

*The impetus of Olympism - a painting by the Spanish artist Xavier Carbonell.*

# MAINTAINING OUR IMPETUS

The emblematic mark of the 1980s, which have barely ended, will incontestably be the impressive success of the Games in Calgary and Seoul in 1988. One year later, as the profusion of exciting new events showed us once more, the Olympic Games had truly become synonymous with peace and understanding, and Unesco adopted a recommendation to protect them.

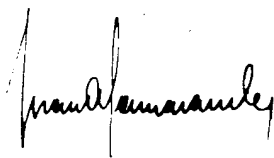
Are we heading towards a golden age for sport and Olympism? The facts apparently want to make us think so. The unity of our Movement is triumphant, the result of patient, unceasing work with the goodwill of each of the component parts of the great Olympic family. This unity has opened up perspectives, freed an undreamt-of development potential that would have been unthinkable only ten years ago. Our task is now to turn these promises into action. 1990 will thus see us intensifying our efforts and re-examining our duties. Against doping, a veritable social scourge, the fight is now being waged daily, and all, whether athletes or those around them who look after them, must be aware of their own involvement, and seek to combat all cheating and misconduct in stadiums. Both training and competition must adhere to the demands of honesty imposed by the Olympic ethic. Victory comes primarily through respect for one's opponent, but also, and above all, through respect for one's own body.

These promises also involve the growth in sports practice at all levels. In this spirit, we must remain faithful to our duty of solidarity. Our dearest wish is to see it become easier everywhere to train the sporting elite, the guarantee of competitions and Games of quality, a process which necessarily requires the training of a responsible

and efficient entourage, the discovery of and support for talented young people, but which also presupposes the recognition, through patronage, of sports widely practised with no pretension to anything other than authenticity.

It now appears clearly, as the next millenium approaches, that sport is for everyone, that it has close links with science and the arts, that it has, in a word, become an indispensable element to the broadening out of our modern societies. It is thus to everyone that I address my best wishes, and particularly those who through their commitment and devotion will help us, during this and the coming years, to maintain our impetus in fulfilling the promises of the Olympic Movement, and maintaining the impetus of the Olympic Movement.

## GREETINGS FROM THE IOC PRESIDENT



*Juan Antonio Samaranch*