



AIMS HISTORY

AIMS was firmly established in May 1982 with its first Congress in London. Informal discussions had been held over the previous two years amongst some of the world's leading marathon race directors with a view to setting up such an association. Meetings were held in New York, Honolulu and other venues prior to the formal meeting in London.

AIMS was initially established with the idea of providing a forum for the exchange of ideas that would help to improve each attending director's race. However, once it was decided to write Articles of Association it was found necessary to go beyond just the exchange of ideas and to set some basic rules to govern the association and membership.

As stated in Article Two of the Association:

The objectives of the Association shall be to:

- a) Foster and promote distance running throughout the world.
- b) Work with the International Association of Athletic Federations on all matters relating to international road races, and
- c) Exchange information, knowledge and expertise among the members of the Association.

From those beginnings thirty years ago AIMS has made remarkable progress.

At the 5th World Congress in 1989 in Melbourne, Australia, membership was extended beyond just marathons to all road races. Membership was further extended at the 16th World Congress of AIMS in March 2007 held in Xiamen, China to explicitly include races held off-road. Through a partnership with agencies of the Greek national government AIMS opened a permanent headquarters at the spiritual home of the Marathon in November 2011, within the Olympic Complex in Athens. From this date OPAP-VisitGreece has become the Patron of AIMS

AIMS has firmly established itself as the major force behind the development and progress of distance running throughout the world. From an initial membership of 28 in 1982, it has grown to over 310 member events in over 95 countries and territories including most of the world's premier marathons and many other major road races.

Course measurement methods and standards established by AIMS have been recognised by the IAAF who have adopted the AIMS system as its own standard.

AIMS has recognised the world's fastest times on the road and successfully proposed the criteria that have been officially adopted by the IAAF for the verification of World Records.

IAAF and AIMS co-operate on matters relating to doping control and the holding of course measurement seminars in various parts of the world. "Distance Running" is a quarterly magazine published jointly that goes out to some 400,000 runners worldwide.

Starting from 2012 OPAP-Visit Greece has become AIMS' Patron. The presenting partner of AIMS is MYLAPS, a company that has led innovation in chip timing for road running. ASICS Corporation has been Sports Partner of AIMS for many years and they have worked together in a most harmonious and productive way, establishing initiatives such as the 'AIMS/ASICS Athletes of the Year Awards'. Sports Drink Partner Lucozade and other partners of AIMS, Citizen Watch Company, Konica-Minolta, Rohm Semiconductor, Marathon-Photos.com, Valencia Tourism Agency and 1000km Promotions have all been very closely involved in assisting the development of the sport of distance running throughout the world.

AIMS is also committed to social initiatives such as the AIMS Children Series, the AIMS Museum of Running and the AIMS Marathon Symposium.

For Further Information on AIMS please visit the AIMS Web site: www.aimsworldrunning.org
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