



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

## Story script and Shot log

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**STORY HEADLINE:** IOC President Thomas Bach hails new era for Olympic education as the International Olympic Academy reopens after renovation in ancient Olympia

**LOCATION:** Ancient Olympia, Greece

**DATE:** 17 October 2021

**LANGUAGE:** English

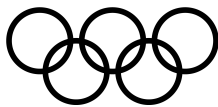
**STORY SCRIPT:** The President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thomas Bach joined President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellariopoulou in officially opening the renovated International Olympic Academy (IOA) in ancient Olympia on Sunday (Oct 17).

The IOC funded the two-year renovation project with a €12.5 million investment and the revamped facilities of the interdisciplinary centre for Olympic Education and Studies were declared open by President Bach as he cut a ribbon on the steps of the IOA.

President Bach said: “Here at the renovated International Olympic Academy next to the birthplace of the Olympic Games in ancient Olympia, the Olympic values will be brought to a new generation of young people who are athletes, students, teachers or people active in sport.”

Spyros Capralos, IOC Member and President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) added: “The 60th birthday of the International Olympic Academy is marked by the completion of the renovation works carried out over the last one-and-a-half years, with the valuable financial support of the International Olympic Committee. Without this support, it would have been impossible to carry out a restoration project of this scale. I would like to express my sincere thanks to IOC President Thomas Bach, as well as to all the teams involved in the renovation project with this great result. The International Olympic Academy, with its new, renewed profile, will continue its educational work unhindered, aimed at spreading Olympism.”

The decision to implement the renovation of the IOA premises was taken by the HOC, as the owner of the site, with the approval of the tripartite agreement between the HOC, the IOA and the IOC, in order to modernise the facilities of the international centre for Olympic education and open up new possibilities for the IOA to host groups from within and beyond the Olympic Movement.



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The renovation project began in March 2020 following the lighting ceremony of the Olympic flame for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 at ancient Olympia, with work including the total renovation of the accommodation facilities, conference rooms, dining hall and kitchen, library and the sports facilities. The installation of cutting-edge technology and networks, an upgrade of the external lighting, water filtering and sewerage system as well as improving accessibility for wheelchairs were also significant aspects of the modernisation.

Located in ancient Olympia, next to the archaeological site, and entrusted by the IOC and the HOC, the International Olympic Academy is devoted to delivering unique Olympic Educational Programmes and experiences.

The IOA was established in 1961 with the mission to preserve and spread the principles of the Olympic spirit, to study and implement the educational and social principles of Olympism, and to consolidate the scientific basis of the Olympic ideal. The IOA welcomes young people, college students, educators, Olympic athletes as well as administrators and institutions who wish to understand, connect, study and learn about Olympism and its philosophy in a meaningful way.

At a separate ceremony, President Bach and President Sakellaropoulou were joined by the mayors of ancient Olympia, Iliada and Sparta to sign the Olympic Truce.

The Olympic Truce, or “Ekecheiria”, is a tradition that was established in ancient Greece in the ninth century BC through the signing of a treaty between three kings: Iphitos of Elis, Cleosthenes of Pisa and Lycurgus of Sparta. As a result of the accord, during the Truce period, all regional conflicts came to an end to allow athletes, artists and their families, as well as the general public, to travel in safety to participate in or attend the ancient Olympic Games and return afterwards to their respective countries. The political neutrality of the Olympic Games was thus already respected in ancient times.

Click [here](#) for more on the Olympic Truce.

President Bach and President Sakellaropoulou started the day by marking 100 Years of the IOC Executive Board with the planting of an olive tree at the Coubertin Grove surrounding the Pierre de Coubertin Monument.

With just over 100 days until the start of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, the Olympic flame will be lit in the traditional ceremony on Monday 18 October and begin its journey to China.

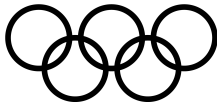
### **SHOTLIST:**

00:02 IOC President Thomas Bach, IOA President Isidoros Kouvelos and HOC President Spyros Capralos cut ribbon at 60th inauguration and renovation of the International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia

00:11 Multiple shots of artistic event held at the IOA

00:24 Close-up of orchestra

00:27 Musical Interlude (Ms Eirini Karaiani interprets the aria Casta Diva from the Opera Norma)



**00:32 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)**

*“The academy supports the IOC to pursue our overarching mission, to put sport at the service of humanity. This is why when the proposal to renovate the academy was first brought up, it took me not even a second to agree. With this renovation, we are reinvigorating the mission of the Academy, giving a boost to Olympic education and setting the course for a bright future of the Olympic Movement.”*

**01:10 SOUNDBITE: Katerina Sakellariopoulou, President of the Hellenic Republic (English Language)**

*“The Academy is an international forum for free expression and exchange of ideas between people from different backgrounds in a spirit of solidarity, friendship and mutual respect.”*

**01:23 SOUNDBITE: Spyros Capralos, HOC President (English Language)**

*“2021 is a milestone for the International Olympic Academy. This year marks the IOA’s 60th anniversary since it began operating as an international cultural and educational centre. IOA’s goal has always been to preserve and disseminate the Olympic spirit, as well as to implement the educational and social principles and values of Olympism.”*

01:51 President Bach presents IOA President Isidoros Kouvelos with the IOC President’s Trophy

**01:56 SOUNDBITE: Isidoros Kouvelos, IOA President (English Language)**

*“New functional accommodation rooms, new restaurant and teaching rooms, new sports facilities, replacement of all subterranean and surficial water and sewer systems with biological treatment plants. All this with no intervention of the external appearance of the premises, which maintained the historical original appearance.”*

02:21 Close-up of the outer building of the new facilities, IOA

02:25 President Bach receives a tour of the new facilities

02:36 Wide shot of the renovations inside the IOA building

02:38 President Bach’s tour continues

02:44 President Bach is shown the new kitchen at the IOA

02:49 President Bach meets with the chef

02:52 Close-up shot of an olive tree at the IOA

02:54 Delegates pose for photos on the IOA steps

02:58 Close-up of Presidents Bach, Kouvelos and Sakellariopoulou

03:01 Low wide shot of delegates posing for photos

03:06 Close-up of Olympic flag

**03:10 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)**

*“The Academy is the bridge between our rich past, our heritage and the future. So the Academy should work and will work to carry our Olympic values into the future, to make new generations familiar with these values and in this way educating young leaders, the next generation of leaders in sport and society.”*

03:40 Close-up of track at the International Olympic Academy (IOA), ancient Olympia

03:44 Close-up of an ancient Olympic champion statue

03:47 Olympic steps at the IOA



03:50 President Bach with HOC President Spyros Capralos  
03:55 Close-up of Presidents Bach, Kouvelos, Sakellaropoulou and Capralos  
04:01 Presidents Bach, Capralos and Sakellaropoulou take seat at Coubertin Grove  
04:05 Artistic event held at the Pierre de Coubertin monument, Coubertin Grove  
04:10 Close-up of artistic event  
04:15 President Bach lays wreath at the Pierre de Coubertin monument  
04:19 Wide shot of wreath laying moment

**04:23 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)**

*“As we look back at 100 years of the EB (Executive Board), let us do so in the knowledge that we are only temporary trustees of this great heritage. As our predecessors have done before us, let us ensure that we continue to carry this responsibility with dignity, so that we can pass on this wonderful Olympic legacy to the next generations of Olympic leaders.”*

04:59 Presidents Sakellaropoulou and Bach plant olive trees, Coubertin Grove  
05:09 Close-up of IOC wreath below the Coubertin monument  
05:13 Presidents Sakellaropoulou and Bach in discussion  
05:18 Photos with delegates, Coubertin Grove  
05:22 Wide-shot of delegates stood in front of the Coubertin monument  
05:25 Delivery of the scroll with the text of the Sacred Truce to President Bach

**05:36 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)**

*“This [the signing of the Olympic Truce] should demonstrate very clearly that already in ancient times the Olympic Games were considered to be beyond any political disputes, beyond any conflict. Otherwise, they could not have survived for such a long time. We could see the moment politics came into play, the Games were abolished by Emperor Constantine, so it’s a reminder to all of us that the mission of the Games, the raison d’être even for the Games, is to unite people and stand beyond all the differences we may have in life otherwise.”*

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