

NEWS FLASH

15th Winter Deaflympics in Sundsvall, Sweden is now in progress!

The 15th Winter Deaflympic Games have started! Please visit www.deaflympics.com from 26 February through 9 March 2003 for the schedule, photos, sports results, videos and many more!



IOC NEWS

Highlights of the Week

World-wide weekly highlights of the Olympic Movement
Week of 17 February 2003
www.olympic.org

IOC ACTIVITIES

Last weekend, **the IOC President went to Moscow** (Russia). At the Kremlin, he had a meeting with the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Igor Ivanov, was also present at this meeting. Accompanied by IOC members Vitaly Smirnov and Shamil Tarpishev, the IOC President also met the Mayor of Moscow, Yuri Lujkov, as well as Russian NOC President Leonid Tyagachev, and attended the Olympic gala.

On Tuesday, the IOC President went to Magglingen (Switzerland) on the occasion of the first international "Sport and Development" conference, organised by Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace, and by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), attached to the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Numerous high profile speakers had accepted Adolf Ogi's invitation. Among the 300 guests were Federal Councillor Samuel Schmid; President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski; Mozambican and Russian Sports Ministers Joel Matias Libombo and Vyacheslav Fetisov; IOC members Kipjoge Keino, Nawal El Moutawakel, Denis Oswald and Alexander Popov; and Director of the International Olympic Truce Centre Stavros Lambrinidis.

The IOC President gave a speech on the role of sport in

civil society.

Also in Magglingen, Norwegian athlete Johann Olav Koss announced that **his humanitarian association Olympic Aid had been renamed Right to Play**. A protocol agreement between the IOC and *Right to Play* governs the collaboration between the two institutions.

Right to Play will continue to help children in poor countries, with the support of sports coaches and stars, especially promoting education and the fight against diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Back at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, the IOC President led the discussions of the TV and Internet Rights Commission, which met on Wednesday, on the eve of the IOC Executive Board meeting.

During the week, he also met:

- IOC members Lamine Diack, Kevan Gosper, Zhenliang He, Gerhard Heiberg, Toni Khoury, Arne Ljungqvist, Craig Reedie, Sam Ramsamy and Mario Vázquez Raña;

- President of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Francesco Ricci Bitti;

- President of the Organising Committee for the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens in 2004 (ATHOC) Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki.

On Sunday, the IOC President will go to the Stade de France in Paris (France) where he will watch the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Highlights of the Week

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

France-Scotland Six Nations tournament rugby match.

During its meetings, the **IOC Executive Board** dealt with the issue of the Olympic programme, amongst others.

After consulting the International Federations affected by the Olympic Programme Commission's recommendations either to exclude disciplines or to change certain events, the following decisions were made:

Programme of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, Beijing 2008

Sports for which the Programme Commission had recommended excluding disciplines:

- Canoe-Kayak (ICF) - Slalom

This discipline is maintained on condition that a positive evolution takes place, particularly in terms of global participation.

- Equestrian (FEI) - Three-day event

This discipline of the competition is maintained, on condition that it is organised under the new format proposed by the FEI. The EB accepted this new format for the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens at its last meeting.

- Wrestling (FILA) - Exclusion of a discipline

The two disciplines (freestyle and greco-roman) are maintained but, given the large number of medals awarded in this sport, the EB asks the Federation to reduce the number.

- Athletics (IAAF) - Race walking events

These events are maintained on condition that the new measures proposed by the federation achieve the expected results on the occasion of the World Championships in Paris, in August 2003, and at the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens in 2004.

Sports for which the Programme Commission recommended changes to events:

- Sailing (ISAF) - Reduction in athlete quota and number of events

The EB has accepted the ISAF's proposal to reduce the number of events from 11 to 10 and the athlete quota from 400 to 380 starting from 2012, as the sailing events will not be taking place in the Olympic host city.

- Swimming (FINA) - Team synchronised swimming event

After studying the information submitted by FINA and the proposal to change the qualification system in order to make this event more universal, the EB has decided to maintain this event.

- Shooting (ISSF) - Reduction in athlete quota and number of events

The ISSF's proposal to limit the amount of construction needed to hold the shooting events at the Olympic Games (reducing costs by approximately one third) and to eliminate two events from the programme has been accepted. These events will be chosen at a later date.

- Badminton (IBF) - Mixed doubles event

The IOC maintains its position of not including new mixed doubles events in the Olympic programme. However, in view of the arguments put forward by the IBF, the EB has decided to maintain this event.

The Executive Board has also appointed Gilbert Felli, who is currently Director of Sports, Olympic Games Coordination and Relations with the International Federations, to the post of Olympic Games Executive Director.

The recommendations of audits conducted within the organisation last year highlighted the increasing importance of all the IOC's Olympic Games-related tasks and missions. The IOC therefore decided to appoint an executive director responsible for the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Highlights of the Week

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

running, coordination and follow-up of all Olympic Games activities, from the candidature phase to the actual holding of the Olympic Games.

In his current role, Gilbert Felli is also responsible for the IOC's Olympic Games coordination commissions (he has coordinated seven editions of the Games), as well as the Evaluation, Olympic Programme, Sport for All, Athletes' and Olympic Games Study Commissions.

The IOC headquarters in Lausanne has hosted numerous meetings throughout the week:

- Olympic Solidarity Commission, chaired by Mario Vázquez Raña;
- Executive Council of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), chaired by Mario Vázquez Raña;
- Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) Council, chaired by Denis Oswald;
- Joint meeting of the ASOIF Council and the ANOC Executive Council.

On Tuesday evening, **IOC member Joseph Blatter** received the American Global Peace Award in New York. This award is given every two years to a personality from the world of sport in recognition of their activities to promote peace. The International Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA) decided to give this award to Joseph Blatter for bringing together Japan and South Korea in the organisation of the 2002 Football World Cup.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) have come together to fight against child labour.

This alliance, which came about in the framework of the "Red Card to Child Labour" campaign, already launched by the ILO, aims to draw international public attention to child labour in the sporting goods

manufacturing industry and other sectors.

The decision to collaborate on this campaign was finalised on 10 February by FIFA President Joseph Blatter and ILO Executive Director Kari Tapiola.

NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

On the occasion of the 85th anniversary of Lithuania's independence, **National Olympic Committee (NOC) President Arturas Poviliunas** received a Commander's Cross for his contribution to the unification of the Lithuanian nation thanks to his activities within the Olympic and sports movement.

ATHENS 2004

This week, President of the Organising Committee of the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens in 2004 Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki met with **King Juan Carlos of Spain**, who wished to be informed of the progress of the preparations for the 2004 Olympic Games.

During this trip to Madrid, she also met Spanish Secretary of State for Sport Juan Antonio Gomez Angulo.

OLYMPIC MUSEUM

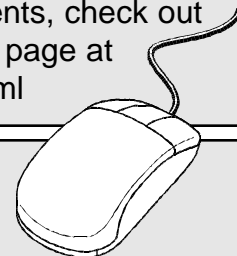
A ceremony was organised yesterday at the Olympic Museum in the presence of the IOC Executive Board and honorary member King Constantine to inaugurate the commemorative plaques indicating that the Thasos marble on the Museum's façade was donated by Greece, on the initiative of IOC member Lambis Nikolaou.

Upcoming Events

To view further upcoming events, check out Calenderlive at CISS' Events page at <http://www.ciss.org/events.html>

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Contents:

- 15th Winter Deaflympics Begin
- IOC News