

THE

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PARALYMPIAN

www.paralympic.org

Vancouver

Paralympic Winter Games 2010



55.000

spectators joined the amazing Opening Ceremony at BC Place in Vancouver.



The Opening Ceremony included elaborate choreography during the ceremonial torch lighting

We all captured the Paralympic Spirit together from these Games and now can carry it around the world. With this, our athletes, coaches and officials will encourage new athletes, make new friends and inspire them to light the flame in their hearts.

Dear readers,

On behalf of the IPC, I would like welcome all of you to the new edition of The Paralympian! It has taken on a completely new format and look. Inside this issue, we hope to give readers a more comfortable magazine experience. With the inclusion of more expressive images, we aim to give everyone that painted picture which is essential to the Paralympic Movement.

Recently we have all come back from the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games where competitions were fierce and the athletes gave incredible performances! I hope you watched the events live or on either ParalympicSport.TV or your local channel – the number of broadcast hours around the world allowed for this!

Some of the most memorable moments were at the UBC Thunderbird Arena, where Ice Sledge Hockey fans supported every game! When I was inside during the tournament, the crowds created an atmosphere which was absolutely brilliant. And this was the same spirit in all sport venues!

At the closing of the Vancouver Paralympics, the Whistler Village was illuminated not only by the brilliant fireworks which coloured the sky, but also by the hearts of everyone who was part of the experience. In the sounds of cheering and cele-

bration, and in the quiet thoughts of those in the audience, we were all connected to something special.

We all captured the Paralympic Spirit together from these Games and now can carry it around the world. With this, our athletes, coaches and officials will encourage new athletes, make new friends and inspire them to light the flame in their hearts.

I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work from everyone involved in these Winter Paralympics, especially the Vancouver Organizing Committee and their highly-trained volunteer staff!

In this new issue, we look back at the magnificence of the Games. We also include a special 'History of Classification' information piece and additionally, a special 'All Winter Sports' profile section which goes over our five sports at the Winter Paralympic Games: Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling.

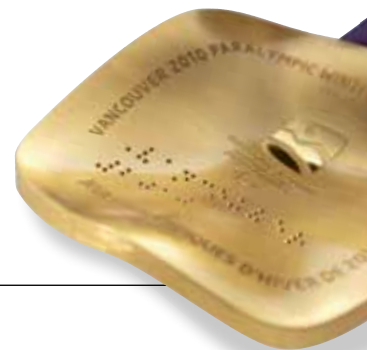
For me, it was the best ever Winter Games, and the future of Paralympic Winter Sport could not look brighter!

Congratulations to all athletes and everyone else involved!



Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President





Welcome to the new and fully redesigned issue of “The Paralympian” – the official magazine of the Paralympic Movement. Enjoy!

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Nearly 5,000 performers thrilled a sold-out stadium at the BC Place in Vancouver, Canada, to start the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games on 12 March 2010. With the theme “One Inspires Many”, the Opening Ceremony was a celebration of ability, courage and the human spirit.

Vancouver Paralympic Winter Games 2010





Opening Ceremony Fills BC Place



Various dramatic and colourful elements were included in the Opening Ceremony which added to the already inspirational evening

Many distinguished guests attended the high-spirited celebration, including Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada. Broadcasted live on www.ParalympicSport.TV, as well as in several countries all around the world and on outdoor big-screen televisions at the city of Vancouver's LiveCity celebration site, Canadians had the chance to be part of the spectacular event and experience the excitement.

During the Opening Ceremony, a parade of athletes entered the stadium soon after a dance routine which involved hundreds of volunteers dressed in colourful clothes. One athlete from each country was chosen as the flagbearer, leading each team onto the main stage area with a cheering crowd to welcome them. Especially the reception of the Canadian Team brought in a most roaring sound of cheering from the audience.

Audience members were each given a bag full of various interactive elements to the ceremony, including a pom-pom full of orange

lights and a luminescent coloured gold card. The sold out crowd had the opportunity with these elements to participate in the celebration, creating a high-energy atmosphere that became Vancouver's welcome.

Chief Executive Officer of the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) John Furlong spoke at the Opening Ceremony, and said that the people of Canada are ready to welcome Paralympic athletes and their families. He said that since the time Vancouver was awarded the Winter Games in 2003, the country has pledged to successfully carry out the Paralympic Games for all athletes to achieve their best performances.

In his speech, IPC President Sir Philip Craven prepared the athletes and audience for the action-packed and inspiring string of performances that were to take over the country.

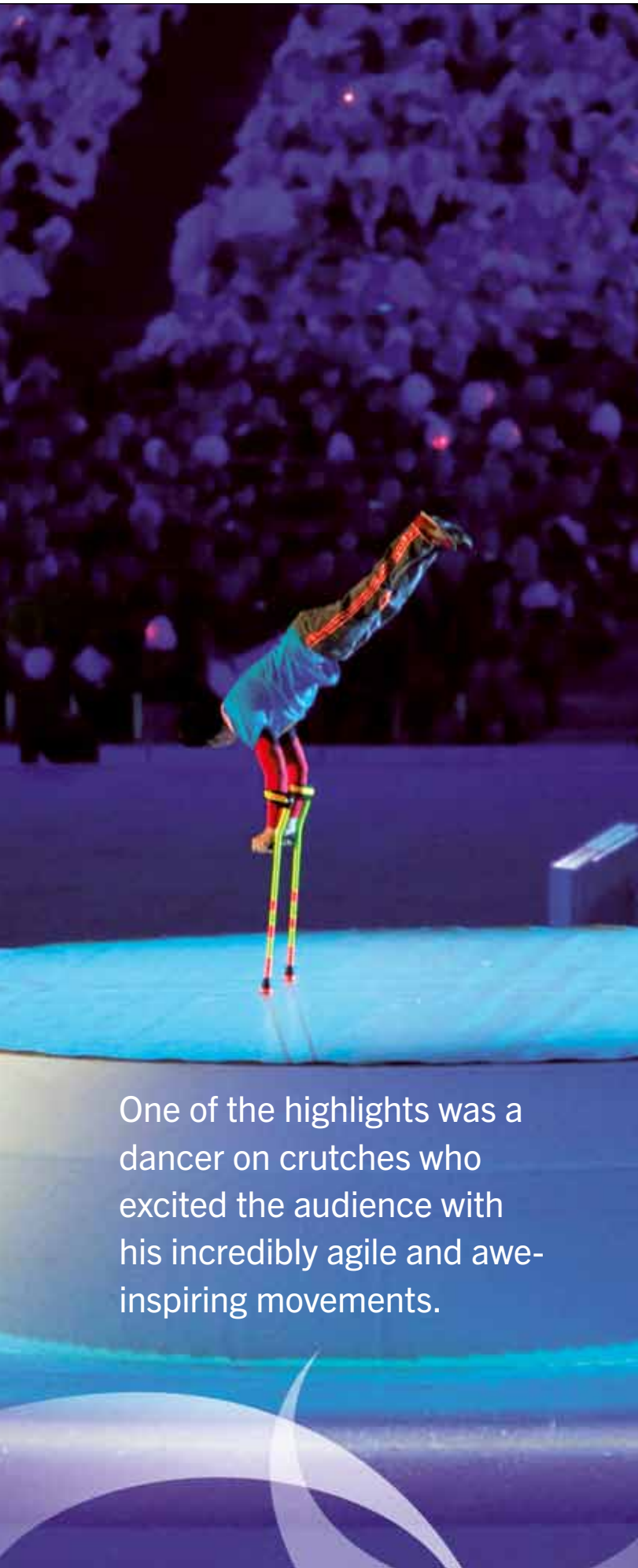
"When your athletic performances are combined with the human endeavour shown by the volunteers, staff and spectators, the Paralympic Spirit is born 'with Glowing Hearts',"

he said. "This almost touchable sporting energy source has found a unique home here on the west coast of Canada."

The Opening Ceremony also had several well-known athletes with a disability who have contributed to the Paralympic Movement like Terry Fox, who aimed to run a marathon across Canada. Fox ran what amounted to a marathon a day, for a total of 143 days, before his lungs succumbed to cancer forcing him to stop. Terry Fox's name is now a part of a massive worldwide marathon initiative, which raises money for cancer research.

Other performers during the Opening Ceremony included well-known Canadian singers and performers which marked an exciting beginning to the Vancouver Winter Paralympics. One of the highlights was a dancer on crutches who excited the audience with his incredibly agile and awe-inspiring movements.

The event ended with hundreds of dancers flooding the stage, and confetti pieces fired into the air.



One of the highlights was a dancer on crutches who excited the audience with his incredibly agile and awe-inspiring movements.

Torch Relay Covers Canada

Carried in a curved steel blue torch designed and manufactured by Bombardier, the Paralympic Flame, visited several community celebration sites all around Canada. The ten-day journey had stops in Ottawa, Quebec City, Toronto, Victoria and Esquimalt, Squamish, Whistler, Lytton and Hope, Maple Ridge, and Vancouver.

The Paralympic Flame, which has no ancestral home, was ignited and blessed in Ottawa on 3 March by Aboriginal firekeepers of the Pikwakanagan and Kitigan Zibi Algonquin bands on Victoria Island during a special ceremony. It was then placed in a lantern and brought to the Parliament Buildings where it was passed to three youth representatives from the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Métis National Council. They then brought the trio of flames to the stage located on the Hill's historic front lawn where Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, Whistler Mayor Ken Melamed and Squamish Nation Chief Gibby Jacob, on behalf of the Four Host First Nations, reunited the flames in the Paralympic Cauldron.



The Paralympic torch hit spectacular viewing points

To start each day of the relay, a new Paralympic Flame was created by members of the local Aboriginal community, in accordance with their customs, wherever the daily torch relay celebration was taking place. On 6 March in Greater Victoria for example,

Songhees elder Mike Charlie Sr. and his son, Mike Jr., sparked the day's flame by putting a lighter to split cedar and newspaper. About 375 people had gathered for the event at Archie Browning Centre in Esquimalt with an included pancake breakfast hosted by the Esquimalt Lions Club.

The highly anticipated 24-hour event of the Paralympic Torch Relay began near Robson Square on 11 March in downtown Vancouver, where the Paralympic Flame was carried and passed between Torchbearers for a full day. The lower level of the GE Plaza saw a series of celebrations for the event, with a video screen showing highlights from various editions of Paralympic Games. Visitors also had the chance to watch and try out different Paralympic sports, including Wheelchair Curling.

The Paralympic Torch Relay had its final stop at BC Place, where it lit a massive Paralympic Torch installation during the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Games.

IPC Governing Board Member Dato' Zainal Abu Zarin carries the Paralympic torch in Vancouver





Canada’s official Games broadcaster says more than 13 million Canadians watched some part of the Vancouver Winter Paralympics.

Broadcasters Target TV Around the World

More than 400 hours of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games were broadcasted worldwide, with a cumulated TV audience of 1.6 billion following the Paralympic athletes in their endeavour to win medals.

In Canada, Canada’s Olympic Broadcast Media Consortium broadcasted a total of over 60 hours of live events and daily highlights on television. The Consortium’s multi-platform coverage also included results, updates, features and pre-promotional programming on radio, digital and print, marking the biggest and most robust coverage ever in Canada of the Paralympic Games.

Canada’s official Games broadcaster says more than 13 million Canadians watched some part of the Vancouver Winter Paralympics. The most-watched event of the Games was the Closing Ceremony, with CTV-Rogers reporting that more than 5.4 million saw some part of the ceremony, while viewership peaked at 1.9 million.

More than 35 broadcasters put the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games onto their programming, and brought the excitement from the slopes comfortably into homes ticket-free.

Below is a list of other countries and their corresponding Games official broadcast channel:

Austria	ORF	Pan-Europe	Eurosport,
Australia	ABC		TV5 Monde
Belarus	BTRC	Poland	TVP
Canada	CTV	Russia	RTR
China	CCTV	Slovakia	STV
Croatia	HRT	Slovenia	RTVS
Czech Republic	CT	Spain	TVE
Finland	YLE	Sweden	SVT
France	FT2, FT3, TV8 Mont Blanc	Switzerland	SRG
Germany	ARD, ZDF	Turkey	TRT
Greece	ERT	Ukraine	NTU
Iceland	RUV	United Kingdom	BBC
Italy	RAI, Sky Italia	USA	NBC Universal
Japan	NHK		
Korea	SBS		
Netherlands	NOS		
New Zealand	Sky New Zealand		
Norway	NRK		



“Spectators and guests had the opportunity to try out a variety of sporting equipment and learn more about the Paralympic Winter Games.”

Spectators Can Play Like a Paralympian

The programme titled “Play like a Paralympian” took on high interest during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games as it gave visitors at all venues the chance to practice Paralympic Sport. About 50 volunteers helped in carrying out the activity which was set up as stations at all Paralympic competition venues with sports equipment from the five different Paralympic Winter sports.




Spectators and guests had the opportunity to try out a variety of sporting equipment and learn more about the Paralympic Winter Games. Additionally, the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee partnered with NPC Canada and the local sport governing bodies to provide information on how and where people with a disability can get involved in sport within their communities across the country.

One of the stations was at the Alpine Skiing venue, where a mono-ski was available. Used by athletes in the Sitting category, interested individuals experienced the immense strength that is required to balance the mono-ski on a flat surface. Participants also experienced how athletes must have incredible core strength and acute balancing skills to hold the skier upright.

The programme took place throughout Games time, and is hoped to be repeated at all future Games.

A total of 502 winter athletes
from 44 countries participated
– 381 men and 121 women

MEDAL TALLY

				
	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Russian Federation	12	16	10	38
Germany	13	5	6	24
Canada	10	5	4	19
Ukraine	5	8	6	19
USA	4	5	4	13
Slovakia	6	2	3	11
Austria	3	4	4	11
Japan	3	3	5	11
Belarus	2	0	7	9
Italy	1	3	3	7
France	1	4	1	6
Norway	1	3	2	6
Australia	0	1	3	4
Spain	1	2	0	3
Switzerland	1	2	0	3
Finland	0	1	1	2
Sweden	0	0	2	2
New Zealand	1	0	0	1
Korea	0	1	0	1
Czech Republic	0	0	1	1
Poland	0	0	1	1



Flowers were given out during the International Women's Day celebration

International Women's Day Celebrated in Whistler

The IPC officially celebrated the United Nations (UN) International Women's Day for 2010 on 8 March with a special event held at the Whistler Paralympic Village Plaza in Canada. The International Women's Day also celebrates its 100th year in 2010.

"Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All."

With the theme "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All", numerous members of the Paralympic Family watched as representatives of the Paralympic Movement highlighted the achievements of women in sport. Participants at the event included IPC President Sir Philip Craven, IPC Governing Board members Alan Dickson, Patrick Jarvis, Ann Cody and Rita Van Driel, and IPC Chief Executive Officer Xavier Gonzalez. Female representatives from National Paralympic Committees (NPC), female athletes, and VANOC representatives were also in attendance.

The event included the raising of the UN flag, and the IPC President handing over flowers to females in the audience.

The first Chairperson of the IPC's Women in Sport Committee, Ann Cody, also spoke at the International Women's Day celebration, recalling her experience with the Paralympic Movement and also the future outlook on participation of women in sport.

Many women have been instrumental in the Paralympic Movement over the years, including Joan Scruton who was the long-time assistant to founder Sir Ludwig Guttman. Athletes like Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson (GBR), who has won a total of 11 Paralympic medals, continue to inspire young women in following their dreams and competing in Paralympic Sport. Other strong female athletes seen on the medal podium in recent years include Alpine skier Lauren Woolstencroft (CAN), Wheelchair Tennis player Esther Vergeer (NED), Cross-Country and Biathlon skier Verena Bentele (GER), Table Tennis player Natalia Partyka (POL) and Swimmer Natalie du Toit (RSA).

IPC President Signs Olympic Truce Wall

IPC President Sir Philip Craven was in the Whistler Athletes' Village on the morning of 11 March to sign the Olympic Truce Wall, amid a formal introduction and celebration. Attendees at the event included several distinguished guests like Wilfried Lemke, the Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace.

The signing ceremony brought athletes and volunteers together in the Village to promote peaceful resolutions to all conflicts around the globe. The actual Truce Wall installation comprised two pillars which had a mix of Aboriginal artwork and contemporary design, recreating the Vancouver 2010 medals' artwork.

The raven on the pillar is also found on the Paralympic medals and is often associated with transformation and healing abilities, representing determination, creativity and wisdom.

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games are directly in sync with the Olympic Truce, in that athletes readily set aside their political, religious and social differences in the name of sport. Their sportsmanship and behaviour are examples of how countries and people can build respect and friendship with one another.



Wilfried Lemke (left) and Sir Philip Craven in front of the Truce Wall that promotes peaceful resolutions to all conflicts around the globe



Sir Philip Craven and his wife Lady Jocelyne during the Musqueam celebration

IPC President Becomes Musqueam Nation Member

Following the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, IPC President Sir Philip Craven was welcomed into the Musqueam Nation on 22 March in a special ceremony at their headquarters. Named “st’l’el’uqum stamix” or “Ferocious Warrior”, Sir Philip received the chosen name from Elder, Larry Grant.

“The ceremony was incredibly emotional and spiritual, and I see ‘Ferocious Warrior’ as confirming that Paralympians stick up for their rights as human beings and athletes, and are fearless when promoting the cause,” he said. As a member of the Musqueam nation, Sir Philip will observe their principles and philosophies. The Musqueam people live on a very small portion of traditional territory, known as the Musqueam Indian Reserve, located south of Marine Drive near the mouth of the Fraser River just outside Vancouver.

During the Vancouver Paralympics, visitors were able to see the striking beauty of Musqueam art throughout the city – from Stanley Park and the Vancouver International Airport to a number of venues including the UBC Thunderbird Arena. The Musqueam Nation was one of the Four Host First Nations during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, where events were planned together and held within traditional and shared traditional territories. The other nations included Lil’wat, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh.

“Soldier On” Event Promotes Paralympic Sport

A special event called “Soldier On, True Patriot Love” on 11 March brought the history of Paralympic Sport into the spotlight with members of the military community. The occasion had the three nations speaking especially on the growth of the Paralympic Movement, and how there will be continuous opportunities in the future. IPC Governing Board member Patrick Jarvis was among the attendees.

The initiative of “Soldier On” brought injured soldiers from Canada, USA and Great Britain together with their families to the Vancouver 2010 Winter Paralympics to attend various competitions between 13-16 March. The aim was to inspire injured or ill personnel to experience confidence and empowerment that comes from Paralympic Sport.

One of the highlights for the participants of “Soldier On” was meeting IPC President Sir Philip Craven inside the Paralympic Family Lounge at the Alpine Skiing venue in Whistler. Sir Philip spoke with the group and explained how Paralympic Sport is wide open and is always ready for new athletes.

The event also honoured the origins of the Paralympic Movement from Sir Ludwig Guttman, who organized a sports competition involving World War II veterans with a spinal cord injury in Stoke Mandeville, England.

Paralympic Order Presented in Vancouver

As the Paralympic Winter Games came to a close on 21 March 2010, the IPC honoured the recipients of the 2010 Paralympic Order. This year, the Paralympic Order was given to several people for their commitment to the success of the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler.

2010 Paralympic Order Recipients include:

- **Mr. John Furlong**, CEO of the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC)
- **Mr. Jack Poole**, late Chairman VANOC Board of Directors
- **Mr. Rusty Goepel**, Chairman VANOC Board of Directors
- **Ms. Dena Coward**, VANOC Paralympic Games Director



VANOC Paralympic Games Director Dena Coward receives Paralympic Order



VANOC CEO John Furlong with Sir Philip Craven

“As the highest tribute a person connected with the Paralympic Movement may achieve, the Paralympic Order honours the people who not only have made the commitment, but have illustrated the Paralympic ideal through their actions, and have therefore achieved remarkable merit.”

The Paralympic Order was also presented on 15 March at the Paralympic Hospitality Centre in Whistler to long-time contributor to the Paralympic Movement, Canadian Jerry Johnston. Mr. Johnston has worked on developing Paralympic Sport in Canada, as well as in other parts of the world including Australia.

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Election Sees Three New Members in Athletes' Council

During the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, a record number of 403 athletes (79.96%) in both Paralympic Villages (Vancouver, Whistler) voted for three of the six candidates running for the IPC Athletes' Council. By comparison, at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, 79.87% of all accredited athletes took the opportunity to vote.

Athletes elected to the IPC Athletes' Council include: Katarzyna Rogowicz – Poland, Biathlon & Cross-Country Skiing; Todd Nicholson – Canada, Ice Sledge Hockey; Eskil Hagen – Norway, Ice Sledge Hockey.



Voting took place inside the Dining Hall

Marketa Sidkova, IPC Athletes' Council Election Task Force Chairperson and member of the IPC Athletes' Council, stated: “We are very happy with this election. It was very successful and an enriching experience for all members of the Election Task Force. We worked well as a team and had the great help of our VANOC Volunteers.”

The Athletes' Council is composed of nine Paralympic athlete representatives elected for a four-year term. Six athlete representatives are elected during the Paralympic Summer Games and three during the Paralympic Winter Games.

web

>> www.paralympic.org

For more information the Athletes' Council, please visit www.paralympic.org > Athletes > Athlete_Council

DB Schenker Logistics and Freight Forwarding Continue in Vancouver

During the Vancouver Paralympics, DB Schenker provided the IPC with Logistics, Freight Forwarding and Customs Clearance services which assured efficient and successful operations. The IPC and DB Schenker have been working together since the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games, and after a new agreement, will continue for the London 2012 Paralympic Games and other key IPC events.

Michael Korn, Deputy Chairman of the Management Board of Schenker Deutschland AG, commented: “This is a logical and necessary progression for our sports events team. We want to work with the IPC team in Bonn, get to their event on time, in full and with accuracy. We are committed to longer term planning with the IPC team, and we are pleased to provide support and services to help them reach their goals in Vancouver 2010, London 2012 and other key events such as the International Paralympic Day.”

For more information, please visit the official website:

web

>> www.db-schenker.com

Alpine Skiing Athlete Represents Africa

Bruce Warner has competed in the past four Paralympic Winter Games, including Nagano 1998, Salt Lake City 2002, Torino 2006, and now Vancouver 2010. Representing his country of South Africa is thrilling enough, however, Warner is also representing the entire continent of Africa on his own.

But Warner was not alone during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. At Whistler Creekside, the venue for Alpine Skiing, Warner had a following of fellow South Africans who made it clear that they were full on supporting their athlete. With flags, banners and cheers, the rest of the spectators were aware of the South African representation. The four time Paralympian said that the Games still bring about the same feelings that Nagano did with regard to the size, facilities and athletes.

"I remember clearly walking into the Opening Ceremony [in Nagano], because the athletes were removed and could not hear the noise, and coming in (to the stadium) it was really something," he said. "But coming into BC Place for the Opening Ceremony in Vancouver, that was an amazing experience. It was a huge venue. And just as I came in I saw my family."

Warner said the technology has also played a big role in the development of the Paralympic Games during the time period of his Games' experience. "I remember in

Nagano there were three or four computers for the athletes to share, and most people did not have emails," he said. "But in terms of coaches and athletes, it is now tied to video analysis and the data you can have. Those have been big changes." With his continued drive and motivation to ski, Warner said that his family has supported him throughout his sporting career. "My wife is a huge support and having my son gives me a different perspective on life, and that perspective has helped my skiing," he said. "But being just a one-person team, my support is entirely my family and my friends."

The South African skier said that the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games will finish his career in Alpine Skiing. His post-Paralympic plans include spending more time with his family and in his job as an Electrical Engineer. Warner competed in all events of the Alpine Skiing, including Downhill, Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G and the new event for 2010, Super Combined.

TV >> www.paralympicsport.tv

Videos of Bruce Warner can be found on www.ParalympicSport.TV.

web >> www.paralympic.org

Results of Bruce Warner's performance in Vancouver can be found at www.paralympic.org > Sport > Results.



THANK YOU

For making the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games a complete success, a tremendously wide-reaching thank you goes to the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee – including John Furlong and his great team for their superb organization, the organizers of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies – especially producer Patrick Roberge, Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, Premier of British Columbia Gordon Campbell, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, Whistler Mayor Ken Melamed, the Four Host First Nations, the people of Canada, the IPC staff, the volunteers, the spectators and Paralympic Sport fans, the sponsors and supporters of the Games, the media, the Technical Delegates and Games Officials, coaches, officials, and most especially the athletes!



Vancouver Delivers With Glowing Hearts



A heart-warming and spectacular Closing Ceremony officially ended the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games on 21 March 2010 at the Medals Plaza in Whistler. Thousands came to watch the show that was a celebration for athletes, officials, volunteers and the people of Canada.

With a total of 502 winter athletes from 44 countries participating (381 men and 121 women), the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games took place in both Whistler and Vancouver from 12-21 March 2010, bringing in athletes and fans from around the world for an incredible display of skill and performance. With events in Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling, Paralympic fans had the chance to see everything during the nine days of competition.

All countries were celebrated during the Closing Ceremony, with athletes from Russia giving their country first place in the overall medals tally with a total of 38 medals (12 gold medals). With a total of 24 winning medals (13 gold medals), Germany came in second place behind Russia, and was followed by both Canada and Ukraine who tied with 19 medals (10 gold for Canada and 5 gold for Ukraine).

In his speech, IPC President Sir Philip Craven said that the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games were for him the best-ever Winter Games and offered everyone not only elite sport by hard-working athletes, but a sense of family and community. "The notion of true sport - pure sport, has been understood by all of us," Sir Philip said. "With excellence, our Paralympic athletes came here to compete fairly, and the result was a fantastic show of sportsmanship." He continued to say that he looks forward to seeing all athletes back in four years, at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

Following the IPC President's speech was the official presentation of the Whang Youn Dai Achievement Award to Endo Takayuki of Japan and Colette Bourgonje of Canada. The Award recognizes elite athletes with a disability who have demonstrated an exceptional level of determination to overcome their adversities through sport and the Paralympic Games. And with a video of skiers bearing torches down the mountain, dance, aboriginal throat singing and sports demonstrations, the official flag of the Games was lowered to the sound of the Paralympic anthem. Finally, the Paralympic Flag was handed over by IPC President Sir Philip Craven to the Mayor of Sochi, Anatoly Pakhomov.



Alpine Skiing

Many Milestones for Athletes in Alpine Skiing

The Vancouver 2010 Winter Paralympic Games included 193 Alpine Skiing athletes from 37 different countries. Germany won the most medals with a total 15. Alpine Skiing legend, Gerd Schoenfelder (GER, LW5/7-2) led the team with four golds and one silver.

These were Schoenfelder's last Paralympic Games as he wants to move into training future athletes and spending time with his family. "I have to go home and think about the Games but it is the end of my Paralympic career," Schoenfelder said, "It has been perfect, nearly 20 years altogether."

Almost matching Schoenfelder's medal haul, Martin Braxenthaler (GER, LW10-2) won three gold medals in Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super Combined and a silver in the Super-G (Sitting). Andrea Rothfuss also contributed a lot to the German medal count with two silver and two bronze medals. "I won four medals, that was so great," Rothfuss said, "I cannot believe it right now."

Canada Wins Big

Host nation, Canada, finished with star athlete Lauren Woolstencroft (CAN, LW3-1) winning an amazing five gold medals. Woolstencroft dominated the Women's Standing category by sweeping the gold medals in every Alpine Skiing event.

Viviane Forest (CAN, B2) with guide Lindsay Debou stood on the podium for every Alpine Skiing event by winning one gold, three silver and a bronze. "I am so pleased to accomplish my goal and have my dream come true," said Forest.

Karolina Wisniewska (CAN, LW3-2) was another amazing skier for Canada as she came out of retirement to win two bronze medals in the Vancouver 2010 Winter Paralympics.

Slovakian Athletes Impress

The Slovakian team was dominant in the Visually Impaired category, winning ten out of their 11 medals. Jakub Krako (SVK, B2) with guide Juraj Medera won gold in three events, the Giant Slalom, Slalom and Super Combined races, and won silver in the Super-G.

Henrieta Farkasova (SVK, B3) with guide Natalia Subrtova won three golds in Super Combined, Super-G and Giant Slalom, while adding a silver in the Downhill event. "With three gold medals and one silver, each moment was fantastic," Farkasova said. "You put it all together and it is just amazing."

Miroslav Haraus with guide Martin Makovnik won two bronze medals in their first Paralympics. Japan and USA were most successful in the Sitting category, winning seven and eight medals, respectively. The pair of Taiki Morii (JPN, LW11) and Akira Kano (JPN, LW11) combined for one gold, one silver and two bronze. The American trio of Alana Nichols (USA, LW11), Stephani Victor (USA, LW12-2) and Laurie

FACTS

The Paralympic Winter Sport of Alpine Skiing has five different disciplines, including Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G, Downhill and Super Combined.

Downhill, Super-G and Super Combined are considered speed disciplines. Giant Slalom and Slalom are technical disciplines.

Added to the Paralympic Winter programme this year, another speed discipline, the Super Combined combines two disciplines, a Downhill or Super-G run and one Slalom run. The result is calculated by the combined time of both runs.

Stephens (USA, LW12-1) collected three gold medals, four silver medals and one bronze medal in their Alpine Skiing events.

Highlights with Austria

Team Austria skied to 11 medals and was led by double gold medal winner Claudia Loesch (AUT, LW11). Austrian skiing icon, Sabine Gasteiger (AUT, B3) won gold and silver in the Slalom and Giant Slalom events before an injury forced her end her time at these Games prematurely.

Juergen Egle (AUT, LW11) and Philipp Bonadimann (AUT, LW11) finished strong by winning silver and bronze,

respectively, in the Men's Super Combined (Sitting).

Another highlight of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games was Jon Santacana-Maiztegui (ESP, B2) with guide Miguel Galindo Garces winning three medals for Spain in the Downhill, Giant Slalom and Slalom (Visually Impaired). From down under, Australia's team took home one silver and three bronze medals. Adam Hall (LW1) won New Zealand's only medal when he won gold in the Men's Slalom (Standing). Anna Kuliskova (B2) with guide Michaela Hubacova also won Czech Republic's only medal by skiing to a bronze in the Women's Super-G (Visually Impaired).

Located 810 metres above sea level, Whistler Creekside was the course site for all events in Alpine Skiing. Races took place on "Franz's Run", named after Franz Wilhelmsen, one of the founders of the Garibaldi Lift Company, which were the original owners of Whistler.



Slovakian athletes held their own on the slopes in Whistler

DOWNHILL COURSE

A Downhill is characterized by the five components of technique, courage, speed, risk and physical condition. It must be possible to ski the Downhill course from the start to the finish with different speeds. If the topography of a country does not permit a Downhill with the required vertical drop as stated in the IPC Rules, a Downhill in two runs can be organized.



Canada's Lauren Woolstencroft brought home five gold medals

STRENGTH & ENDURANCE

The Paralympic Winter sports of Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing are both sports of strength and endurance. The Biathlon event includes two different activities, which include Cross-Country Skiing and Shooting. Consisting of a route divided into three stages, athletes must hit two targets between the two stages located at a distance of ten metres. Each miss is penalized by an increase in the overall route time.



Russia's Irek Zaripov became the star of his team

Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing

Biathlon Starts Vancouver

The finals for Biathlon kicked off on 13 March with the Men's 2.4km Sitting category. In first place was Irek Zarirov (LW12) of Russia, followed by Iurii Kostyuk (LW10.5) of Ukraine and USA's Andy Soule (LW12), who won the first ever medal for the USA in Paralympic Biathlon.

In the Women's 2.4km Sitting category, Olena Iukovska (LW12) of Ukraine took first place, followed by Maria Iovleva (LW12) of Russia and Lyudmyla Pavlenko (LW11.5) of Ukraine in third. In the Women's 3km Standing category, Russian Anna Burmistrova (LW8), who won first in the World Cup this year, took gold, followed by Majia Loytynoja (LW8) of Finland.

In the Men's 3km Standing category, Kirill Mikhaylov of Russia (LW4) came in first place, followed by Nils-Erik Ulset (LW3) of Norway and Grygorii Vovchynskyi (LW8) of Ukraine. For the Men's 3km in the Visually Impaired category, Vitaliy Ludyanyenko (B3) of Ukraine won first place with guide Volodymyr Ivanov. Second place was taken by Nikolay Polukhin (B2) of Russia with guide Andrey Tokarev, and the bronze medal was won by Belarusian Vasili Shaptsiaboï (B2) with guide Mikalai Shablouski.

McKeever Brothers Take Cross-Country

The Men's Cross-Country 20km Visually Impaired category on 15 March had 13 pairs of skiers from ten countries. At the beginning, the race for gold occurred between Canadian favourite Brian McKeever (B3) with guide Robin McKeever, Russia's Nikolay Polukhin (B2) with guide Andrey Tokarev and Germany's Wilhelm Brem (B1) with guide Florian Grimm.

At the 5km checkpoint, Polukhin was in the lead with a time of 13:00.8, but at the 10km mark, McKeever was in the lead with a time

of 25:33.4, with Polukhin and Brem following behind. Three quarters into the race, McKeever had a significant 33-second lead with a time of 38:27.3 and Polukhin trailing in second with a time of 39:00.0. Nearing the end, it was clear that the McKeever brothers would take gold and it would become the battle for the bronze with Vasili Shaptsiaboï of Belarus passing Brem. Shaptsiaboï also won bronze in the Men's 3km Visually Impaired category.

Winning Multiple Medals

Russia's Irek Zarirov won a total of four gold medals and one silver after an incredible strong series of performances from the athlete at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. One of his gold medals was in the Biathlon 12.5km sitting event on 17 March, where he won with a time of 42:22.4. The 26-year-old finished ahead of compatriots Vladimir Kiselev (42:29.9) and Roman Petushkov (43:11.0).

Just one day later on 18 March, Cross-Country skier Yoshihiro Nitta gave Japan its first gold medal of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games when he won the 10km classic (Standing) in a time of 26:29.5.

The 29-year-old finished ahead of Kirill Mikhaylov of Russia (27:01.7), who won the 20km event, and Ukraine's Grygorii Vovchynskyi (27:03.7).

In addition to Zarirov and Nitta, several other athletes won multiple medals in Biathlon and Cross-Country including Verena Bentele (Germany), Olena Iukovska (Ukraine), Vitaliy Lukyanenko (Ukraine), Anna Burmistrova (Russia), Nils-Erik Ulset (Norway), and Liudmila Vauchok (Belarus).

Sprinting Completes Competition

For the final day of competition in Cross-Country Skiing in the Women's Standing 1km, Ukraine's Oleksandra Kononova (LW8) won the gold medal. Japan's Shoko Ota (LW8) followed in second place and Russia's Anna Burmistrova came in third (LW8). In the Men's Standing 1km, Japan's Yoshihiro Nitta (LW8)

won his second gold medal of the Games. Russian Kirill Mikhaylov (LW4) won the silver medal and Finland's Ilkka Tuomisto (LW8) took the bronze medal.

In the Men's 1km Sitting category, the Russians dominated the podium with Sergey Shilov (LW10)

taking first place, followed by Irek Zarirov (LW12) and Vladimir Kiselev (LW12). In the Women's 1km Sitting category, Italy's Francesca Porcellato (LW10) won the first gold medal for Italy, with Ukraine's Olena Iukovska (LW12) taking silver and Belarus's Liudmila Vauchok taking the bronze.

FACTS

Biathlon was introduced for athletes with a physical disability in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1988. In 1992, athletes with a visual impairment were also able to compete in Biathlon.

Cross-Country Skiing first appeared at the 1976 Winter Games in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden.

For Biathlon, athletes with blindness/visual impairment are assisted by acoustic signals, which depending on signal intensity, indicate when the athlete is on target.



Success in Biathlon lies in alternating between physical endurance and shooting accuracy

Ice Sledge Hockey

Ice Sledge Hockey has become fast-paced, and competitive by athletes similarly to Hockey. Rules include each team having six players on the ice, including the goaltender. The Ice Sledge Hockey teams are comprised of a maximum of 15 players per team including two goaltenders and follow the rules of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) with modifications.

Canadian Ice Sledge Hockey player Jean Labonté believes that the sport is now in good hands saying “well, I think that pretty much everybody now in Canada knows what this sport is all about so it is good. It is a sport that deserves to be known and played so more people that start playing it the better this team will get in the future”.

Ice Sledge Hockey Gains Coverage and Fans

The feelings of many athletes participating at the Ice Sledge Hockey tournament at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games was that they wanted the Paralympic Sport to grow.

Ultimately, Vancouver did turn out to be a great place for the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, with great crowds and record television coverage. USA Ice Sledge Hockey team captain Andy Yohe said this was important for their future. “With anything, if the media start to cover the sport it will grow,” Yohe said.

Endo Takayuki, 2010 Whang Youn Dai Achievement Award winner and Japanese Ice Sledge Hockey captain, agreed with Yohe, saying that “it is just not [Ice] Sledge Hockey, but any sport that promotes people with a disability is good since it will only grow”.

A total of eight countries competed in Ice Sledge Hockey at UBC Thunderbird Arena in Vancouver, including USA, Japan, Norway, Canada, Czech Republic, Korea, Italy and Sweden.

Spectators Cheer for Ice Sledge Hockey

There were many spectators who were introduced to Ice Sledge Hockey for the first time in Canada, quickly becoming fans of the Paralympic Winter Sport. They absolutely loved the passion, determination and excitement that the players brought into the rink, with the intense desire to win.

Christine Young, a volunteer during the Vancouver Paralympics from South Carolina said, “I have never heard of Ice Sledge Hockey before, but when the first game started it was unreal . . . I got chills when it began”.

The first game received great crowd support from the start, where Canada played Italy in a fun and lively atmosphere with spectators and volunteers alike. The Canadians were off to with a strong opening, beating the Italians 4:0 in a highly competitive game. There was a capacity crowd at the UBC Thunderbird Arena constantly, with the finals seeing over 5,800 spectators.

There were also dignitaries and royalty who came to see the action at UBC Thunderbird Arena. Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia watched the semi-final game between Canada and Japan, and Stephen Harper, the Prime Minister of Canada watched Canada’s first and last game of the tournament. Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, also attended,

watching the 5th place game between Korea and the Czech Republic.

Team USA Wins Ice Sledge Hockey Gold

Athletes from USA took the prized gold medal in the final against Japan, winning 2:0 in a tightly contested game. The team secured their gold medal with forward Taylor Lipsett having scored on a tip through Japanese goaltender Mitsuru Nagase.

Team USA only allowed five shots on goal throughout the game, with them having been mostly on the offensive. Throughout the Ice Sledge Hockey tournament, Lipsett was an offensive scoring machine, scoring five goals and tallying two assists. “It is unbelievable! I think that it was the hard work, our guys moved around the country – all the sacrifices that the families have made and now it is all paid off,” Lipsett said. He added that a major reason for their victory was their defense, with goalkeeper Steve Cash leading the way.

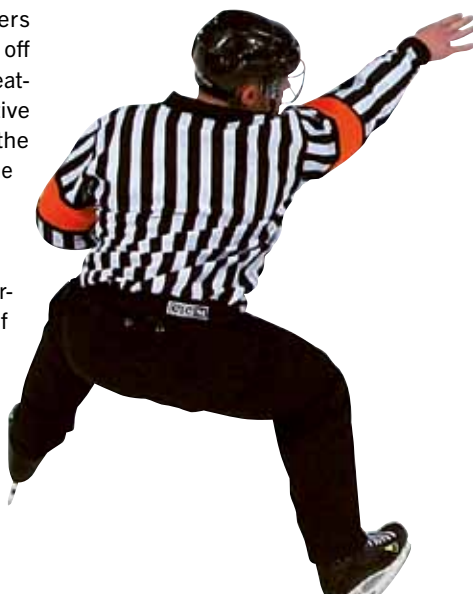
The wins from Team USA at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games were in a convincing fashion, having scored a total of 14 goals and not allowing for a single goal.

FACTS

The sport of Ice Sledge Hockey has grown immensely from its beginning in Stockholm, Sweden, in the 1960s.

Ice Sledge Hockey is a variant of Ice Hockey that allows players with a lower-body disability such as a leg or foot amputation, joint immobility or cerebral palsy to play Hockey on the ice.

They play with a metal sled on blades and two sticks to help move and handle the puck. Regarding game length, the sport is played in three periods of 15 minutes each.



RETROSPECTIVE

In retrospect, the sport of Ice Sledge Hockey has certainly matured from its exhibition game in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, between two Swedish teams in 1976, to being recognized as a full sport with millions watching the game around the world.



Japan battled their way to the finals in Vancouver

RULES

One of the most important things to note about Wheelchair Curling is that a stone must be released between the boundaries marked in the middle of the length of the sheet. This means that, in order to takeout a stone near the side of the sheet or to get around a stone in the middle, the player must turn the handle of the stone so that it will curl and move in an arc on the ice.



The skip is the captain of the team who makes the majority of the strategic decisions

Wheelchair Curling

Curling at the Paralympics: Canada Wins Gold Medal

The Vancouver Paralympic Centre was the place to witness elite Paralympic Winter Sport in Wheelchair Curling during the Vancouver Games, with up to four games occurring simultaneously. The high number of competitions gave all spectators the chance to watch everything as it happened, with the only delay being the time it took to move one's eyes from sheet to sheet.

In the gold medal game, Canada defeated Korea 8:7 to earn top glory for their country. The host team started off strong, with skip Jim Armstrong throwing a precise raise to take three with the hammer in the first end. A couple of misses on the takeout from Korea in the fourth end allowed Canada to draw for four and a big seven point lead.

However, Korea would chip away the lead, taking a deuce in the fifth end and stealing two more in the sixth with some excellent freezes. A great hit in the seventh allowed Korea to steal one more, but conservative play by Canada in the final end would stop them just short of a full comeback as Canada holds Korea to one and walk away with the gold.



Each team member throws two stones

Sweden defeated USA in the bronze medal game 7:5. A missed draw shot by USA's skip Augusto Perez would push a Swedish rock into the house, helping Sweden to steal three to start the game. USA would fight back, taking three with the hammer in the fourth end to tie up the game. However, a steal by the Swedes in the sixth and an excellent draw in the last end with Jalle Jungnell's first throw would let them take the win.

Importance of the Skip in Wheelchair Curling

Wheelchair Curling is a sport where two teams take turns sliding large stones on a sheet of ice. The goal is to have at least one stone closer to the middle of the house, a large, multi-ring circle marked on the surface of the ice.

Each team consists of four members: the lead, second, third, and fourth. One of these members is the skip, the captain of the team that makes the majority of the decisions for the team, including the strategies and tactics used throughout the game. Typically, the skip throws fourth, but it is not uncommon to see a skip throw third as well. Each member of the team throws two stones each before the next member makes their throws.

The sheet of ice that serves as the playing surface is a long symmetrical rectangle, with a house and hog line on each end. The player that is delivering the stone must release it before the hog line on the near side. The stone must then cross the hog line on the far side in order to stay in play. If the stone hits the side of the sheet, or if the stone goes completely past the back of the house and out

FACTS

With the exception of sweeping, Wheelchair Curling follows most of the rules of Curling for able-bodied athletes.

The Paralympic Winter Sport consists of two teams who take turns sliding large stones on a sheet of ice.

The goal is to have at least one stone closer to the middle of the house, a large, multi-ring circle marked on the surface of the ice.

Each team consists of four members: the lead, second, third, and fourth.

of contention, then it is removed from play. Players must be careful to prevent stones from bouncing off the sides and hitting the other rocks in play.

The player delivering the stone itself may deliver anywhere between the base line of the house and the

hog line. Players may deliver stones from their hand, but most Wheelchair Curlers prefer to use a specially designed delivery stick, which provides better control with more comfort.

History Positioned in Scotland

Wheelchair Curling first was introduced at an International Bonspiel and Workshop held in Crans Montana, Switzerland, in January 2000. Wheelchair Curling had been discussed at the WCF Annual General Assembly the previous year in St. John, New Brunswick.

Sweden and Switzerland were the only countries at this time trying this sport. During the workshop, rules were discussed and there were some who thought the game should be played with junior stones and on a shorter playing field. This was however quickly ruled out. There was representation present from the WCF, and at the end of the week, the basic rules for Wheelchair Curling were formulated.

Thereafter International Bonspiels and workshops took place, and in 2002, the first World Wheelchair Curling Championships were held.

Wheelchair Curling was introduced onto the Paralympic programme first at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

Ready for the Future



London 2012

Channel 4 Chosen as Official Paralympic Broadcaster

The London 2012 Organizing Committee (LOCOG) has awarded the UK broadcast rights to Channel 4 following a highly competitive tender process.

The deal with Channel 4 will provide the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Sport with the strongest pre-Games broadcast coverage and marketing support it has ever received on UK television. As an example, Channel 4's website will be completely re-branded with a Paralympic theme after the London 2012 Olympic Games finish. Channel 4 will work with the world's best production companies to build on its reputation for the most innovative sports coverage showcasing Paralympic Sport to millions of viewers, with a world-class presenting team.

Sebastian Coe, Chairman of LOCOG said: "The eyes of the world will be focussed on the Paralympic Games – the world's second biggest multi-sport event - in London in 2012. We will deliver a spectacular sporting showcase for the world's greatest Paralympic athletes, and will use the power of Paralympic Sport to raise awareness; challenge stereotypes; inspire understanding and communicate the Paralympic values of determination, courage, inspiration and equality."

Channel 4 will also have programming on Paralympic Sport in the two and a half years leading up to the Games, inspiring people with a disability of all ages to take up sport.

The deal with Channel 4 includes multi-platform broadcast rights within the UK, with non-exclusive rights in the Republic of Ireland. Channel 4 will produce and screen two peak time 10 part documentaries in 2011 and 2012, building the stories of the athletes and their journey to the London 2012 Paralympic

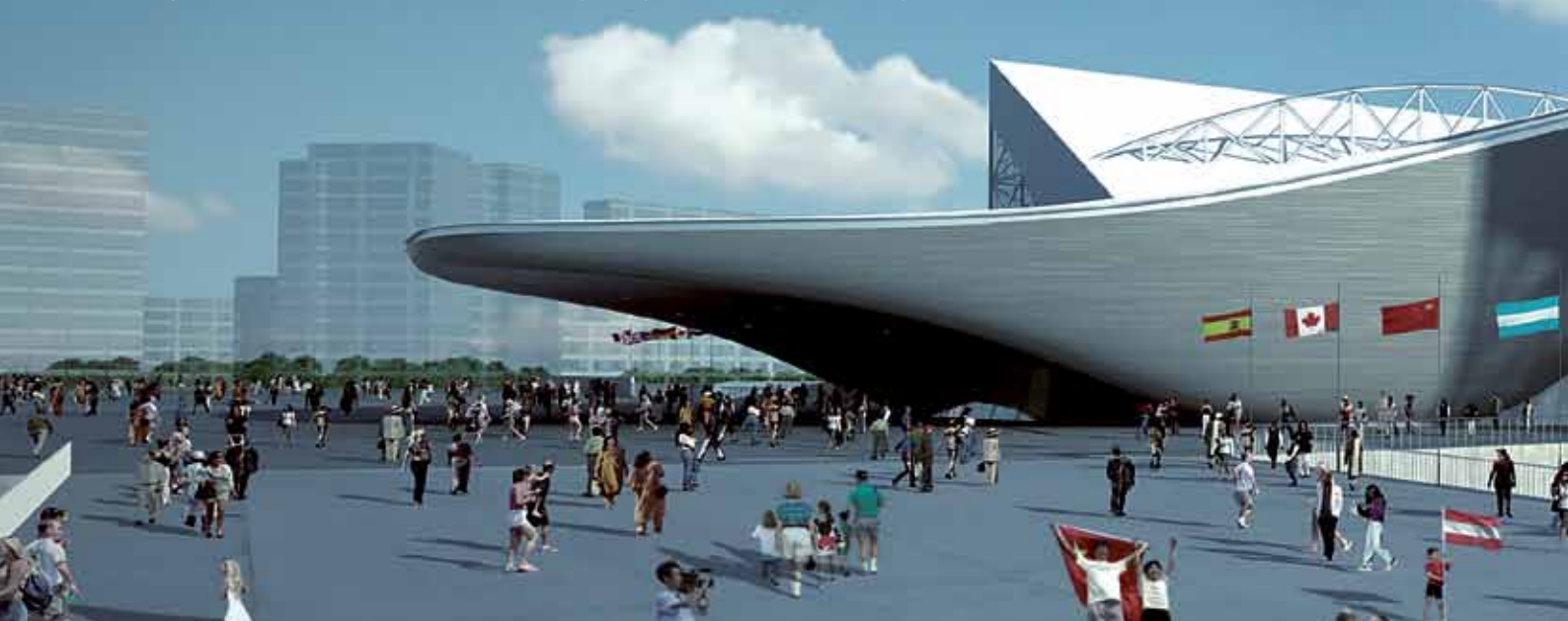
Games. It will also include dedicated coverage of the Paralympic Torch Relay and will be supported by the biggest marketing campaign in the broadcaster's history.

At Games-time, Channel 4 will deliver over 150 hours of coverage of the Paralympic Games, with over 130 hours on their core channel (Channel 4). Paralympic Sport has never had this level of exposure in the UK. The coverage will be led by a flagship peak-time show, and extensive coverage will also be provided online. Subtitling and audio description will form part of all the programming, ensuring that the widest possible audience can enjoy the Games.

LOCOG will begin the tender process for the international broadcast rights to the Paralympic Games later this year.

For more information about the London 2012 Paralympic Games, please visit:

web  >> www.london2012.com



"The deal with Channel 4 will provide the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Sport with the strongest pre-Games broadcast coverage and marketing support it has ever received on UK television."





Sochi 2014

Organizers Hopeful After Vancouver

The Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee has thoroughly expressed satisfaction in their gathering of information during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. The time in Canada allowed Sochi 2014 to do a large amount of research and observing, as well as testing of their plans for the Games.

The Russian organizers were convinced of the need for innovative solutions, especially in putting together large-scale events for people with a disability.

Over their time in Vancouver, Sochi 2014 organizers held over 100 working meetings with experts from the IPC, members of International Federations (IF), Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) colleagues and Paralympic athletes. Additionally, the Sochi 2014 representative office in Whistler, housed at the Westin Hotel, welcomed countless visitors from around the world who were interested in the next edition of the Winter Games.

Representing 17 different Russian Regions, the members of the Russian volunteer team came specifically to help guests of the Paralympic Games in both Vancouver and Whistler. In returning to Russia after the Games, they relayed their practical skills gained respectively to all other Sochi 2014 volunteers.

At the Closing Ceremony of the Games, a presentation of the Paralympic Flag was given by IPC President Sir Philip Craven to the Mayor of Sochi, Anatoly Pakhomov. President and CEO of Sochi 2014 Dmitry Chernyshenko said that at the ceremony they showcased Sochi 2014 and a contemporary Russia.



Flag Handover Puts Spotlight on Sochi

"The impact will be a profound shift in the way the 13 million people with a disability living in Russia are viewed, the introduction of a barrier-free environment and a real international legacy for Paralympic sport," Mr. Chernyshenko said.

"With both the Olympic and Paralympic Flags in our hands, it is an incredible feeling to say that we are next! I look forward to welcoming the world to Sochi in four years time."

For more information about the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, please visit:

[web >> www.sochi2014.com](http://www.sochi2014.com)



Rio 2016

Co-operation Deal Imports Games Experience

Information on the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games organization and activities is also being utilized in Brazil for the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Paralympic Games. In late February, the mayors of Rio de Janeiro, Eduardo Paes, and of Vancouver, Gregor Robertson, signed a co-operation deal which allows for the exchange of information, experience and interaction between the technical teams of both cities.

Taking place at the Vancouver City Hall in late February, the signing was attended by the President of Rio 2016 Games Organizing Committee, Carlos Arthur Nuzman.

For Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes, the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games were an example of respect and appreciation for the environment.

"The environmental model of the Vancouver Games should be seen as an inspiration for Rio," Mayor Paes said. "Since the beginning they were worried about this issue, investing in ecological constructions that saved water and energy. Their concern for making the greenest Games in history should also be ours."

For more information about the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, please visit:

[web >> www.rio2016.com](http://www.rio2016.com)

"The impact will be a profound shift in the way the 13 million people with a disability living in Russia are viewed."



Sochi Included an Illuminate Display at the Closing Ceremony

The History of Classification

What is Classification?

Classification is a structure for competition. Paralympic athletes have an impairment in body structures and functions that leads to a competitive disadvantage in sport. Consequently, criteria are put in place to ensure that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus, the same factors that account for success in sport for athletes who are able-bodied.

Background Information on Paralympic Sport Shows Scientific Adjustments

To better allow the development of evidence-based systems of classification, all Paralympic systems of classification should indicate that the purpose is to promote participation in sport by people with an impairment by minimizing the impact of eligible types of impairment on the outcome of competition.

In the 1940s, Dr. Ludwig Guttmann founded Paralympic Sport as an extension of the rehabilitation process. During the early years of the Paralympic Movement, classification was medically based. The organizational structure of medically based classification systems reflected the structure of a rehabilitation hospital, with separate classes for people with spinal cord injuries, amputations and those with other neurological or orthopaedic conditions.

Athletes received a class based on their medical diagnosis, and competed in that class for all sports offered. An athlete with a complete L2 spinal cord injury (resulting in lower limb paresis but normal arm and trunk power) would compete in a separate wheelchair race

from a double above-knee amputee because their medical diagnosis was different. The fact that the impairments resulting from their medical condition caused about the same activity limitation in wheelchair propulsion was not considered in the classification process because classification was based on medical diagnosis.

Sport Drives Classification

As the Paralympic Movement matured, sport was no longer an extension of rehabilitation and alone became important. The focus on sport, rather than rehabilitation, drove the development of what commonly became referred to as functional classification systems.

In functional systems, the main factors that determine class are not diagnosis and medical evaluation, but how much the impairment of a person impacts upon sports performance. For example, in Athletics, an athlete with a complete L2 spinal cord injury now competes in the same class as a double above-the-knee

amputee (class T54). This is because these impairments have an impact on wheelchair propulsion that is approximately the same. Currently most Paralympic sports use systems of classification that are described as functional, a notable exception being the classification system used by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) which remains medically based.

In contrast to the medical classification approach in which athletes competed in the same class for all sports, functional systems of classification need to be sports-specific. This is because any given impairment may have a significant impact in one sport and a relatively minor impact in another. For example the impact that bilateral below elbow amputation has on Swimming is relatively large compared with the impact on distance running.

Basically, in functional classification systems, an athlete with such an impairment would compete in a class that had relatively greater activity limitation in Swimming than they would in Athletics.

Leaving Medical Classification

The transition from medical to functional classification systems began in the 1980s. There was however considerable debate surrounding the relative merits of the medical and functional approaches that caused the transition to be slow.

One feature of early functional systems was that they comprised fewer classes than the existing medical systems. Event organizers favoured this because the complexity of event organization was significantly reduced.

In 1989, the bodies responsible for organizing the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games signed an agreement which stipulated that all Paralympic sports contested at the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games were to be conducted using sports-specific functional classification systems. This administrative decision greatly accelerated the transition to functional classification systems.

At the time of this decision many sports had not begun to develop functional systems. And given the short timeframe and the absence of relevant scientific evidence, the classification systems that were developed needed to be based on expert opinion. Within each of the sports, senior Paralympic classifiers from a diverse range of

The purposes for the criteria include:

- Defining which impairment groups can compete in the various sports
- Grouping athletes in classes defined by the degree of activity limitation related to the impairment and/or specific to the tasks in the sport.



New Release!

"The Paralympic Athlete": This 350 page handbook is the first comprehensive guide to

Paralympic athletes, with practical information on medical issues, and biological factors in the performance of the sports and physical conditioning. It is published under the guidance of the IOC Medical Commission and will be available for sale January 2011.

in functional classification systems can be strengthened.

In 2003, the IPC developed a classification strategy with the overall objective to support and coordinate the ongoing development of accurate, reliable, consistent and credible sport focused classification systems and their implementation. The IPC

Classification Code is a direct result of recommendations made in this Strategy.

The IPC recognizes the need for systems of classification that are evidence-based and explicitly mandates the development of such systems in Section 15 of the Classification Code. This section establishes the taxonomic prerequisites needed for the development of evidence-based systems of classification.

Future Outlook

The IPC continues to be committed to the development of evidence-based classification systems, so that athletes who enhance their competitive performance through effective training will not be moved to a class with athletes who have less activity limitation (as they would in a performance classification system), but will be rewarded by becoming more competitive within the class they were allocated.

The above text has been derived from the IPC Position Statement on Background and Scientific Rationale of Classification in Paralympic Sport.

web >> www.paralympic.org

For more information on Classification, please find the IPC Handbook at www.paralympic.org > IPC > IPC Handbook

backgrounds (medical doctors, therapists, athletes and coaches) lead the development of functional systems of classification.

Paralympic Classification Today

Since the widespread adoption of functional systems of classification, Paralympic Sport has continued to mature rapidly. Currently there are more than 15,000 registered competitors with the international governing bodies of the 25 Paralympic sports, and a much larger (but indeterminate) number of athletes compete at local, national, and regional level in their home countries but are not registered internationally. At the elite level, successful Paralympic athletes are receiving increasing peer and community recognition and many receive commercial sponsorship and other financial rewards.

It is well recognized that the classification an athlete is assigned has a significant impact on the degree of success they are likely to achieve. Unfortunately however, Paralympic classification and classification research have not matured as rapidly as other areas of Paralympic Sport and current Paralympic classification systems are still too often based on the judgement of a small number of experienced classifiers, rather than empirical evidence. As a consequence, the validity of the methods used

First Ever Team Physician Medical Conference in Vancouver

The first ever medical conference was hosted jointly by both the IPC and the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) on 15 March, with an audience of about 60 attendees, including team physicians, sport representatives, researchers, and general physicians.

The conference was a unique opportunity for physicians to share knowledge in the medical area related to Paralympic Sport, with speakers that included representatives from the Paralympic Movement. Some of the subjects at the conference that were covered were sport injuries and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Boosting Survey. Contributions to the conference also came from

VANOC with regard to the operations of the Games and how to tailor the needs and services of the athletes, as well as presentations given about medical care on the field of play.

Because of the high success of the medical conference, it was decided that a similar initiative will take place at future Paralympic Games.

web >> www.paralympic.org

For more information on conferences, please visit the official page at www.paralympic.org > Science Education > Science > Conferences



First Physician Medical Conference in Vancouver

Scientific Conferences

- IOC World Conference on Prevention of Injury & Illness in Sport in Monaco | **Date: 7-9 April 2011**
- IOC Advanced Team Physician Course in Calvi, Corsica | **Date: 3-5 April 2011** | For more information, please visit: www.ioc-preventionconference.org
- VISTA 2011 in Bonn, Germany | **Date: 1-3 September 2011**

ICSEMIS 2012

For more information about ICSEMIS 2012 in Glasgow, Scotland, please visit: www.icsemis2012.com.



NPC Panama

Interview with Eric Diaz – Goals for 2010



Eric Diaz always tries to convey to all Persons with a Disability: "Never give up"

The President of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Panama, Eric Diaz, has been part of the Paralympic Movement for 20 years. He began as an athlete who competed in Athletics, and then moved into Wheelchair Basketball. After working hard as athlete, he retired and soon moved to the other side of the Movement. He has since devoted himself to promoting the development of sports for athletes with a disability in Panama.

Mr. Diaz said that NPC Panama and its initiatives have support from the country's government, where he has developed both responsibilities and national strategies for all athletes with a disability. Legal rights have also been given for people with a disability in the country.

The President of NPC Panama said that as a collaborator in other organizations for people with a disability, the goal is to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity, accessibility and universal design for all, and respect for diversity.



THE PARALYMPIAN had the chance to speak with Mr. Diaz about the present and future of NPC Panama.

HOW DO THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA SEE THE PARALYMPIC GAMES AND ATHLETES WITH A DISABILITY?

The population throughout the country has seen the development of athletes, and has been considerable in the support they show us when we develop sporting activities in different regions of Panama.

The support from the government and others has been an important factor in determining the participation of our athletes in national and international events. The unconditional support of family and friends, and anyone else involved also motivates everyone positively.



Strategies are being established to encourage Paralympic Sport for young people with a disability

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR 2010?

Our goals focus on supporting our athletes in all their preparation and development so that they will comply with technical requirements. Panama has won twice at the Central American Games for Disabled Students (PARACODICAER) and our young athletes are working hard to win a third victory. These athletes are the future of Panama and our vision is that they will compete at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

We are also promoting the development of activities for Women in sport. It is very important that all our athletes can take part in the Paralympic Movement and take advantage of every opportunity, which includes every single activity we do during the year.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THAT ARE A REALITY WITH YOUR NPC?

One of our challenges will be the consolidation of a new Paralympic Committee, because our constitution requires changes every four years. We also are wanting to continue working on our operational plans and the organizational development, as well as continue giving athletes support, because they are the main reason for our job.

ARE YOU IN A PARTNERSHIP WITH ANY OTHER NPC?

Our NPC maintains communication with the main national organizations of Central and South America. We were recently chosen by the Para Panamerican Assembly as one of five Executive Members to represent the Americas Paralympic Committee.

HOW ARE THE ATHLETES IN PANAMA PREPARING FOR SUCCESS IN 2010?

We have established strategies to encourage Paralympic Sport and educate young people with a disability, as well as improve our technical levels through various medical qualification training. We have also established a philosophy where athletes, families, the technical body and the organization work together in pursuit of success.

DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE OF NPC PANAMA AND THE ATHLETES AT THE BEIJING 2008 PARALYMPIC GAMES.

The whole experience meant so much for our country mostly because it was the first time we participated in the Paralympic Games. Being in Beijing improved our relationship with other countries, and gave us a clear idea about the levels of participation for our athletes.

Our greatest achievement was having our Paralympian Said Gomez being chosen for The Whang Youn Dai Achievement Award.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE STORY AND SUCCESS OF ONE OF YOUR ATHLETES?

One of our athletes in Athletics is Katharina Taylor, and she is one of the best examples of success. At 18 years old, she has already participated in national and international competitions, which has made her family incredibly proud. She trains with her long-time trainer Professor Hugo Lombardo, and she has won two medals at the Para Panamerican Games. Her dream is to reach the Paralympic Games, and she plans to train intensely with a group of athletes to improve her skills and performance.

For our NPC, work with athletes like Katharina Taylor is very important because the athletes motivate and inspire themselves not only to win medals and participate in competitions, but also to encourage people in knowing that everything is possible, and can be done.



The team in Beijing was honoured to represent Panama

“Being in Beijing improved our relationship with other countries, and gave us a clear idea about the levels of participation for our athletes.”

HOW IS NPC PANAMA PREPARING FOR THE LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES?

We have a goal to bring ten high level athletes to London. Our commitment is not only international, but to strengthen our organization internally for our own athletes and related organizations to benefit. We are also looking forward to relying on the support of our partners and government who we consider a very important part of our Paralympic Sport development, and fundamental to athletes' programmes.



Katharina Taylor started Paralympic Sport early – now with medals she shows her success


 Otto Bock
QUALITY FOR LIFE

IPC Exhibition



Inside the "Snow Dome" visitors had the chance to learn about the Paralympic Movement

IPC Exhibition Attracts Thousands

The IPC Exhibition was a complete success at Whistler Village during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, attracting a total of 23,749 visitors. The highest number of visitors in a day totalled 3,199 on 20 March.

The over twenty-thousand visitors indicated the strong curiosity that the people in Whistler had for Paralympic Sport and the Paralympic Movement in Canada. One of the highlights of the IPC Exhibition was a one day showing of the Paralympic medals, where visitors had the opportunity to touch and feel the prized possession of every top placing athlete. Because of the medals, this day had attracted a high 2,085 people just by afternoon.

Titled "Spirit in Motion – Discover What Moves Us", the IPC Exhibition was supported by IPC Worldwide Partner Otto Bock Healthcare. The aim of the interactive exhibition was to provide all visitors with information about the Paralympic Movement and Paralympic Games History, including specific details on sports, athletes' stories and background knowledge on technology. The IPC Exhibition also gave visitors the chance to test out Ice Sledge Hockey.

Included in the exhibition was an extensive timeline, which illustrated the Paralympic Movement since its beginning in 1948. The exhibition also had prostheses and wheelchairs on display, as well as the aforemen-

"One of the highlights of the IPC Exhibition was a one day showing of the Paralympic medals."

tioned opportunity to sit and play in an original sledge manufactured by Otto Bock Healthcare. Before leaving the Snow Dome, visitors were also given the chance to enjoy the Paralympic Lounge, with film clips showing past Games.

Professor Hans Georg Näder, President and CEO of Otto Bock Healthcare, said that the people of Canada welcomed the Snow Dome and were part of its major success. "It's clear that the feeling for the global community is very strong in this country," he said. "There is an open atmosphere and the people are great."

web 

>> www.zendome.com

For more information about the Snow Dome in Vancouver, please visit www.zendome.com/projects/references/085-paralympics.html.

For more information about Otto Bock, please visit:

web 

>> www.ottobock.com

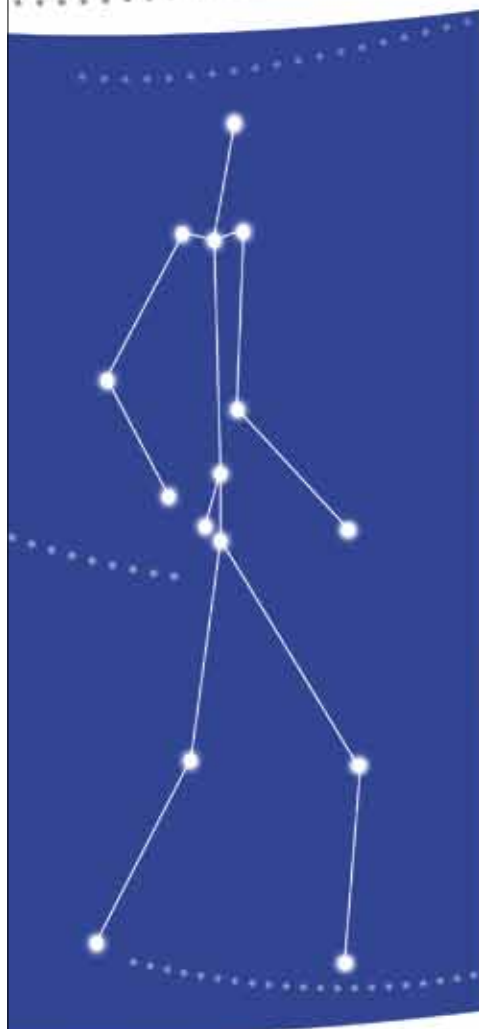


The "Snow Dome" was located at Whistler Mountain Square

Otto Bock®

QUALITY FOR LIFE

X. Paralympic Winter Games Vancouver



www.ottobock.com

DISCOVER WHAT MOVES US.

Technology for People – worldwide

The exhibition "Spirit in Motion - Discover What Moves Us" in Whistler was a great success. Over 23,000 visitors, a meeting place for sports, politics, industry and the media. Inspiration, emotions and ideas for the future. Danke Kanada. Merci Vancouver. Thank you Whistler.

www.ottobock.com/2010



Otto Bock®
QUALITY FOR LIFE
Worldwide Partner of the
Paralympic Movement



The Paralympic Hospitality Centre hosted the VISA Paralympic Hall of Fame event

Visa Paralympic Hall of Fame Welcomes Three Inductees

On the second day of competition at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, three accomplished individuals were newly inducted into the Paralympic Hall of Fame. Presented by Visa, inductees included Cross-Country skier Tanja Kari from Finland, Alpine skier Chris Waddell from USA, and Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing coach Rolf Hettich from Germany.

The three inductees were nominated by member organizations of the IPC based on their athletic performance, history of fair play and participation in community service. Kari, Waddell and Hettich were then selected by the IPC's Governing Board. The induction ceremony officially brought in what is the third group of Paralympic athletes to be inducted into the Paralympic Hall of Fame. "My goal always was to be the best in the world, and you don't really think of the milestones until the end," said inductee Waddell. "It's nice to have that legitimacy and to be recognized for your career."

Members of the Paralympic Family, including IPC President Sir Philip Craven, IPC Vice President Greg Hartung, IOC Vice President Dr. Thomas Bach, HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, Vancouver 2010 CEO John Furlong, London 2012 CEO Paul Deighton and Sochi 2014 President and CEO Dmitry Chernychenko, were among the guests that celebrated the three inductees on 14 March. Sir Philip said, "Adding these three exceptional in-

dividuals to our Hall of Fame inspires future athletes, with the accomplishments of each inductee demonstrating clearly what is possible in Paralympic Sport."

"Visa is again proud to be the presenting sponsor of this unique celebration honouring the achievements and spirit of Paralympic athletes and their coaches," said Michael Lynch, Head of Global Sponsorship Management Visa Inc.

The Paralympic Hall of Fame ensures that a permanent record and institutional memory is kept of top Paralympic athletes and coaches of all time, thus honouring the performers who achieved a high and sustained level of success in the Paralympic Games. In order to be eligible, athletes and coaches must have achieved a very high and sustained level of success at the Paralympic Games. They must also have consistently displayed a spirit of fair play, and made a positive contribution to the Paralympic Movement. They must have ceased their participation in Paralympic sporting competition for at least four years (one Paralympic Games cycle).

[web >> www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)

For more information on the Hall of Fame, please visit www.paralympic.org/hof/main.html.



Vancouver a Success for Atos Origin

With the Winter Games now over, IPC World-wide Partner Atos Origin has delivered and completed faultless IT operations during the Vancouver Paralympics. Atos Origin designed, integrated, managed and secured the same IT infrastructure for the Paralympic Games that was used at many of the competition venues for the Olympic Winter Games.

As the lead technology partner, Atos Origin worked with the IPC, VANOC and the other Technology partners as one team to ensure the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games were a great success. Atos Origin was responsible for all aspects of the smooth and secure running of the Paralympic Games IT from designing and building the systems through to managing all the IT partners and running the critical IT infrastructure and networks, including the immediate distribution of Games results to the world.

Atos Origin applied the same technology to the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games as was used in the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. For the first time ever in Paralympic Games history, the Olympic Print Distribution system was used. The technology used in Olympic Print Distribution, which is provided by Atos Origin, delivers print outs of event information, schedules and results.

For information, please visit:

[web >> www.atosorigin.com](http://www.atosorigin.com)





Workshop



Media raised many questions to Chris Waddell, Kate Rogowicz, Muffy Davis, Bruce Reding and Sir Philip Craven

Allianz Holds Media Workshop

IPC Gold Patron Allianz together with the IPC put together a special media workshop on 11 March inside the Snow Dome where the IPC Exhibition took place. With about 20 media attending, the ultimate goal was to provide background information about the Paralympic Games, Sport and Movement before the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games had begun.

Moderating the media workshop was Paralympian Ambassador and former athlete Chris Waddell, who interviewed members of the Paralympic Movement including IPC President Sir Philip Craven, Paralympian Ambassador and Medallist Muffy Davis, and winter athletes Katarzyna Rogowicz and Bruce Reding. Waddell began the workshop saying that “what happens to you is not as important as what you do with what happens to you”.

During the workshop, Allianz presented “Paralympic Moments” which are a series of video clips looking into private lives of particular athletes and following their road to success at the Paralympic Games. The hands-on information included infographics and a presentation on the five winter sports,

with special details being given on equipment and operation. Polish athlete Rogowicz explained to the media how she had to work hard to figure out her own method of high performance. Paralympian Ambassador Muffy Davis agreed, saying she too had to measure the ability of her balance.

“What happens to you is not as important as what you do with what happens to you”.

“The problems I had in competition when I was able-bodied became the same problems I had when I became a Paralympic athlete,” Davis said. “I finally figured out that everything that was giving me trouble was all in my mind, and had absolutely nothing to do with my body.”

Representing Allianz was Eike Buerger, who said that they wanted to help increase the public awareness of the Paralympics and its athletes with the Snow Dome. “It was especially important to give journalists the chance to try a sport and we even took a small number of them to the slopes to try monoskiing,” she said. “Gaining deeper insight into Paralympic sports, the journalists were able to share their knowledge and passion with their readers around the world.”

For more information about Allianz, please visit:

web

>> www.allianz.com



Allianz created a special info graphic for each Paralympic Winter Sport

VISA

Support



Visa Supports Three Athletes in Vancouver

Team Visa at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games included three remarkable athletes who all stood on the podium, representing their hard work and country. They included Colette Bourgonje of Canada (Cross-Country Skiing), Brian McKeever of Canada (Biathlon and Cross-Country) and Alexi Salamone of USA (Ice Sledge Hockey).

As members of Team Visa, Bourgonje, McKeever and Salamone are part of a unique global programme dedicated to supporting amateur athletes as they prepare for one of the greatest athletic challenges of their lives: competing at the Paralympic Games. Visa empowers amateur athletes to achieve their dreams by providing long-term financial support, mentorship and valuable marketing exposure in pursuit of their Paralympic goals.

For more information about Visa, please visit:

web >> www.visa.com

Brian McKeever (CAN)
thrilled fans with his fast
pace in Callaghan Valley

Colette Bourgonje (CAN)
powered through the
snow in Cross-Country
Skiing

Alexi Salamone (USA)
helped his team to win
the gold in Ice Sledge
Hockey



IPC Academy Addresses Accessibility

As part of the programme during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, the Inaugural IPC Academy Accessibility Summit was held in the host city to bring engaging and thought provoking discussions on Accessibility into the spotlight. Taking place from 19-21 March, the Summit has provided a platform for Accessibility to remain high on the agenda of event organizers, National Paralympic Committees, architecture & construction firms amongst others. Industry leaders and experts covered three key themes throughout the Summit, including Master Planning for Accessibility, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility, and Athlete Excellence and Empowerment.

“Sochi 2014 will use the Paralympic Winter Games as a platform to inspire Russia to embrace accessibility.”

Sir Philip Craven, IPC President, welcomed delegates and spoke of accessibility and the fight against exclusion which the Paralympic Movement actively pursues. The Summit also included speeches from both Dmitry Chernyshenko, President & CEO, Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee and Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman, London 2012 Organizing Committee (LOCOG). Discussing master planning for accessibility, Mr. Chernyshenko detailed how Sochi 2014 will use the Paralympic Winter Games as a platform to inspire Russia to embrace accessibility through its grand infrastructure projects. Lord Sebastian also spoke of the programmes adopted by London 2012 to recognize how an inclusive and barrier-free environment can further leverage a successful delivery platform.

Putting Ideas Together

Delegates also heard from industry experts including Nick Morris and Brad McCannell, who provided a human approach to understanding design and usage considerations for accessible infrastructure. Practical examples and results of how British Columbians embraced the Paralympic Winter Games were presented by Bruce Dewar, CEO, Legacies Now.

At the conclusion of the Summit, Renata Simoes from Rio 2016 Organizing Committee who also attended the IPC Observers Programme commented “this Summit enabled all organizations to meet, get in-

volved and to work together to realize that increased accessibility not only enables inclusion and elite performance but also is a logical business case, and the Paralympic Games provides a platform to demonstrate this”. With such encouragement and support, the IPC Academy looks forward to delivering an expanded Summit programme during the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

For more information about the IPC Academy, please visit:

web  >> www.ipcacademy.org

IPC Athlete Career Programme Adds UK

Adecco Group UK & Ireland announced in March of this year that the IPC Athlete Career Programme (ACP) would be extended to British and Irish Paralympians for the first time, helping Paralympic athletes find their place in the workforce following the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The UK Programme, which will now be opened to all competing and retired Paralympians, is designed to help athletes make the transition from the field of play to the workforce, many of whom face difficulties adjusting to the workplace following a career in competitive sport.

The IPC ACP helps athletes find work at the close of their athletic career thanks to a two-track programme: Career Development and Job Placement. The Career Development track was created around a combination of individual modules, customized to meet athletes' requirements. This personalized programme enables athletes to view their athletic successes and characteristics from the point of view of potential employers and express them in appropriate terms.

Job Placement is a personalized track built on Adecco's world-class job placement expertise. It is designed to help athletes leverage their unique backgrounds and capabilities, and position them to engage in the job market with the best support available.

Alongside the IPC Athlete Career Programme, Adecco will also officially launch its Disability Talent Pool (DTP), a register of talented candidates with a disability who are interested in working at London 2012. For more information about Adecco, please visit:

web  >> www.adecco.com



Accessibility was priority at the Summit, with Sochi representatives gaining insight

paralympicSport.TV

Broadcasted Around the World

Live Coverage and Video on Demand Make Vancouver a Truly International Experience

The official Internet channel of the IPC had a record number of hits during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, with unprecedented coverage of competitions and events. As a result, more people around the world were able to watch Paralympic Winter Sport and cheer on their favourite athlete.

Some of the highlights for ParalympicSport.TV included Live broadcasting of both the Opening and Closing Ceremony, as well as the gold medal games in Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling. This gave viewers the chance to watch the action simultaneously with spectators at UBC Thunderbird Arena and the Vancouver Paralympic Centre.

With regard to the live coverage of events, broadcasting was 24/7 during the Games which totalled to about 240 broadcast hours. A total of 150 hours were either live or re-live, with all new content. It was quickly available as Video on Demand (VoD) on ParalympicSport.TV, which was a significant improvement from the Beijing 2008 Para-

lympic Games. An average of 43,000 hits per day was also recorded for online streaming, with a peak of 86,000 hits on 16 March, compared to around 30,000 hits per day in Beijing. **In total, more than 340,000 VoDs were accessed during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.**

Thank you to the team of ten individuals who made this production project possible for ParalympicSport.TV, including commentators, editors, camera crew, project manager and co-ordinator.



Screenshot of ParalympicSport.TV, the official internet channel of the IPC



Information Updated With Facebook

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games had a high following on Facebook, which allowed for a more interactive experience with Paralympic fans. On the ParalympicSport.TV fan page on Facebook, **more than 4,000 fans were added during the Games, bringing the total to 6,500.**

The platform allowed for the chance to discuss the broadcast of the Games, with the continuous opportunity to have questions answered on air. On the whole, Facebook fans gave positive and appreciative feedback of the new addition to Paralympic media.

Some other fan pages were also created during the Vancouver Winter Games, including from IPC Gold Patron Allianz ("Global ParaSport") and the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee ("Vancouver 2010"). Several NPCs also had fan pages, which provided specific team information.

web >> www.facebook.com

Become a fan on Facebook of ParalympicSport.TV at www.facebook.com/ParalympicSport.TV!



Acer Brings Athletes to YouTube

With support from Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games Partner Acer, **Paralympic fans had the chance to get an inside look into the world of athletes during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.** The programme, called “Everyday Heroes”, was hosted by Acer Ambassador Donovan Tildesley, a three time Paralympian who competed at the Games in Sydney (2000), Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008). Tildesley was also the Flagbearer for the Canadian Team in Beijing.

The various videos gave a wide overview of perspectives from different athletes with various backgrounds, including the oldest and youngest at the Vancouver Games.

YouTube was also the place to find a daily news show uploaded, called “Newsbreak”.

TV >> www.youtube.com

For more information and to watch Paralympic Sport on YouTube, visit www.youtube.com/ParalympicSportTV!



Acer Ambassador Donovan Tildesley interviews IPC President



Samsung Supports Jean Labonté's Video Blog

Highlights from Canada's captain of the Ice Sledge Hockey Team Jean Labonté were posted as an online video blog on the Paralympic-Sport.TV YouTube Channel during the Vancouver Paralympics. Also a Samsung Athlete Ambassador, Labonté and his team made the videos available for the world to see, for the chance to follow along their path on the ice.

“The Paralympics are a truly amazing event, and the video blog allows me to share the great moments and day-to-day excitement of the Games from a perspective the public does not ordinarily get to see,” said Labonté. “It is great to be able to show people the complete experience of being an athlete at the Paralympics, and to discuss what is happening on and off the ice during the Games.”

Labonté's video blog was part of a social media campaign sponsored by Samsung, the official sponsor of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games and IPC Worldwide Partner. The campaign is designed to share “behind-the-scenes” experiences and stories of Jean, his friends, and his Ice Sledge Hockey fellow players.

“Samsung's support of Jean's video blog is part of our commitment to the Paralympic Games and its goal of making sports and the pursuit of excellence accessible to everyone,” said Gyeheun Kwon, Vice President and Head of Worldwide Sports Marketing for Samsung Electronics. “We hope Jean's experiences inspire people across Canada and around the world.”

TV >> www.youtube.com

Watch Jean Labonté's video blog at www.youtube.com/ParalympicSport.TV.

web >> www.paralympicsport.tv

For more information about Samsung, please visit www.samsung.com.



Verena Bentele: Lifetime Comeback



Verena Bentele is 28 years old from Munich, Germany, competing in Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing

Thomas Friedrich has been Verena's guide the past year

Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing athlete Verena Bentele is well-known in Germany for her skills on the slopes. She is also a Paralympian Ambassador who is representing the Paralympic Movement with interviews and events. After the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games however, her name will be forever remembered as a world-class, four-time Paralympian who was motivated to win.

Standing on the gold medal podium in Whistler five times during the Vancouver Winter Paralympics might become normal for Verena Bentele, but given everything the German Biathlon and Cross-Country skier has gone through in the last year, her achievements at the 2010 Games is even more inspiring.

"It is good. It is very, very nice of course and you never get used to it," said Bentele about standing on the podium shortly after winning a fourth gold medal. "This will be the fourth time and it is always amazing for me and I am very happy every time."

VANCOUVER 2010

During the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games, Verena Bentele (Women's Visually Impaired category, class B1) won the gold medal in:

Cross-Country Skiing

- 15km Free Style
- 5km Classic Style
- 1km Sprint Classic Style

Biathlon

- 3km Pursuit
- 12.5km

Hope After Falling

Bentele is 28 years old and from Munich, Germany. She returned to the Paralympic Sport with determination after suffering a crash and falling two metres during the German Championships in January 2009, leaving her with injuries to her knee and internal organs.

Not willing to give up, she found support from her teammates, trainer, friends and family to keep going, persevere and work hard to train and compete in the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

"I started training two months later. I think the most important thing is that I trained really pretty hard and I had a lot of motivation directly two months after the accident and I got really really motivated to try it again," said Bentele, who participated in Nagano (1998), Salt Lake City (2002), Torino (2006) and Vancouver (2010).

In total over the last 12 years, Bentele has won 12 gold medals at the Paralympic Games.

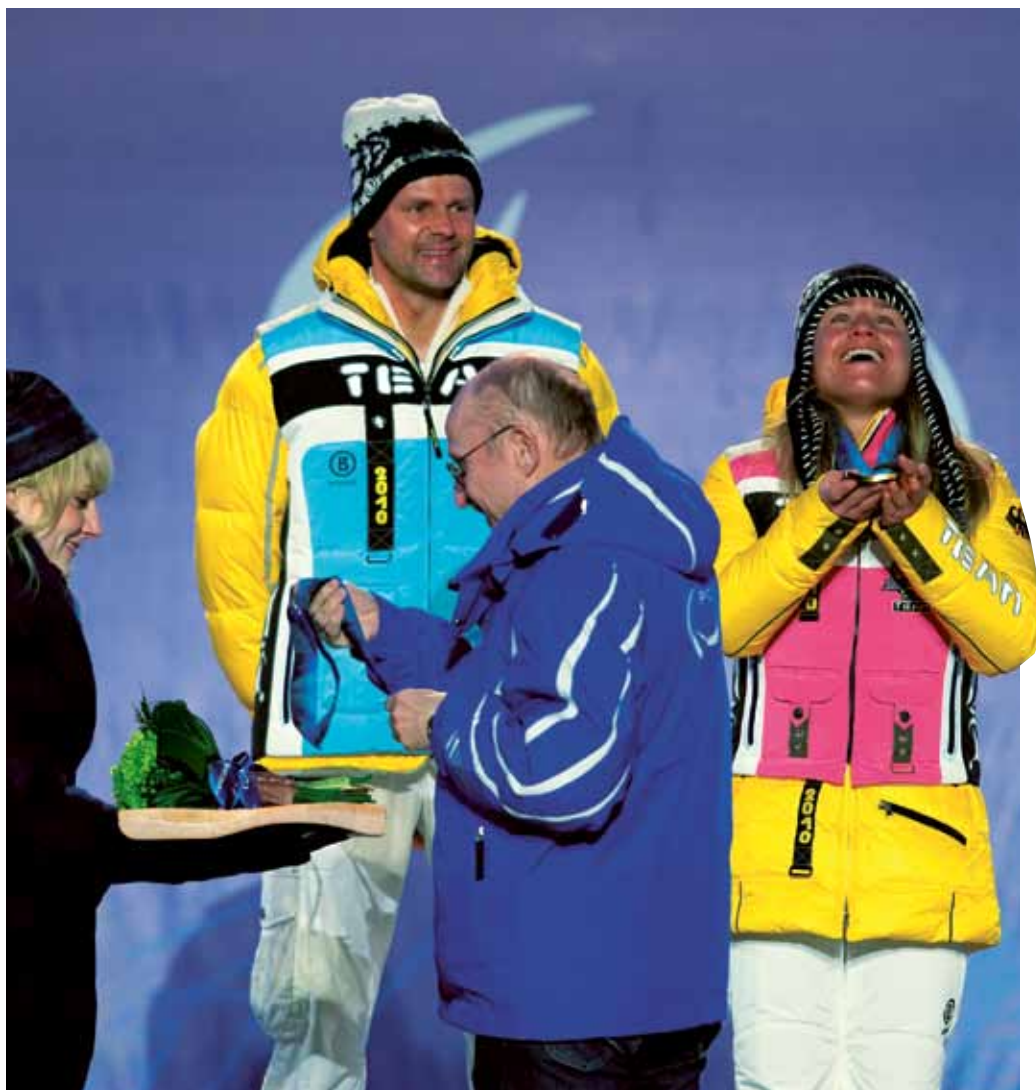


Bentele said her motivation was to avoid allowing an accident ruin her chances at continuing a successful career

Paralympic Sport continues to inspire Verena to achieve top results, becoming a role model for new athletes



Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing are both sports of strength and endurance



Whistler's medal ceremony brought on high emotions

She said her motivation was to avoid allowing an accident ruin her chances at continuing a successful career.

"I do not want to stop my career with a crash," she said. "I want to stop it with nice things, with a medal here or taking part in the Paralympic Games. And to be with my team and not to finish with such an unfortunate accident."

Destination: Vancouver

During the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games, Verena Bentele (Women's Visually Impaired category, competition class B1) won the gold medal in three Cross-Country Skiing events and two Biathlon events. In her career she has had five guides, and she has been with current guide Thomas Friedrich for the past nine months.

"I think the most important thing is that I trained really pretty hard and I had a lot of motivation directly two months after the accident and I got really really motivated to try it again."

Bentele called her achievements "perfect", and that she is content with her preparation and training. She said her results are worth the work, and the strict plan set by her trainer. "Every medal has its own special quality," Bentele said. "In Torino, Salt Lake City and Nagano, each win came with a different experience on the snow. I cannot say that these medals are worth much more than the others,

because every medal has its own history. And for me of course, Vancouver medals are also valuable in their own way, because they have shown that I have a very strong will and am able to show a high level after an unfortunate accident."

A New Role Model

Verena Bentele is also one of 11 Paralympian Ambassadors. The IPC launched the Paralympian Ambassadors Programme in February 2008, with the aim to create a roster of top past and present Paralympic athletes to act as ambassadors of the Paralympic Movement around the world. The Paralympian Ambassadors are role models for young people with and without a disability, and act as awareness and communication tools for the Paralympic Movement to enhance and increase its public profile.

Aspen World Cup Finishes Just Before Vancouver

A total of 105 athletes from 17 different countries competed in Aspen, USA for the final competition of the 2009/2010 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup season. From 28 February until 5 March, participants were in Colorado, hoping to reach their best before the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

Athletes took to the slopes with high energy in the Super Combined races, which became the new event at the Vancouver Games, with Spain's Anna Cohi (B3) taking first with guide Raquel Garcia in the Women's Visually Impaired category. Coming in second and third were USA's Danelle Umstead (B2) with guide Robert Umstead and Australia's Melissa Perrine with guide Andrew Bor.

In the Women's Standing category, French athletes took the top two positions with Solene Jambaque (LW9-2) in first and Marie Bochet (LW6/8-2) in second. USA's Allison Jones came in third place. In the Sitting category, Japan's Tatsuko Aoki (LW10-2) took first, followed by Claudia Loesch (LW11, AUT) and Alana Nichols (USA).

For the Men's Visually Impaired category, France's Nicolas Berejny (B2) with guide Sophie Troc took first with a result of 1:52.39. Coming in second and third were Italy's Gianmaria Dal Maistro (B3) with guide Tommaso Balasso and Slovakia's Norbert Holik (B3) with guide Lubos Bosela.

In the Men's Standing category, Germany's Gerd Schoenfelder (LW5/7-2) came in first with a result of 1:53.75. Coming in second and third place were Austria's Robert Meusburger (LW4) and Australia's Toby Kane (LW2). In the Sitting category, Germany's Martin Braxenthaler (LW10-2) took first, and was followed by Japan's Takeshi Suzuki (LW12-2) and Taiki Morii (LW11). Many of these high placing athletes also reached the podium in Vancouver. For more information about the IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals, please visit:



>> www.challengeaspen.org



Athletes in Aspen aimed for Vancouver

Tickets on Sale: IPC Swimming World Championships 2010



Eindhoven's Swimming venue

Paralympic Swimming fans can now purchase tickets for the 2010 IPC Swimming World Championships in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. Taking place from 15-21 August 2010 at the Pieter van den Hoogenband Swimming Stadium, a total of around 800 athletes from 55 different countries are planning to compete in the big event. Tournament Director Henny Smorenburg said that the varied programme of 16 different events guarantees a whole week of top class sports in Eindhoven, with the open water event on 21 August taking place in Eersel. It essentially gives everyone the opportunity to visit, especially because of the convenient start times of the races.

Following the change in the rules of the IPC, the S14 category (athletes with an intellectual disability) will also participate.

Entry tickets cost EUR 6.- (day ticket for heats and finals) and a passe-partout can be purchased for EUR 30.- (ticket for heats and finals for seven days, including the open water event in Eersel). There will be no separate tickets for heats and finals. To purchase tickets, and for more information about the Championships, please visit:



>> www.wcswimming2010.com

Hall of Fame to Induct Wheelchair Tennis Founder

The International Tennis Hall of Fame will be inducting its first Wheelchair Tennis athlete in July of this year.

Brad Parks (USA), the founder of Wheelchair Tennis, will be making history in 2010, after being named to the Contributor category by Hall of Fame Chairperson Christopher Clouser and President Tony Trabert. Parks started the first international Wheelchair Tennis event, the US Open, held in Irvine, USA. He was the Tournament Chairman for 18 years, setting the standard for others to follow. Parks is also credited with spreading the sport internationally by holding clinics throughout Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

For more information about Wheelchair Tennis, please visit:



>> www.itftennis.com/wheelchair



"With a crowd of more than 10,000 people, the Opening Ceremony was held on 4 November at the Hebrew University stadium in Jerusalem."

Tel Aviv 1968

Paralympics in Israel Continue Tradition of Parallel Games

Technical difficulties unfortunately made Mexico City unable to host the Paralympic Games in 1968. Although the Tokyo 1964 Paralympic Games did have Mexican observers present to bring the information to their country four years later, the commitment did not come to fruition. The international event went forward however and found a replacement location in Israel which successfully held the competitions and events.

Sir Ludwig Guttman however, the founder of the Paralympic Movement, wanted to keep the tradition on schedule. And after an invitation which was presented from the Israeli government and the ILAN Society (an Israeli organization for individuals with a physical disability), he was able to follow through with his wish. Called the '1968 International Stoke Mandeville Games', the big event took place at Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv. The offer to host the Paralympic Games in 1968 was also motivated by Israel's wish to mark its 20th anniversary of independence.

With a crowd of more than 10,000 people, the Opening Ceremony was held on 4 November at the Hebrew University stadium in Jerusalem. The Games were declared open by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Yigal Allon, with a

total of 750 athletes from 29 different countries participating. The Closing Ceremony on 13 November was held at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, and was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Allon.

One of the outstanding athletes of the Games was Italy's Roberto Marson. After having won two gold medals in field events at the previous 1964 Games in Tokyo, Marson had broadened his athletic participation with Swimming and Wheelchair Fencing. He won ten gold medals in Tel Aviv – three in field events, three in Swimming and four in Wheelchair Fencing.

Another outstanding athlete was Australia's Lorraine Dodd. She set three Swimming records in her class, all on the same day. USA's Ed Owen also took home several medals – two golds in Athletics, a gold for the Pentathlon, two golds in Swimming, a silver in Wheelchair Basketball, and a bronze in Javelin.

Tel Aviv's sports programme had enlarged considerably compared with the Tokyo in 1964. Under the direction of Gershon Huberman, new events such as Lawn Bowls, Women's Wheelchair Basketball and the 100m wheelchair race for men were introduced. Changes were also introduced in the classification systems for Athletics, Wheelchair Basketball and Swimming.



Wheelchair Fencing was one of several sports on the Tel Aviv programme

A total of nine sports were on the Paralympic Games programme: Athletics (track and field events including Discus, Shot Put, Javelin and Club Throw), Wheelchair Basketball, Dart Archery, Wheelchair Fencing, Lawn Bowls, Snooker, Swimming, Table Tennis and Weightlifting. Ultimately, the Tel Aviv 1968 Paralympic Games were seen as a success, with a total of 20 records set in the 181 medal events.

web 

>> www.paralympic.org

For results of the Tel Aviv 1968 Paralympic Games, please visit www.paralympic.org > Sport > Results.

Did you know?



The Origin of the Vancouver Paralympic Medals

The dramatic super ellipse, or squared circle form of the Vancouver medals was inspired by the ocean waves, drifting snow and mountainous landscape found in the Games region and throughout Canada. Their significant weight – between 500-576g depending on the medal – represents the magnitude of the athlete's accomplishment. The Paralympic medals are 95 mm wide and about six mm thick. They are among the heaviest medals in Paralympic history.

Direct input from Paralympic athletes helped to shape the medals, which were produced and supplied by Vancouver 2010 Official Supporters the Royal Canadian Mint and Canadian mining and metals giant Teck Resources Limited, in collaboration with the VANOC.

The medals are based on a large master artwork of a raven by Corrine Hunt, a Canadian designer/artist of Komoyue and Tlingit heritage based in Vancouver, BC.

The raven, which can be found around the globe, is often associated with transformation and healing abilities and represents determination, creativity and wisdom.

IPC GB Appoints Chairpersons of Standing Committees

The IPC Governing Board appointed the following persons in February as chairpersons of the respective IPC Standing Committees for the term of 2009-2013:

- **Anti-Doping Committee** – Dr. José Antonio (Toni) Pascual (Spain)
- **Athletes with High Support Needs Committee** – Jose Luis Campo (Argentina)
- **Audit and Finance Committee** – Miguel Sagarra (Spain)
- **Development Committee** – Rita van Driel (Netherlands)
- **Legal and Ethics Committee** – Alan Dickson (Great Britain)
- **Medical Committee** – Dr. Oriol Martinez (Spain)
- **Paralympic Games Committee** – Andrew Parsons (Brazil)
- **Sports Science Committee** – Dr. Yves Vanlandewijck (Belgium)
- **Women in Sport Committee** – Tine Rindum Teilmann (Denmark)

Appointments of members for all IPC Standing Committees, as well as chairpersons for the Classification and Education Committees will be communicated in due time.

Guangzhou Commits to Successful Games

The APC held a thorough Project Review in late January in support of the upcoming Guangzhou 2010 Asian Para Games in China. During the three day period of roundtable meetings, site visits and inspections, the Asian Paralympic Committee delegation was able to review plans for the majority of the competition venues, Athletes' Village and other sites of interest. Additionally, the delegation was briefed about transportation plans and inspected the vehicles to be used for the event, with a parallel meeting taking place on results, timing and scoring.

Just one month prior, the second Co-ordination Commission Meeting of the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Para Games was also held in the city. The Guangzhou 2010 Asian Para Games Organizing Committee (GAPGOC) gave detailed presentations about the progress of preparations for the Games, with a highlight being the One-Year Countdown during the grand ceremony themed "Sunshine Life" held at Panyu Square.

The Asian Para Games will take place in Guangzhou, China, from 12-19 December 2010. For more information and details, please visit:

web >> www.gzapg2010.cn/en

Natalie Du Toit Wins Laureus 2010 Award

South African Swimmer Natalie Du Toit was named the 2010 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year with a Disability. The names of the winners were announced at a televised Awards Ceremony staged at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi which also celebrated the first ten years in the life of Laureus. In attendance were global figures from the world of sport and entertainment.



History was made in Beijing in 2008 when Natalie du Toit became the first amputee ever to qualify for the Olympic Games, where she finished 16th in the 10km Open Water competition. At the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, she was highly celebrated in South Africa after winning five gold medals.

For more information on the Laureus Award, please visit:

web >> www.laureus.com



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GOLD PATRONS



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