



Dear colleague,

It is with great pride, excitement and joy that we celebrate IB's 50th Anniversary year. You are an integral member of our IB community, and I hope that you celebrate this milestone along with our wonderful worldwide community.

Today, just as 50 years ago, our focus is on teaching, learning and assessment, across a continuum of education. In our highly interconnected and rapidly changing world, IB programmes aim to develop international-mindedness in a global context. New challenges that are not defined by traditional boundaries call for students to develop the agility and imagination they need for living productively in a complex world. The IB has always championed a stance of critical thinking and engagement with challenging ideas, one that values the progressive thinking of the past while remaining open to future innovation.

Reaching such a key milestone in our history provides us with a great moment to pause and to celebrate with our IB community of schools, educators and students:

A time to reflect on the positive and lasting impacts we have been making on lives across the globe for five decades, and **to celebrate** the work we do together across the world to further our mission of education for a better world. We all know of many personal stories, both from students and educators, about the way in which IB has engendered a lifelong love of learning or indeed has influenced their life in some critical, long term way.

A time to recognize that our work remains as valid and as valued as ever. The continued growth in our IB community is irrefutable proof of this. We started as an innovative experiment back in 1968; we now maintain an accepted and dependable world standard of learning, teaching and assessment consistently and continually benchmarked against a world standard. We started with 1 programme for 16-19 year olds; we have created 4 sustainable programmes for ages 3-19. We started with a handful of schools; we will be 7000 programmes strong as we celebrate our anniversary.

And finally, a very important time to thank you for your commitment to our IB community. Without the dedication, inspiration and energy of your work, we would not be able to achieve our mission.

As a small token to mark this important milestone, we have created the lapel pin enclosed with this letter, which I hope you like, and will wear with pride. In the coming year, I look forward to joining together to celebrate all the hard work, passion and commitment of our IB Community.

Thank you again, and wishing you all the best,

Siva Kumari, Director General