

Albania

Sponsored by Albania's First lady and the Deputy Minister for Education, the National Symposium on Olympic Education in Schools brought together teachers, instructors and representatives from local governments and the Ministries of Education, Culture and Sport last year in Tirana. Among the speakers were Norbert Müller and Robert Marten, who had come specially from Germany. Topics on the symposium programme included: What does Olympic Education mean to you?; The Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney and Olympic prepara-

tion for Australian schoolchildren; Olympic Education around the world; and Olympic Education on the School Curriculum. In addition, the annual session of the Albanian Olympic Academy was held at the end of December, also in Tirana, in the presence of Kostas Georgiadis, doyen of the International Olympic Academy (IOA). Among the topics discussed were: Olympism at University; Creating a 'Young Participants' section; Olympic Education in Schools; Educational Values and Sporting Activity; and The Experience of the Games in Sydney.



Symposium on Olympic education...



...and and Olympic Academy Session in Tirana.

Bulgaria

The National Sports Academy of Bulgaria has conferred the title 'Doctor Honoris Causa' to Ivan Slavkov, IOC member, president of the NOC and of the Bulgarian Football Union, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development and management of sports and Olympism. The

ceremony was held in the aula of the National Sports Academy in Sofia in the presence of numerous sports officials, sports scientists, Olympic champions, personalities from politics and culture, among them the Chairman of the State Agency for Youth and Sports, Simon Spassov.



Ivan Slavkov (right) and Svetoslav Ivanov, Rector of the Academy.

Islamic Republic of Iran

The photographer of the Iranian NOC, Abolghassem Farsi, was presented with a trophy by IOC vice-president Kéba Mbaye in recognition of his devotion to sport and Olympism. Aged 79, Farsi worked for the NOC for more than half a century and attended eight Olympic Games and all editions of the Asian Games. During his career, Farsi assembled a collection of images of Iranian athletes competing at

Olympic, world and regional competitions.



Kéba Mbaye awarding the trophy to Abolghassem Farsi (right).