



International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

e-News

The Official Publication of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

No. 233 April 2008

Printed Version

Contents:

- Letter from the President
- Inside ICSD
- Inside Deaflympics
- Message from Technical Director
- Deaf Sports Events
- Deaf Sports In Brief
- IOC In Brief

Message from the President

Tempus fugit! It is hard to believe it is time again to change clocks. On the second Sunday in March, I must turn the clock forward in observance of daylight saving time (DST), so that the sun will rise and set later in the day. This system piqued my curiosity to learn more about the benefits of turning the clock backward and forward. To my surprise, there are only 1 billion people in 70 countries in the world utilizing this system. I see it as a great benefit for energy conservation. At this time of the year with daylight saving time, we see more sporting activities are held outdoors, thus it saves energy. I get much pleasure watching athletes practice on the field until dusk because Sue Castle, executive producer of PBS Sports wrote that participating in sports has the power to combat everything from racism to low self-image. This also applies to our deaf athletes who must remember to uphold to the ICSD motto - **PER LUDOS AEQUALITAS (Equality through sports)**.

In early March, Tiffany Granfors, Executive Director, and I traveled to Dead Sea, Jordan to attend the 4th IOC World Conference on Women and Sport for 4 days. The conference theme was "Sport as a Vehicle for Social Change" covering issues relating to gender-imbalance, development of gender-equity programs and IOC's prominent role in setting a positive trend in enhancing women's participation in sport. The IOC has clearly called for stringent measures that international sports organizations under the IOC structure must take to implement gender-equality and to ensure women's participation in sports and leadership.

Speaking of equality, since our motto is **PER LUDOS AEQUALITAS (Equality through sports)**, we shall practice it by creating a deliberate and comprehensive policy on gender-equality on the field of play for deaf female athletes. In the near future, our members who wish to participate in the Deaflympics or world championships shall be required to bring men and women athletes, as well as sending a female delegate to the biennial Congress. At their next meeting in Taipei in October 2008, the Executive Committee will address various issues relating to equality and make formal proposals for ratification at the 2009 Taipei Congress.

Wednesday, 26 March was indeed a very gloomy day for the entire deaf sports world. **Jerald M. Jordan, (JJ)** our former president (1971-1995) and honorary president, passed away at home after one year of a courageous battle against lung cancer. It was **JJ's** wish that there be no services. JJ would like that we share memories we have had with **JJ** and to remember him by doing something that we enjoyed together through his life. I personally promised **JJ** one week before his passing that we would always cherish the value the spirit of Deaflympics and adhering to the ideals of Olympics. A tribute with a slideshow can be viewed now on our [website](#).

Dr. Donalda K. Ammons
President



Ms. Nada Zeidan



Ms. Gunilla Lindberg, Vice President, IOC

Inside ICSD

Report from Vice President

We are now one and an half year away from the Taipei 2009 21st Summer Deaflympics and we are going into higher gear in preparations for these Summer Deaflympics.

On 12-13th March 2008 the ICSD management team meeting was held in Israel and it was decided that ICSD will oversee the organization of Summer Deaflympics qualifying football tournaments for the African teams. A total of 8 African teams have confirmed for Taipei 2009 21st Summer Deaflympics football but only two (2) top teams will win places in the Summer Deaflympics. The tournaments will be divided into two regions – West-North Africa and Southern Africa. I will be the liaison officer with the organization of the tournaments. The venues and dates of these tournaments will be announced very shortly after I finalize with the selected host countries.

The Africa Deaf Football Cup that was scheduled for May 2008 is again postponed for lack of financial support. We will push for 2011 (or 2012) Africa Deaf Football Cup which will also act for qualifying matches for 2013 Summer Deaflympics. We are searching for host for this Cup tournament. If any of African country members is interested in hosting, please apply to CADS Secretariat at yusuf@cadsports.org as soon as possible with copy to me at lanesman@ciss.org but the application must contain letter of support from the National football association or City Administration (Municipality or Council) and the letter of confirmation of place and dates from the National Deaf sports Federation. So start preparing now. I wish you good luck!

David Lanesman
ICSD Vice President

Report from Sports Director

Altogether ICSD shall have 17 Technical Directors for summer sports and 5 Technical Directors for winter sports. Since we have one vacant technical director position for cross country skiing, I welcome applications.

Due to increased number of international competitions prior to the Deaflympics, I note that our Technical Directors will have to work more. This means that the Technical Directors must demonstrate special attributes and qualities. It is important that the Technical Directors bring along the willingness, the reliability, the accuracy and the meticulousness e.g. the role and the responsibility for the ICSD.

See below the general list of expected roles and responsibilities to which the Technical Directors shall adhere:

- Be responsible for efficient and effective management of the events during the selected term
- Be fully knowledgeable of the latest rules and regulations of the respective sport at international standards
- Where and when required, be available to oversee the competition at World Championships
- Liaise with ICSD Secretariat and National Associations in developing procedures and rules for conduct of the respective sport at the Deaflympics and/or World Championships

- Advise and assist the local organizing committee in preparation of rules and schedules for the respective sport program of the Deaflympics
- Serve as an official representative of the ICSD on the Commission as established by the local organizing committee
- Record non-participation of athletes who have registered but failed to start at the Deaflympics and World Championships and provide report to the Sports Director
- Provide complete results to the Secretariat at the end of daily competition during Deaflympics and World Championships
- Write a technical report along with full results and submit to the Secretariat no later than 1 month after the conclusion of the Deaflympics and World Championships

I look forward to receiving applications for the cross country skiing position, as well as from prospective candidates for other positions to be filled after the 2009 Summer Deaflympics.

Regards,

Josef Willmerdinger
ICSD Sports Director

Inside Deaflympics

Clock Ticks, a New Page Unfolds!

Taipei 2009 Summer Deaflympics Organising Committee (TDOC) takes pride to host the 21st Summer Deaflympics in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan (ROC). Commencing with an opening ceremony on the evening of 5 September 2009, 3600 elite deaf and hard of hearing athletes from more than 85 countries are expected to compete in 20 sports disciplines at 26 state of the art venues in Taipei metropolis. Starting from 1 August 2009, a series of sports, arts, ethnic culture, and deaf culture events will be held throughout the city. The streets of Taipei will come alive with supporters and friends of Deaflympics from the globe.

Needless to say, venues availability is always the core concern of any games. The major competition venue Taipei Municipal Stadium, sitting next to Taipei Arena, is located at a vibrant business district in the city. To provide the best quality venue of athletics (track & field), in November 2007, the old stadium of 51-year history was demolished. TDOC staff works closely with constructors to make sure every element complies with international standards and fulfills ICSD's highest standards. We are delighted that the construction progresses as scheduled. When it is completed in April 2009, the brand new Taipei Municipal Stadium with its adjacent facilities will offer 20,000 seats and provide every necessary infrastructure for spectators, press members, and VIP guests. The athletic competitions as well as the football final will be held in the new Stadium. Of course, the opening ceremony of the Games will be staged here too. TDOC vows to provide athletes state of the art venues and facilities. We sincerely hope our devotion will bring out every athlete's best performance, breaking their own personal records and even deaf world records.

Volunteers also play a very important role in the success of the Games.

TDOC opens the registration to the public since

spring 2007. 2206 volunteers have signed up and 1390 trained so far, including the deaf and hearing and ages of 15 to 70. It is a diversified team with members such as students, businessmen, and housewives. Preparing volunteers to provide better communication and services in the Games, classes of Taiwanese and international sign languages have been offered for volunteers (open to staff as well) last year. Carrying on the goal, Community Liaison Division again arranged four sessions in 2008, including weekday night classes and weekend classes to accommodate volunteers' work schedules. In this coming April, Susan Laura Emerson, an Australian sign language expert, will visit Taipei to share her expertise. She will offer international sign language courses on 7-18 April. In addition to the sign languages, international etiquette courses are also scheduled to be offered in April.

Taipei municipal high school system joins efforts in T2009 Volunteer Team, creating a win-win situation. TDOC takes advantage of young people's endless energy and lively passion, while they are provided one-of-a-kind chance to take part at a world-class sports event. Variations of activities have been planned and some have been undertaking. Sign language and introduction of Deaflympics are incorporated into regular



Appearance of the surrounding structures. The official 2009 Summer Deaflympics venue for Opening/Closing ceremonies, athletics competitions, and final football matches.

curriculums to raise awareness of deaf culture and Deaflympics, prize games will be held to encourage learning, and Deaflympics webpages will be built on their school websites.



Stadium view from east side

Deaf related associations also approached TDOC to volunteer their enthusiasm. On 28 February, TDOC invited 36 representatives of 10 associations in Northern Taiwan to gather at the Taipei City Public Library – Songshan Branch (special collection of materials for the deaf), including Chinese Taipei Sports Association of the Deaf, National Association of the Deaf, Chinese Deaf Association, National Women League Foundation for the Hearing Impaired, Alumni of Taipei School for the Hearing Impaired, Taoyuan County Welfare Association for the Deaf and Mute, and Children's Hearing Foundation, Taiwan Photographers Association for the Deaf, Taipei Welfare Association for the Deaf, and Taipei Caring Association for the Physically Challenged. TDOC briefly introduced Deaflympics history and reported TDOC's missions and operations, the representatives in return gave opinions and advices on how to organize and allocate all forces to provide the best amenity to our guests in 2009.

On 5-10 September of this year, TDOC will host the Invitational Games for the Deaf Taipei 2008, prelude the 21st Summer Deaflympics and commemorating one year to the Games. Approximately 260 athletes will be competing at five sports events: football, judo, karate, taekwondo, and table tennis. 340 visitors, including athletes,

coaches, staff, families, and friends from Argentina, China, France, Greece, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and Uzbekistan will join the Chinese Taipei Deaflympics team and TDOC to celebrate the one year countdown.

The most exciting of all, we would like to introduce our new Artistic Director, Dr. Stan Lai (For Dr. Lai's profile, please see www.pwshop.com/eng/stanlai.php). Dr. Lai is an internationally applauded playwright/theatre director. His influence and achievement have crossed the ocean, reaching corners of the world. "Performance Workshop,"

(www.pwshop.com/eng/index.php) led by Dr. Lai, was recognized as the leading contemporary theatre group in Chinese language world. Dr. Lai's vouch unfolds a new page for the Taipei 2009 Summer Deaflympics. Besides an eye-catching ceremony to look forward to, with Dr. Lai overseeing all artistic aspects, TDOC promises a Deaflympics like no others. A series of celebrations will be launched a month before the Games at Taipei Arena and its surrounding neighborhood, including performances, exhibitions, concerts, arts, ethnics, and deaf cultural activities. Moreover, domestic festivals and international events, such as the Taipei Food Festival and the 2010 Taipei International Gardening and Horticultural Exposition, will be ventured together around the Taipei Arena for all participants to enjoy. The pleasure TDOC endeavors to bring will be an experience you can never forget.

September 2009, come to Taipei, support the Games, and shine with the 21st Summer Deaflympics, the most surprising extravaganza!

Message from Technical Director

Athletics

Spring is near – at least in the Northern Hemisphere! However, this article is written while we have snow in Denmark and temperatures around zero!

A new outdoor season is on the way and there is only six (6) months to the first World Deaf Athletics Championships take place in Izmir, Turkey, the last week of September 2008.

I am pleased to see that almost 30 countries have sent their preliminary (or indicated that they will send athletes) entries for these World Deaf Athletics Championships. A few of those countries usually participating in athletics did not send in their preliminary entries but I am hoping that we will have 30 or more countries present in Izmir.

It is expected that we will have 300 or more athletes present on site in September. Unfortunately, two events have been cancelled because of insufficient preliminary entries: Women's 3000m steeplechase and women's pole vault.

The number of preliminary entries for each event, male and female, can be found on the host's homepage: www.athletics2008.org

The IAAF has adopted a few new rules for athletics coming in force on 1 January 2008. The ICSD is following the IAAF rules and you are recommended to read especially the amendments to be familiar with the rules before you arrive in Izmir.

Until now there have been no age limits for participants in the Summer Deaflympics but now the IAAF rules have been introduced.

Juniors (18 and 19 years) may participate in all events except Marathon. Youths (16 and 17 years) may participate in all events except the throwing events (male athletes), Decathlon, 10000m and Marathon.

For the 2008 World Deaf Athletics Championships, the junior athletes are those born in 1989 and 1990, youth athletes those born in 1991 and 1992). No athlete younger than 16 years on 31 December 1992 or later may be entered for the World Deaf Athletics Championships.

It is expected that we also in 2008 will see many new Deaf World Records. Please, be aware that a performance can be adopted only when using the ICSD [World Record Application Form](#). We do under no circumstances accept forms used by the Regional Confederations. I repeat what I wrote in the [last ENEWS](#): Following the decision taken at the Salt Lake City Congress in February 2007 no regional record may be better than a Deaf World Record.

Barbara C. Søndergaard
ICSD Technical Director - Athletics

Football

1st World Deaf Football Championships

A lot has happened since the last E-News! I visited Patras in Greece just before Christmas to check out the facilities. After several meetings with the OC and the venues' staff, I agreed to the WC Organising Committee's request to change the venue from Katerini to Patras.

Earlier this month I flew again to Greece, this time to Athens for a meeting with the Hellenic Athletic Federation of the Deaf (HAFD) and the Greece General Secretariat of Sports. This was to get a progress update of the preparations towards the 1st World Deaf Football Championships.

I will not pretend that things are going smoothly as it is a tight schedule. Communication has perhaps been slow from Greece but things are on schedule.

The deadline has been extended to 31st March 2008. This is the FINAL deadline for all deposits to be paid. There will be NO more extension after this. It is not too late for your country to enter the 1st World Deaf Football Championships if you can get in touch with laonnis Stoufis urgently at stoufisg@otenet.gr / wdcf2008@hafdeaf.gr

The draw will be held in Athens on 12th April 2008. If you wish to attend (not compulsory), please email laonnis Stoufis (you can tour the venues in Patras after the draw).

The WC Technical Regulations and a provisional schedule have now been sent out to all confirmed entries.

The World Deaf Football Championship website is now up and the address is www.wdfc2008.gr

Other news

An interesting article in the Guardian website about Iraq's deaf soccer team which I thought was worth a mention in [here](#). It just goes to show that football is a passion shared throughout the world by the deaf community. Happy reading!

Yours in football

Christof Niklaus
ICSD Technical Director - Football

Judo

I would like to introduce myself to you as the new ICSD Technical Director of Judo since May 2007.

I am very pleased to announce that France is organizing the World Deaf Martial Arts Championships on 22 to 26 May 2008 in Toulouse in the region of Midi-Pyrenees.

I am also delighted to see the number of countries and participation of athletes and officials that are planning to participate in this event have set a record number - about 20 countries with about 190 participating athletes.

The World Deaf Martial Arts Championships is a very important step, because they are the first opportunity to compete before the Summer Deaflympics in Taipei 2009. The 3 combat sports (Karate, Judo and Taekwondo) are recognized by the ICSD and it is a good springboard to prepare for these games.

During the World Deaf Martial Arts Championships, there will be a conference on Friday, May 23 to develop the Judo deaf athletes at the international level, the conference agenda includes:

- The organization of the next World Deaf Martial Arts Championships
- Arbitration adapted to the deaf
- Sign Language (Vocabulary Judo)

I congratulate the Organizing Committee that has made a great effort to organize the best possible World Deaf Martial Arts Championships.

With a great pleasure to meet you all in Toulouse, very soon.

Damien Antoine
ICSD Technical Director - Judo

Snowboard

The European Deaf Wintersport Championships snowboarding races took place on 8 and 9 March 2008 in Seefeld / Austria by a solid group of Austrian Organising Committee. A total of 10 women and 18 men participated. Of these, the Japanese team surprisingly flew to Austria as guests to give them more competition opportunities. The parallel slalom woman winner was the Freestyle specialist Yuka Tsuruoka from Japan. The men's winner was Austrian Peter Strack. The Winter Deaflympics champion of 2007 Salt Lake, Harada Noboru, the best Japanese snowboarder, placed third (3rd) in Seefeld. You can view the results and photos in www.deafwintersport.eu website.



Map of Sarikamis ski resort



Top of the Sarikamis mountain

The World Deaf Ski Championships for alpine skiing, cross country skiing, and snowboard will be held for the first time in Turkey. The information and the program can be found in www.2009winter.org

Marco Galmarini

ICSD Technical Director - Snowboard

Table Tennis

1st World Deaf Table Tennis Championships

There are a little more than two months from now till the hat will be in the ring and athletes from almost all regions of the world begin the 1st World Deaf Table Tennis Championships in Sofia, the Bulgarian Capital.

Final list of participants, 133 athletes from 27 Countries:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01. Bulgaria | 15. Lithuania |
| 02. People's Republic of China | 16. Republic of Moldova |
| 03. Chinese Taipei | 17. Nigeria |
| 04. Croatia | 18. Pakistan |
| 05. Czech Republic | 19. Poland |
| 06. Denmark | 20. Russian Federation |
| 07. Finland | 21. Slovakia |
| 08. Germany | 22. Sweden |
| 09. Ghana | 23. Thailand |
| 10. Great Britain | 24. Turkey |
| 11. Hungary | 25. Ukraine |
| 12. Islamic Republic of Iran | 26. Venezuela |
| 13. Japan | 27. Zambia |
| 14. Latvia | |

Regretfully there are only a few teams that have already made their accommodations. This is to request that those who failed yet to please hurry with reservations that would also be a big help for the BDSF Organizing Committee. May I hereby remind all of you that deadline for name registration is May 1st.

Looking forward to seeing you in Sofia!

World Deaf Table Tennis Ranking

The draw of the WC will be based on the actual list of ranking completed with results of APDSC organized Games. Please do not forget that results of the World

Championship also affect the Ranking positions. Draw for table tennis during the next Summer Deaflympics will also be arranged according to the Ranking statuses.

National Table Tennis Championships

This is to request to all Member National Federations that in case of organizing National Championships, results attested by chief referee should have to be distributed to me. Yearly one event will be accepted. It is yet planned but my intention is that results of National Championships will also be included into the consistent bracing of the Table Tennis World Ranking List's formula.

In Memory of Ms Aranka Implon (1948 – 2008)

In the name of the Hungarian Deaf Sport Society we inform in deep mourning that on 15th February in her age of 59 we lost Aranka Implon, holder of 7 gold medals of table tennis (4 in 1969 Belgrade and 3 in 1973 Malmö). Hungarian Deaf Sport suffered irreplaceable loss and keep her memory alive.

Greetings,

Zsolt Nyíró
ICSD Technical
Director - Table
Tennis



Aranka IMPLON (HUN) - Holder of 7 gold medals.



Aranka Implon

Tennis

Dear sport friends and tennis friends!

I am happy to be on the ICSD team as the new ICSD Technical Director of Tennis and I will give my best to bring the tennis sport at higher professional level.

These are the goals I would like to work on and reach during my term:

1. Have intensive contacts with ITF (International Tennis Federation) and other regional tennis federations. I will come up with some suggested projects that ICSD can collaborate with ITF and also with regional tennis federations which would help this sport in the area of:
 - Tennis camps
 - Deaf tennis trainers
 - Tennis training equipment
2. Bring back the enthusiasm for Tennis in Africa, South America and Asia.
 - The National Deaf Sport Federations should add tennis section and implement it
 - Regular information about tennis activities in the world of deaf children, youth and adults with the aim to motivate them
3. 1st World Deaf Tennis Championships in singles and doubles. I want to establish the 1st World Deaf Tennis Championships, ideally in the year before the Summer Deaflympics. So I am going to work out a concept in June to propose the new Tennis tournament calendar to ICSD.

If you have new ideas or proposals to my goals above or any additional comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at tennistd@ciss.org

Tobias Burz
ICSD Technical Director – Tennis

Volleyball

Do you know how important the year 2008 is in the deaf volleyball world? That means we will have the first world championships in volleyball for the deaf, and Summer Deaflympics is only one year after that. Volleyball has been a part of the Summer Deaflympics program since 1969. Regional confederations have had hosted their volleyball championships (as far as I know, EDSO had seven since 1982, and PANAMDES probably two or three since 1975). World championships this year - finally!

2008 World Deaf Volleyball Championships - Argentina

I am pleased to announce that the official website for the volleyball world championships is www.2008volleyball.org. Bookmark the website with your favorite browser now! Everything you need to know about the event is on the website. The organizing committee and I are exploring the possibility of posting "live" scores and statistics to the website. The "Live Score" option depends on wireless access to the Internet inside the volleyball venues and electrical power for computers at the score tables and manpower. The organizing committee, led by director Mr. Daniel Laurence, is hard at work to prepare the inaugural event for your volleyball team.

The organizing committee and I have been in contact by Internet video chat on a frequent basis. Can you imagine the world without the Internet?!

Competing against other teams in Buenos Aires will give your coaching staff and athletes an opportunity to "evaluate" your opponents and then use the next 13 months to train for the 2009 Summer Deaflympics and meet some of your familiar opponents again.

2010 World Deaf Beach Volleyball Championships - Israel

The Israel Deaf Sports Organization has already started planning for the first world championships in beach volleyball by setting up an organizing committee. Please allow me to introduce Mr. Ido Rosink - he is the director of the organizing committee. I am impressed with his work and commitment to get various pre-event objectives met.

Please be reminded that the FIVB may or may not amend the beach volleyball rules between 2008 and 2010. I will communicate any rule changes in the technical regulations later. The current quota is 2 teams per gender per nation.

Mr. Rosink is also the webmaster for the official beach volleyball world championships website. The website address is www.2010beachvolleyball.org. You will like the special effects.

Bids to Host Future Volleyball or Beach Volleyball World Championships

If your organization is serious about hosting the next world championships event in either volleyball (year 2012) or beach volleyball (year 2014), please contact me for the [Bid Application Form](#) as soon as possible. I highly recommend that if you are interested in hosting the 2012 volleyball event, you should complete the form and bring it with you to the Technical Delegate meeting in Buenos Aires. I will ensure that the paperwork is in order and forward all documents to ICSD for consideration and approval at the 2009 ICSD Congress in Taipei.

I am available at VolleyballTD@ciss.org for any technical questions or concerns you may have. Please email me in advance to arrange for date and time if you want to video-chat with me using ooVoo or NetMeeting.

John Knetzger
ICSD Technical Director - Volleyball

Wrestling

2008 World Deaf Wrestling Championships

I had the opportunity to conduct a site inspection for the upcoming World Deaf Wrestling Championship in Yerevan, Armenia. I am pleased to inform you that the facilities and accommodations were found to be suitable. We have found some areas that needed improvement and the Organizing Committee has agreed to make some changes and improvements and complete before the championships. The place where the Championship takes place in Yerevan is magnificent for sport and tourism with historical and touristic view as you can see in the pictures attached.

We look forward to seeing you at the World Deaf Wrestling Championship in September!

Mehmet Demir Bilgili
ICSD Technical Director - Wrestling



Mr. Bilgili inspects sport hall with Armenia leader and ICSD Member at Large representative, Dogan Özdemir



Mr. Özdemir, Mr. Grigoryan, and Mr. Bilgili stands in front of Armenia Deaf Society Place.

Deaf Sports Events

World Deaf Martial Arts Championships – Update II

After the deadline of final registration, I am happy to announce that a total of 24 countries have signed up to participate. In my opinion, this is a beautiful event taking place in France because this is for the first time that more than 20 countries participate in the 13th World Deaf Martial Arts Championships.



Aerial view of Toulouse

The Organizing Committee has worked very hard to make sure that this is the best organized World Deaf Martial Arts Championships. I want to say thank you to all of the members of Organizing Committee for their serious and hard work and also to Ms. Isabelle Malaurie, President of Federation Sportive des Sourds de France, for her attention. This World Deaf Martial Arts Championships is a positive test for the upcoming 2009 Summer Deaflympics in Taipei: Judo (18 countries), Karate (13 countries) and Taekwondo (12 countries). It is a pity that the other countries are unable to join the tournament in France for financial reason: Senegal (Karate and Taekwondo), Mexico (Taekwondo), Ethiopia (Taekwondo) and Mali (Judo and Karate), without forgetting Colombia (Karate). Some countries will participate for the first time: Nigeria, Guinea, Uzbekistan, Latvia, Turkey, Venezuela,

Netherlands and Sri Lanka. I want to say to them: "Congratulations for participating for the first time and a big welcome!" and above all, two african countries: Nigeria and Guinea will finally come and participate, I say to them: "Bravo for the courage to come to France" and I hope that the other countries will follow Nigeria and Guinea in the future because the previous World Deaf Martial Arts Championships, we have not seen one African country since Algeria. Click [here](#) to see the official list of participation.

Mr. Jung Bae PARK, the ICSD Technical Director - Taekwondo will join Mr. Damien ANTOINE, the ICSD Technical Director - Judo and myself as the ICSD Technical Director - Karate for supervision of each event. Mr. Josef WILLMERDINGER, ICSD Sports Director, will come Toulouse to help all three Technical Directors. I want say thank you Mr. WILLMERDINGER for his serious interest with martial arts because this is very important to involve him. I don't forget to say welcome to Mr. David LANESMAN, the ICSD Vice President representative. I am very pleased to share the passion with him, too.

I am a little disappointed for the delay in some countries' response. The Organizing Committee need the exact numbers for reservation and order the caterer for meals. This is why the Organizing Committee want the best event for you. I need to remind you that we, the Organizing Committee, have the right to cancel your participation if we do not receive any response from you or if deadlines are not met.

Before I wrap up this report, I am very glad that the World Deaf Martial Arts Championships take place because four years ago, I took the honour of hosting as I also

honour the moral code of Karate. Really this is difficult to choose the host city: Paris, Bordeaux and Toulouse after Mr. Francesco FARAONE, the IMAFD President asked me during the last IMAFD Congress in Moscow. I have not any regrets in selecting Toulouse as the host city. Do not forget that I live Bordeaux and I often travel to Toulouse for Organizing Committee meeting. Toulouse is considered as the French capital of deaf people and I am sure that you will not regret to come Toulouse and will leave with a lot of good souvenir and a big smile. I would welcome your opinion on the place. Sincerely, this is not easy to manage three disciplines in the same World Deaf Martial Arts Championships.



Main entrance of Martial Arts venue in
Toulouse



Inside the competition venue

The official program is under construction and must be valid at the next Organizing Committee meeting. Thank you for patience.

I say to you, "Welcome and good luck" and "To win or lose is not important but to participate is important! This is very necessary for progress through your way of martial art".

Without forgetting to thank you to Mrs. Tiffany GRANFORS and Mr. Wayne LANGBEIN for your help and advice.

François KHALEF
ICSD Technical Director - Karate

Deaf Sports In Brief

Jerald M. Jordan (1927 – 2008)



Jerald, affectionately known as JJ, was born in Roseville, Michigan on 07.07.1927 and died on 26.03.2008 at home in West River, Maryland. JJ was survived by his loving wife, Shirley and many friends from far and near.

JJ, the 5th president of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (CISS/ICSD), became deaf at 7 years old due to spinal meningitis. After attending various schools in Michigan, he went to study at Gallaudet College and graduated in 1948. Immediately after his graduation, he was employed at two different Washington, D.C. newspapers for 11 years. JJ got a job offer to teach science and mathematics at his alma mater-Gallaudet College. At Gallaudet, he also held various positions from the director of the Computing Center to the director of College's Project Talent Search and Admission's Office. He retired in 1991 and received an honorary degree in 1994.

After showcasing his talent and skills as Chairman of the 1965 International Games for the Deaf (now known as Deaflympics) in

Washington, D.C., JJ was highly sought to serve on CISS/ICSD's executive committee in 1967. JJ became the 5th president of CISS/ICSD in 1971 where he held for 24 years before retiring in 1995.

In 1986, Jordan received the CISS/ICSD Gold Medal in recognition of his years of service on the CISS Executive committee. In 1995, JJ received the Olympic Order from the IOC and in the same year, Jordan was given the title as an Honorary Life Member of CISS/ICSD and also diligently served as the Chair of the CISS/ICSD Legal Commission until his passing.

In accordance with JJ's wishes, there will be no services. JJ would like that we share memories we have had with JJ and to remember him by doing something that we enjoyed together through his life.

To JJ- we will always cherish the value the spirit of Deaflympics where Deaf athletes strive to reach the pinnacle of competition by embracing the motto of **PER LUDOS AEQUALITAS (Equality through sports)** and adhering to the ideals of Olympics.

Iraq's deaf football team braves violence to play

Wednesday, 13 February 2008
By Saif Fouad

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Anyone born deaf and mute faces a challenge playing in a football team -- it's hard to communicate on the pitch, players cannot hear the referee's whistle and few coaches know sign language.

Add the risk of being shot or blown up on the way to training in Baghdad and Iraq's football team for deaf-mute players could be forgiven for staying home.

But the squad is set to compete in an international tournament in Kuwait in April, and trainer Hussein al-Shafi says he is determined the team will do their best.

A former local league footballer, Shafi uses sign language he learned from his brother, the chairman of a sports association for handicapped Iraqis, to train a squad of 15 players. He also trains a 12-strong deaf children's side.

"It's tough, but I feel spiritually bound to my players. It's my duty to make sure they succeed," Shafi told Reuters, as young men behind him bounced balls off their feet, gesturing to each other with hand signals when they passed the ball.

Violence has dropped in Iraq, but bomb blasts and gunfire still echo across Baghdad. That has made life hard for the players and sometimes interrupted practice.

"It's difficult to attend training sessions when there are gunfights and blasts everywhere. I'm afraid to come out," said Mohammed Jawad Yusif, 20, talking in sign language through his coach. "Sometimes there's no transport because of roadblocks."

Yusif said one of his friends, also deaf, was killed when gunmen opened fire on a car he was travelling in.

"It sapped my strength to play for a while," he said.

Shafi recalled when a gunfight between rival militias once broke out near the training ground. The players couldn't hear the gunfire, so he signalled for them to hit the ground.

"They didn't understand at first. I panicked, but eventually they went down. When the

shooting stopped and they got up, they still thought it was a new training drill," he said.



Player Mohammed Ali Jaafar (R) uses sign language to communicate with an unidentified team member during a training session for players of Iraq's football team for the hearing and speech impaired in Baghdad.



Players exercise during a training session for Iraq's deaf football team in Baghdad.

PASSION FOR FOOTBALL

Iraqis love their football.

The country was the surprise winner of last year's Asian Cup competition.

The victory brought rare joy and unity to the shattered nation, with Shi'ites, Sunni Arabs and Kurds pouring into the streets to celebrate their team's unlikely 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia in the final in Jakarta in July.

With the national team as their inspiration, the deaf-mute squad qualified for the regional championships of the Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Kuwait.

Shafi founded the team in 2003, shortly after U.S.-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein.

At a sports club one evening, he met a group of young deaf men who were bowling, swimming and bodybuilding. He suggested they play football.

In training, he works with two other coaches who do not know sign language, but who do the physical training. Shafi teaches the various moves, tactics and strategy.

"Physical training is crucial, but it's not enough. You need someone who can communicate ideas with the kids, especially something technical," he said. "It's still difficult -- with sign language you never get the whole idea across."

Despite the challenges -- the referee has to wave a flag instead of blowing a whistle and each team's trainer sits on the sidelines translating his decisions in sign language -- Shafi says the games are as good as any other.

The players say sometimes only half the squad turns up to training when security is bad. Those who do often travel in fear of being kidnapped or killed on Iraq's still dangerous roads.

But with attacks across Iraq down 60 percent since last June, thanks to an additional 30,000 U.S. troops, Sunni neighbourhood patrols and a ceasefire by a feared Shi'ite militia, the team now manages more training sessions.

"The violence has created a lot of problems for us," said Adel Khalef Mahmoud, 20, also using sign language.

"But we manage."

(Writing by Tim Cocks; Editing by Charles Dick)

Deaf boxer Kalucza overcomes odds to book Olympic ticket

AFP, DEBRECEN, HUNGARY
Thursday, 13 March 2008

A young Hungarian boxer, who was born deaf, has against the odds booked his ticket to the Beijing Olympics.

Norbert Kalucza, 21, one of seven children born into a poor gypsy family from Debrecen, eastern Hungary, will compete along with the world's best in the flyweight category this summer.

Suffering from congenital deafness like most of his family members, Kalucza did not learn to speak until the age of 10.

But once he pulled on his gloves as a child his world changed as he overcome his first hurdle by voicing his first words shortly after entering the ring.

"It was the former Olympic bronze medalist Janos Varadi who discovered Norbert's talent," said his mother, Marie.

Varadi, who is a neighbor of the family, won a bronze medal in the flyweight division at the 1980 Olympics.

And he helped the young Kalucza obtain the necessary medical certificates to pursue his passion despite his disability.

Kalucza, thanks to his lethal right punch, collected medals at junior level, winning the Hungarian junior title in 2005, before moving up to senior level where he had equal success winning the -51 kg in 2006 and -54kg last year.

By booking his ticket to the Beijing Olympics thanks to his victory over Germany's Marcel Schneider, Kalucza has "achieved a dream," even if his celebrations were somewhat tempered by his stringent training program and diet.

"I weigh 57kg and have to go down to 51kg for competitions. If I didn't have to follow this

diet I would win the gold medal," Kaluczsa said.

He says his dream is to emulate his hero "Koko" -- Hungary's former Olympic champion and professional boxer Istvan Kovacs -- who won bronze in the flyweight category at the 1992 Olympics before taking bantamweight gold in 1996.

The modest young boxer reluctantly admits that he has become an example for the young people of his town.

And his mother, Marie, and father, Joseph, are convinced that their son -- a carpenter by profession -- is someone who can make his mark on the world.

Petra Kurkova receives Fulbright-Masaryk Fellowship grant

1999 Sportswoman of the Year winner and alpine skiing gold medalist, **Petra Kurkova** of Czech Republic has recently received Fulbright-Masaryk Fellowship grant. She will attend Valdosta State University (Valdosta, Georgia - United States) this fall for 5 months to study deaf education and sports.



Petra Kurkova

Rajeev Bagga Wins Yonex All England Men's Singles Over 40

2008 Sportsman of the Year winner and badminton gold medalist, Rajeev Bagga won All England Veteran at Milton Keynes last week. What an absolutely remarkable player he is! Click [here](#) for results.



Rajeev admires his Yonex All England Men's Singles Over 40 trophy

Deaf Sports Federations Update

Greece

Effective on 11 February 2008, Hellenic Athletic Federation of the Deaf had reformed their Board members as follows:

PRESIDENT	RIGAS, Andreas
A VICE PRESIDENT	ZASPALIS, Antonios
B VICE PRESIDENT	STAVRAKAKIS, Iosif
GENERAL SECRETARY	STOUFIS, Ioannis
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	MAKRAS, Athanasios
A TREASURER	STAROYIANNIS, Theodoros
B TREASURER	CHAROULAKIS, Inkovos
MEMBER	KYRAZIDIS, Paschalis
MEMBER	NOULAS, Fotios
MEMBER	FOTIOU, Argirios
MEMBER	MILIONIS, Nikolaos

Sweden

Mr. Urban Mesch has terminated his employment with the Swedish Deaf Sports Federation, effective immediately. Since 1 January 2008, Ms. Therese Rollvén is employed as Development Coordinator for the Swedish Deaf Sports Federation. Since 1 February 2008, Mr. Kjell Gunnå is employed as Secretary General for the Swedish Deaf Sports Federation. Contact details for the Swedish Deaf Sports Federation remain the same with following personal email-addresses:

Swedish Deaf Sports Federation:

sdi@sdi.rf.se

Secretary General Kjell Gunnå:

kjell.gunna@sdi.rf.se

Sports Consultant Joachim Sundström:

joachim.sundstrom@sdi.rf.se

Development Coordinator Therese Rollvén:

therese.rollven@sdi.rf.se

Dmitry A. Gromov (1977-2008)



Dmitry A. Gromov (RUS)

Dmitry Anatolyevich Gromov passed away from a tragic accident.

Dmitry was born 26 March 1977 in the city Novosibirsk (Siberia), Deaf. In 1998 Dmitry Gromov has received title "Master of Sports of the Russian Federation".

From 1999 he is Member of the Russian Deaf National Team on Volleyball and Beach Volleyball, repeated Champion of the Russian Federation, participant of XIX, XX Summer Deaflympics, European Deaf Volleyball Championships (2005, 2007) and European Deaf Beach Volleyball Championship (2005, 2007).

We express sincere condolences to his wife and family. Memories of this fine person and athlete Dmitry Gromov will for a long time be kept in our hearts.

Russian Committee of Deaf Sports
All-Russian Society of the Deaf
Russian Sport Union of the Deaf

IOC In Brief

Four cities apply to host the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012

IOC Press Release - 07 March 2008

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) today announced that four cities have been put forward by their respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to apply to host the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012. The Candidate Cities, in alphabetical order, are: Harbin (China), Innsbruck (Austria), Kuopio (Finland), and Lillehammer (Norway).

The NOCs had until 6 March 2008, midnight, to notify the IOC that a city within their jurisdiction was interested in applying.

The four Youth Olympic Games Candidate Cities now have until 19 June to prepare and submit their Candidature Files by replying to the IOC questionnaire. An analysis of their Files by a panel of Olympic Movement experts will allow a shortlist of Youth Olympic Games Candidate Cities to be drawn up for further assessment by an IOC Evaluation Commission.

Further information on the Youth Olympic Games:

Please click [here](#) to download the 2012 brochure

Please click [here](#) to download the IOC questionnaire which the Youth Olympic Games Candidate Cities must complete

IOC honours first female and youngest Sports Minister in Malaysia

IOC Press Release - 08 March 2008

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) today joined in International Women's Day and revealed the winners of its 2008 Women and Sport Awards.

During the Opening Ceremony of the IV IOC World Conference on Women and Sport in Jordan, IOC President Jacques Rogge announced that the World "Women and Sport" Trophy has been awarded to the first female and youngest Minister of Youth and Sports in Malaysia, Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said. Azalina was honoured for boosting the number of women practising sport in Malaysia – and this just under four years since her appointment.

As well as the World Trophy, five continental trophies were presented to women who have made outstanding contributions to strengthening the participation of women and girls in sport around the world. The 2008 winners - a mix of political personalities and former top athletes - were selected by the IOC Women and Sport Commission from 70 candidatures submitted by the National

Submission of the YOG Candidature File	19 June 2008
Shortlist of YOG Candidate Cities	August 2008
Recommendation by the IOC Executive Board of YOG Candidate Cities to be submitted to the IOC members for election as Host City	November 2008
Election by postal vote of the Host City of the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games	
Announcement of the Host City of the 1st Winter Youth Olympic Games	December 2008

Olympic Committees (NOCs) and International Federations (IFs):

- Trophy for Africa: Ana Paula Dos Santos (Angola)
- Trophy for the Americas: Abby Hoffman (Canada)
- Trophy for Asia: Lingwei Li (China)
- Trophy for Europe: Stefka Kostadinova (Bulgaria)
- Trophy for Oceania: Debbie Watson (Australia)

The ceremony took place at the Dead Sea in Jordan, in the presence of HM King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; HRH Prince Feisal bin Al-Hussein, President of the Jordanian NOC; IOC President Jacques Rogge; Anita DeFrantz, IOC member and Chairwoman of the IOC Women and Sport Commission; the members of the IOC Women and Sport Commission; and the attendees of the IV IOC World Conference on Women and Sport.

During the next two days, more than 600 participants from across the globe will debate the topic "Sport as a vehicle for social change" and the role women and girls can play in this. Keynote speakers include former top athletes, representatives from governments, businesses, UN agencies and the media, and academics. The event is under the patronage of Their Majesties King Abdullah II and Queen Rania of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and is jointly organised by the IOC and the NOC of Jordan.

Information on the winners:

Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said

As the first female and youngest Minister of Youth and Sports in Malaysia, Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said has completely revolutionised the participation of Malaysian women in sport. In addition to her role as Youth and Sports Minister, Azalina is a sports book author, a founder of a sports festival and a

women's sport and fitness foundation and, last but not least, an enthusiastic sports woman. She set up the Women's Games, attracting 3,400 Malaysian women in 2007; developed the power walk manual, which currently reaches some 60,000 people across the nation; and established 580 community centres, enabling about 100,000 female participants to practise sporting activities.

Ana Paula Dos Santos

The First Lady of the Republic of Angola has taken a hands-on approach to help develop Paralympic sport in her country. Ana Paula Dos Santos is founder and President of the Lwini Foundation – a body that promotes and financially supports the interests of land mine victims. Using sport as a means to bring back hope, she started a collaboration with the Angolan Paralympic Committee and set up the Lwini Cup. During this event, which has already been successfully held six times, people with a disability get the opportunity to enjoy sports activities such as athletics, wheelchair basketball and football.

Abby Hoffman

It was an incident in her childhood that made Canadian Abby Hoffman fight against gender, race, political or unfair discrimination in sport throughout her athletic and professional career. At the age of nine, Hofmann was banned from playing hockey with a boys' team that she had joined as there were no girls' teams. She made a career in athletics instead, and participated in four Olympic Games. Later she became the first woman to serve as Director General of Sport Canada. As an IAAF Council member since 1995, she has advocated equality across female and male competition programmes and a minimum 20% female representation in all IAAF committees and commissions.

Lingwei Li

Li Lingwei from China is one of the very few icons who continue to share their experience and expertise even after giving up active competition. As badminton champion in the 1980s and having won over 50 Grand Prix and international titles, she has been the catalyst to attract women and girls to her sport. Later she

became the coach of China's badminton women's national team and inspired young athletes to greater heights. Today she demonstrates how women can lead by example by being a Council member of the Badminton World Federation, a member of the IOC's Olympic Programme Commission and Deputy Director General of BOCOG's International Relations Department.

Stefka Kostadinova

Determination, dynamism and passion have enabled Stefka Kostadinova to become an Olympic champion in the high jump in Atlanta 1996, but also to develop into a successful sports manager in her home country, Bulgaria. After retiring from competition in 1999, Kostadinova decided to provide her expertise to national sports bodies, and is currently Chairwoman of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee. Through her inspirational athletic performance as well as her management skills, Kostadinova has significantly developed the

participation of women and girls in athletics, not only in Bulgaria, but also in the whole Balkan area.

Debbie Watson

After being a professional water polo player for 17 years, Australian Debbie Watson is committed to passing on to the next generation what sport has given to her. She is a campaigner for drug-free sport and actively contributes to Australian Olympic Committee's (AOC) "Live Clean" drug education programme. More recently, she has also become a key presenter in the AOC's "Winning Attitudes Seminar", which helps first-time Olympians understand the challenges of competing at the Olympic Games. Who else could be more credible in this role than the Olympic gold medallist from Sydney 2000 who played a record of 315 international games for Australia?
