
Colin Jordan

Honorary President 2005-2008

By the time I joined the PIARC Executive in the nineties Enrique Balaguer was already a respected and revered elder statesman of the Association. His participation at meetings was restrained, measured, wise and always highly valued. On a personal level, I well remember his warm friendliness shining through language barriers.

His enduring legacy for us was to nurture the growth of PIARC into a global organization. A great contribution on top of an important major career in his home country of Spain. His leadership and presence saw Spain become a stalwart of the Association bringing many fine people and ideas to the International arena. In my experience one could always count on Spain for support to PIARC and its initiatives not only in formal matters but also as ongoing personal encouragement. Importantly, many kindred countries followed this lead extending the coverage of the Association more broadly around the globe.

I treasure amongst my photo memories a picture taken at the Council Meeting of my election to the Presidency in Montpellier in September 2004. Enrique Balaguer had made a special effort to be with me at that moment and stood alongside me with now Honorary Presidents Mahbub, Mitani, and Michaud.