

IRENE GIANNAKOPOULOS' WELCOMING SPEECH.

Welcome friends, on the island of the infinite blue, the island of Amorgos. In this area of the Aegean sea, between East and West, the Greek civilization evolved and its light reached even to the most distant corners of our planet.

Arbors are the spiritual evolution of the man, the respect for him/her, the philosophy, the arts and the science. For the preservation and conservation of this civilization through the centuries, great and continuous fights were needed, which armed with plenty of militancy the Greeks.

This Civilization and militancy gave birth to the Emulation, mother of the Olympic Spirit. On this sunlit place with the clear blue of the sky and the sea, on this colorful and decorated with flowers earth, it was natural for the spirit of hospitality to spring, this celestial gift from man to man.

The deity of Xenios Zeus for the ancient Greek, and the philosophy of Christianity teach this. The spirit of hospitality, the great virtue of the inhabitants of the Aegean Sea, and especially of the Amorgian people, is a perfect assumption for the development of Tourism, on these white little corners of heaven, that you think that dripped from the sky and made the Cyclades.

All these, dear friends, Aegean, Civilization, Games and Olympic Spirit, Tourism, are the subjects that will attract our interest during our Convention here.

Celebrations like this one, is our wish that will be repeated every year the same season, with your kind participation and in the future.

I feel the obligation to greet you all from this podium, one by one, starting from those who came from farther.