



FINA Honorary Life President Lic. Javier Ostos Mora passes away at 92

FINA learnt with immense sadness the loss of its Honorary Life President, Lic. Javier Ostos Mora, who passed away at the age of 92.

Mr. Ostos Mora was FINA President from 1968 to 1972 and again from 1976 to 1980 (the only FINA President to have served two non-consecutive terms). First in Mexico, his home country, and then internationally, Lic. Javier Ostos Mora was a brilliant official who spent most of his life promoting the aquatic disciplines.

Mr. Ostos Mora was a former swimmer (he excelled on a national level in the 100m breaststroke) and diver, but as a sports lover he practiced many other physical activities, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, rugby, tennis, golf or equestrian sports. Mexican captain of the swimming team from 1935 to 1937, he then became a successful coach and team leader in several international events. Also a lawyer, Lic. Javier Ostos Mora was President of the Mexican Swimming Federation from 1949-1951, 1955-1968 and 1978-1980. He was also a founding member of the UANA, the aquatics continental association of the Americas (becoming President of this body), and in 1968 he played a decisive role in the organisation of the Olympic Games in Mexico City.

That year, he was elected for a first term as FINA President (he was the first Mexican to lead an International Sport Federation), after having entered the FINA Bureau in 1964. Between 1976 and 1980, he served a second term as FINA President, and in 1992, he became FINA Honorary Life President. Within FINA, he managed, among very other successful tasks, to translate the FINA Handbook into Spanish for the benefit of all nations using this language.

Throughout his prestigious career, he was the recipient of several important recognitions, namely the FINA Prize of Eminence in 1979, the FINA Gold Pin in 1977, the Olympic Order, and many national awards in diverse nations such as Egypt, USA or Colombia.

Always very optimistic and good-humoured, Mr. Ostos Mora was the perfect symbol of Mexican hospitality: between official meetings, he often entertained the FINA guests with his melodious voice and traditional songs.

In this moment of grief, FINA would like to honour one of its most faithful and outstanding servant. In this Centenary Year, FINA owes much of its success to officials like Mr. Ostos Mora.

FINA forwards its deepest condolences to Mr. Ostos Mora Family and Friends in Mexico, in Americas and around the world.