

FIP Board meeting in Sofia

It has been a practice by the FIP Board to meet with the representatives of member federations when opportunities arise. Looking back at a few occasions - in April 2014, members of the Board met with the organising committee of WESTPEX 2014 in San Francisco. The FIP Board members also met the representatives of member federations during Salon Planète Timbres, Paris, in June 2014; at Tokyo in January 2016 and at Tampere City during FINLANDIA 2017. Nearer to date, the FIP Board had a meeting with the delegates from the Australian Philatelic Federation and held the 115th FIP Board meeting in Brisbane in February 2018.

Most recently in Sofia, Bulgaria on April 15, 2018, the FIP Board members were glad to be able to meet, communicate and exchange ideas with the representatives of member federations from Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Russia, Montenegro, and Turkey. Sofia was chosen as the meeting venue in conjunction with the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists' celebration of its 80 years of FIP membership.

The Presidents and representatives of the member federations introduced the activities of their respective federations and presented to the FIP Board the challenges that they were facing and gave their feedback. The main issues raised by them included:

- i) The need for more support from FIP to conduct more seminars for exhibitors of member federations, other than conducting seminars at international or world stamp exhibitions.
- ii) The possibility of working with Organising Committees to reduce the frame fees of world stamp exhibitions so that more exhibitors could participate
- iii) Strategies to help member federations to groom younger philatelists

The issues discussed re-affirmed that the current and future plans and projects of the FIP were in the right direction and the Board members shall do their best to address the concerns of member federations and exhibitors. The FIP Board members would like to thank the Presidents and representatives of the member federations for taking the time and effort to travel to Sofia and to attend the meeting.

The FIP Board had its 116th full-day Board meeting on April 16, 2018. In the evening, the Board members were very honoured to be able to have a Royal Audience with H.M. King Simeon II of Bulgaria, who was also the Honorary President of the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists, at the Royal Palace of Vrana.



H.M. King Simeon II of Bulgaria, second from left, shares his passion for philately with Mr Spas Panchev and FIP Board members.

Once again, the FIP Board members would like to express their sincere appreciation to the Union of Bulgarian Philatelists for the kind hospitality and for making the meeting in Sofia a very fruitful and memorable one for everyone!