



October 31st, 2010, will officially be the last working day for the IAEAC of Marianne Frei, our "Assistant to the Secretary"

For more than 25 years Marianne Frei was the faithful manager of the Association's administrative affairs, and the way she got involved and stayed involved in the "daily life" of the IAEAC is best documented by herself:

I was borne in Zürich, Switzerland, in 1945 and after my education graduated from the University of Zürich as a Master in Biology. Then I spent two years in Canada where I worked in an analytical laboratory. After my return to Switzerland and my marriage with Roland Frei in 1972 I worked for two years at the Biocenter Basel in the department of biochemistry. This job suited me well but I gave it up when I had my first child.

As early as 1983 my husband, at that time professor in analytical chemistry at the Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, involved me in the work for the IAEAC which resulted in buying the first computer (Apple 2) for me in 1984. I wel-

comed this type of work since I could stay at home and be around for our two daughters. At that time the Association was shaped by the collaboration of Roland as the President, Ernest Merian as the Secretary and me acting as the assistant to both of them. New developments in technology such as fax machines and computers influenced and improved my work. Working with a computer was quite a challenge for me which I faced with interest.

The first symposium for which I prepared my registration list on the Apple 2 computer was the Sample Handling Symposium in Basel in 1986. This marked the beginning of a new area in my working for the IAEAC.

For many years we worked as a team until this successful period ended by the death of my husband in 1989. After that trenchant event in my and my family's life, new decisions had to be made. After looking for other job opportunities in Basel and thinking a lot about my future I finally came to the conclusion that the work with the IAEAC would fit well with my responsibilities for my daughters and as well with my interests. Last but not least the wish to continue and preserve Roland's mission to promote and maintain scientific excellence in the area of environmental analytical chemistry was a major incentive to keep him alive beyond death.

New developments took place in the subsequent years which I welcomed again as new challenges. E-mail correspondence made the organization of events easier. I initiated the set-up of the first IAEAC website which involved a lot of efforts on my

part. I still remember the glorious moment when I first saw the IAEAC site in the world wide web. I have learned to work with many new computer programs and was involved in the production of the third generation of IAEAC websites. Since things had to be done more professionally Swiss graphic designer Tarek Moussalli created our IAEAC poster, our websites and our annual newsletter.

My work for the IAEAC was stimulating and interesting. In all these years I had to deal with different Secretaries and Presidents and I met a lot of scientists from all over the world. I visited many places where we held our symposia and our ex-

ecutive committee meetings. Besides that I still had time to enjoy my house and its great surroundings in Allschwil and to pursue my hobbies such as mountain hiking.

My wish to resign from this job has not only to do with my age. I want to step down while I am still capable. I will still be available for support and help for the IAEAC if necessary. However, I am looking forward to having my freedom of all obligations. I finally have to pass on the legacy of my late husband, Roland Frei, his work and ideas, in the trustworthy hands of others.

Marianne Frei

Dear Marianne,

since I am the last IAEAC President you have to deal with I would like to write a short farewell letter to you.

For eight years I could enjoy an efficient and trustful collaboration with you serving the prosperity of the IAEAC. I could profit from your detailed knowledge of the development of our Association from its early days on, and also from your readiness to always adjust the operational basis of our headquarter in Allschwil to the most recent achievements in information technology. In this way not only the usual daily routine but also the organization of symposia and workshops and the implementation of decisions or recommendations of managing board and extended executive committee were treated by you with increasing efficiency. This was more than a normal job for you because on top of all you persistently carried on the legacy of your late husband, our first President, Roland Frei.

In particular we older IAEAC members will have difficulties to realize that our headquarter in Allschwil and you as its manager will soon be history for us. We accept, however, with greatest respect your decision to retire, and place confidence in those responsible for the Association in the future. In case your advice and help is still needed they will certainly knock at your door.

On behalf of the IAEAC I wish you all the best for the time to come, in particular the fulfillment of your expectations.

Good-bye, Marianne, we will miss you. Thank you for these eight years and moreover for all you have done in your life for the IAEAC.



Dieter