



## Welcome Speech – Opening of the General Assembly, International Association of High Performance Sports Training Centres, IAHPSTC

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to say that it is a pleasure and an honour for me to be among you for this opening ceremony of the 5th Forum of the IAHPSTC.

I would also like to convey the best regards and congratulations from the Director of Olympic Solidarity, Mr Pere Miró, who was unfortunately not able to be with us today in Beijing due to his very busy agenda.

As you may probably know, Olympic Solidarity is working with a certain number of High Level Training Centres and Universities around the world within the framework of our programmes of scholarships for athletes and coaches as well as those focusing on the training of sports administrators.

For this reason we believe that a collaboration between high level training centres is vital not only to share experiences and expertise but also to save a lot of time without "reinventing the wheel" on each occasion. Indeed, we often discover that many organisations are working on similar projects but at different stages.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the important work already achieved since the first meeting held in Sydney, Australia in 1999. Today is an important day representing a new step for the future for the IAHPSTC.

I therefore would like to wish you a very successful meeting and I look forward to seeing you next year during the Olympic Games, where we will be able to evaluate the results of our work and fruitful collaboration in favour of athletes and coaches around the world.

Yassine Yousfi  
Project Manager  
Olympic Solidarity