th 2002 the 13th International Symposium and the 5th European Congress of Adapted Physical Activity was held in Vienna. The present proceedings contain the newest results of international research and the most innovative theoretical and practical concepts. Already a glance through the book shows the impressive role of movement, play and sports for development, health and quality of life.


1 Proof-reading by Sheila Tierny
2 Gruner Herbert, Hellmich Florian, Hellmich Georg, Reinelt Martin, Reinelt Thomas
What we cannot document in this volume are the impressive and expressive cultural performances, the exceptional architectural installations and the exciting sports programs. All these events resulted in a successful relation of science, culture and sports. All that could only be realized by the support of public and private sponsors for which we are grateful.

I am convinced that this book will be an important base to initiate further projects. Hopefully, it also will sharpen awareness for the enrichment of our development and life, which we experience through participation in integrative sportive and cultural activities. On our Logo of the symposium you find the words: “For a Barrier-Free-World”. These should express the idea of a world without barriers which restrict the life of human beings with disabilities. Let’s be passionate in our efforts to realize this utopia: “Let’s be realistic and demand the impossible.” (This is a free translation of an inscription, which students wrote on one wall of the Sorbonne in Paris).

Toni Reinelt
President of ISAPA