

Mount Olympus 2008



In the morning of the 24th of August, an international youth group of 35 participants were on the summit of Mount Olympus, the highest and mythological mountain in Greece, to send a message of peace and friendship to all youth mountaineering people in the world.

The participants came from China (4), South Korea (4), Greece (11), Spain (5) and Italy (11).

In the Chinese group were a daughter and a son of members of the Chinese expedition to light the Olympic Torch on the summit of Mount Everest. Hao Wang is the daughter of the leader of this expedition.



The weather was incredibly nice for all of three days and this is special because there are always fogs and storms in the afternoon. I think that the Gods, who are living on the top understood that we are there to send a message of peace and they are good to us!

We lit the torch at 12.00 o'clock (Athens time) and all of the participants were very happy to be able to send a message that:

'THE MOUNTAINS DON'T DIVIDE BUT UNITE ALL PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM'



Mount Olympus isn't easy to ascent because many mountaineers go on the summit and the rocks are polished. It is necessary to take care!

After the ascent we went to climb in Meteora with the guide Lazaros of the Hellenic Mountaineering Federation. On the last day we went to visit Athens.

The Italian Alpine Club thanks very much the General Secretary Maya Fourioti and the Hellenic Mountaineering Federation for the help in the organization and the Chinese Mountaineering Association, the Korean Alpine Club, the Spain Federation of Mountaineering and the Hellenic Federation for their participation.



We also thank very much the Alpine Clubs of FYR of Macedonia, South Africa, Slovenia and Ukraine who participated in the event "205 Torches" where 2005 youth groups in CAI climbed a mountain in Italy to celebrate the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and the spirit of the Olympic movement.

Giampaolo Covelli, Event organizer for CAI and the UIAA Youth Commission