



INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

OLYMPIC HIGHLIGHTS

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IOC ACTIVITIES

The **IOC World Conference on Women and Sport** will take place for the first time in the Middle East, from 8 to 10 March 2008, in Jordan. Among the subjects to be addressed during the plenary and parallel sessions are: How can female athletes serve as role models for young girls?; How to get more women into coaching and officiating; How to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic through sport; and How does culture determine women's access to sport? Info on www.olympic.org ("News" section).

On 14 January, the IOC announced that all seven cities applying to host the **Games of the XXXI Olympiad in 2016** had responded to the IOC Candidature Acceptance Procedure questionnaire. They are (in order of drawing of lots): Chicago (USA), Prague (Czech Republic), Tokyo (Japan), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Baku (Azerbaijan), Doha (Qatar) and Madrid (Spain). The election of the host city for the 2016 Games will take place in Copenhagen on 2 October 2009. Read the full press release on www.olympic.org, and for more details click on www.olympic.org/2016.

2009 OLYMPIC CONGRESS

On 15 January, the IOC officially launched the **public consultation process of the virtual Olympic Congress**. This is the first time in the history of Olympic Congresses that the general public has been invited to give their opinion on the subjects that will be addressed in Copenhagen in October 2009. Like the members of the Olympic family, the general public can submit their opinion on the five Congress themes: the athletes, the Olympic Games, the structure of the Olympic Movement, Olympism and youth and the digital revolution. To participate in the virtual Congress, click on www.2009congress.olympic.org. All the contributions will be analysed and the results will be published by the IOC in 2009.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

SUMMER OLYMPIC FEDERATIONS



Since 1 January, the **International Sailing Federation (ISAF)** has had a new Secretary General, **Jerome Pels**. Since joining the ISAF in 1997, Pels has managed all the main competitions, before becoming Director of Sailing in January

2002, then Deputy Director General in May 2006. Coming from a family of sailors, Pels started this sport at the age of six in Gouda (Netherlands). Read an interview with him on www.sailing.org.

NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES



We have just learnt that the **Argentinean NOC** has awarded the **IOC 2007 "Sport and Promotion of Olympism" trophy** to the *Sacratísimo Corazón de Jesús* Institute. At the presentation ceremony, the NOC also awarded its annual distinctions for an athlete, referee, coach and sports journalist. Furthermore, a plaque given by the late Antonio Rodríguez, NOC President and IOC member, was unveiled at the Olympic Museum during the year's last meeting of the NOC's Executive Board.



Stefka Kostadinova presenting the trophy to Lachezar Dimitrov

Lachezar Dimitrov, the Rector of the Academic Council of the Bulgarian National Sports Academy, has been awarded the **IOC 2007 "Sport and Promotion of Olympism" trophy**. The President of the **Bulgarian NOC**, Stefka Kostadinova, handed over the trophy in recognition of Dimitrov's great contribution to spreading the Olympic values. Texts and photos of the ceremony can be found on the NOC's website, www.bgolympic.org.



Tu Mingde (right) receiving the trophy from Liu Peng

Liu Peng, the President of the **Chinese NOC**, presented the **IOC 2007 "Sport and Promotion of Olympism" trophy** to Tu Mingde, NOC Vice-President and Assistant to the BOCOG President, at the NOC's General Assembly in Beijing at the beginning of January. For more than 40 years, Tu Mingde has devoted his life to the promotion of the Olympic ideals through his various responsibilities within sports organisations on national, continental and world levels.



At the end of last week, the President of the **Republic of El Salvador**, Elias Antonio Sacca, officially launched the **National Sports Institute's Physical Education Academy (INDES)**, in the presence of numerous personalities from the sports world, including **NOC President Eduardo Palomo Pacas**. This Academy will start its activities in April 2008.



The **British Olympic Association (BOA)** has announced the list of recipients of the 2007 Olympic Athlete of the Year trophy. Since 2005, the BOA's Centenary Year, all 35 Olympic Governing Bodies award a trophy to their top athlete. Discover the lucky winners on www.olympics.org.uk.



Kenyan Olympian Lucas Sang, a member of the 4x400m relay team at the Seoul Games in 1998, **has died** in Eldoret (Kenya) during the uprisings that have recently taken place in his country. Forty-five-year-old Sang, who became a farmer after his sporting career ended, was President of the Rift Valley Athletics League in 2000, as well as Treasurer of the National Association of Kenyan Olympians until his death.



Arturas Poviliunas (right) and Gennady Alekseenko, signing the agreement between their two NOCs

On 15 January in Vilnius, the President of the **Lithuanian NOC**, Arturas Poviliunas, and the Vice-President of the **Belarus NOC**, Gennady Alekseenko, signed a **bilateral agreement** between the two organisations. Among other things, this Agreement addresses the exchange of national sports teams and technical officials, and a joint training programme. Among the



personalities present at this ceremony were the Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus in Lithuania, Vladimir Drazhin, and the Lithuanian Minister of Sport, Algirdas Raslanas.



At the traditional "Burtu Chono" Olympic gala, the **Mongolian NOC** presented awards to its national sporting family, in the presence of the President of the Republic, Nambar Enkhbayar.

Trophies were presented in several categories: athlete, coach, referee, national federation, President of a national federation, Secretary General of a national federation, team and Olympic study centre. Boxer E.Badar-Uugan was crowned "Best Athlete of 2007", while the women's judo team received the title of "Best Team of 2007".



The **NOC of the Virgin Islands**, whose President is Hans Lawaetz, has just informed us of the organisation of a **sports symposium** at Government House in St Croix on 17 November 2007 (photo above). In the presence of various government representatives, notably Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr, the Presidents of 22 national sports federations or their representatives presented their respective sports and their involvement in the Virgin Islands community.



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