

**On the occasion of the unveiling of the Blue Plaque for Alec Peterson:
Old Headington, Oxford, 26 September 2026**

**Speech given by Marco Dondi
Deputy Director General of the International Baccalaureate Organisation**

The name of Alec Peterson is painted on many walls in various places connected to the IB, but for this occasion I had the pleasure of reading about his life, and I found remarkable to see how some of the causes Alec was engaging almost a century ago are still fundamental to the world we live in today, and I am especially referring to an education that has a mission of bringing different cultures and countries closer together as well as an education focused on critical thinking and lifelong learning skills that are so important in our current context of emerging artificial intelligence.

Since the time IB was created, the IB has now become something that might have been beyond Alec's dreams: an international education system with 6000 schools and hundreds of thousands of educators committed to an education for peace, intercultural understanding, and providing life-long learning skills to over two million students per year of age between 3 and 19 years old.

I can only imagine what Alec would have wanted the IB to do given where we got to and how the world has changed or hasn't changed to some extent. There aren't many, probably there aren't any, other international education systems and the most relevant challenges of humanity are global. I am happy to share that IB's ambition is not small and we might keep the legacy of Alec in engaging in many lost causes, causes that seem impossible, because those are impossible until someone tries hard enough to succeed. I am therefore honoured to be here and represent the legacy of what Alec has started.

For what I read about Alec, I personally share at least one trait, which is looking at the impact I can have in the world when choosing a job, and an education for human and planetary flourishing is the only sustainable answer to the betterment of humanity. I see no organization in the world that can have more impact on it than the one Alec has started and that I and other colleagues have the honour and responsibility of leading today.