



**Dear President,**

**Death of Celso L. Dayrit (MH, PHI)**

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Celso L. Dayrit, (MH, PHI) on April 28, 2021, following complications related to Covid-19.

Born on December 19, 1951 in Manila, Philippines, Celso L. Dayrit was President of the Asian Fencing Confederation since 2004 and Member of the FIE Executive Committee.

In 2008, he was named Member of Honour of the FIE by the Congress and installed into the FIE Hall of Fame in 2014. He was also the Representative of the Executive Committee within the FIE Veterans Council.

Celso Dayrit started fencing at the age of six, coached by his father who was the first fencing Master in the Philippines and the founder of the Philippine Amateur Fencers Association. He practiced all three weapons and was a member of the Philippine national team from 1979 to 1988. He was elected "Fencer of the Year" for Epee in 1984, won numerous competitions, including a bronze medal at the Southeast Asian Games in 1987.

Celso Dayrit's national and international career is impressive.

He was Treasurer of the Olympic Committee of the Philippines from 1985 to 1988 before becoming its Vice-President from 1989 to 1992, then its President from 1999 to 2004. He was a member of the Olympic Council of Asia, then its Vice-President from 2003 to 2007, CEO of the Southeast Asian Games Federation from 2002 to 2005, then its President in 2004 and 2005,

He founded the Olympic Academy of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Olympians. In 1993 he was appointed member of the Philippine Sports Commission, and was the founder of the Philippine National Games program.

He gave seminars in several Asian countries and the Philippines, and was accredited as the International Course Director of the Olympic Solidarity Itinerant Sports Administration School for sports leaders.

He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Amateur Fencers Association of the Philippines in 1969, then its Vice-President in 1983 and its President from 1989 to 2008. He was the first Treasurer of the AFC in 1988.

After a Bachelor's in Business Management, a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) and then a Doctorate Degree, Celso Dayrit began his professional career in the banking industry in 1973. A pioneer in the bank card industry, he held various management positions and became Vice-President and General Manager of BPI Credit Corporation.



For his valuable contribution to sport, the Association of National Olympic Committees rewarded him in 2006 with the Olympic Merit Award and in 2007, he was awarded by the Olympic Council of Asia. He also twice received the Leadership Award from the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Celso Dayrit is the author of *“The Olympic Movement in the Philippines”* and *“Wisdom of the Sword”* published in 2003 and 2019 respectively.

Some of the great maxims of this latest book include: *“Sport is not just about beating an opponent and about winning medals. It is about beating your own fears and your own weakness, and it is also about winning friends and winning respect”*.

The fencing family has lost a very dear friend, whom we greatly respected and admired.

Celso Dayrit was a very talented, loyal and warm human being, and an exceptional and innovative leader. He dedicated his entire life to developing sport and fencing. The human, cultural and sporting legacy that he leaves behind is immense.

We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Cindy, his family and friends, the Philippine Fencing Federation, as well as the Asian Fencing Confederation. We express our deepest sympathy to them during these difficult times.

**Alisher Usmanov**  
President