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PARALYMPIC SPORT IN RWANDA
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“ Paralympic mascot Sumi enlivens spirit, celebrating one year to Vancouver ”

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Sharpshooters Finish Off Winter Season

ICE SLEDGE HOCKEY
COMPETITIONS WRAP
UP THE YEAR FOR
WINTER ATHLETES

The final year before the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games brought countless high-level performances onto different fields of play, undeniably bringing forth great anticipation for the big event to come.

Athletes in the Paralympic Sport of Ice Sledge Hockey were no less than an outstanding group of sharpshooters, as the various competitions leading up to the World Championships Tournaments A and B culminated the winter season. Most notably, the games in both tournaments determined the qualifiers for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games next year.

At the 2009 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships Tournament A, six teams made that qualification official. It was clear in fact from 12 May, the last day of the pool games in this competition, that teams from Canada, Japan, Norway and USA would proceed to the semi-finals, and therefore qualified for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

Czech Republic and Italy were two more teams to qualify for Vancouver. After a hard three losses, the Czech team defeated Korea in the play-off round 5:1. Italy's play-off against Germany had the Italians scoring in the penalty shoot-out, putting them as the sixth and final team on the list.

The eight days in the north-eastern city of Ostrava gave audience members and Paralympic fans around the world the chance to experience the highly physical Paralympic Sport. The gold medal battle for example between USA and Norway filled the first of three 15-minute periods with powerful strikes and constant defence. The



All athletes saw the finals as a clear shot to compete in Vancouver



score remained 0:0 throughout the game, but the teams brought on increased intensity as the clock continued to run out. Just when the audience assumed that overtime was inevitable however, Andy Yohe scored the winning goal with just over 11 seconds left, putting the final score at 1:0, USA.

Nearly 1,200 kilometres away in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, the 2009 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships Tournament B took place less than two months earlier from 15-21 March, exactly one year before the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

The competition brought out teams from Estonia, Great Britain, Poland, Sweden and host country The Netherlands. The five teams were not only competing for the gold medal, they were also aiming to reach the finals which would therefore put them in the qualification tournament for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

Every athlete's fast-moving sledge on the ice saw this as their chance to make it to the Games, with Estonia and Sweden eventually placing in the top two spots. The Estonian team took the top position, winning 1:0 against Sweden.

Although the winter season 2008/2009 is now officially over, and many athletes undoubtedly have the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games on their minds, the eight team slots for Ice Sledge Hockey are not completely filled. A Paralympic Qualifier is still in the wings for four teams whose fate remains undetermined.

The Paralympic Qualifier in Ice Sledge Hockey will include the top two teams from Tournament B, Estonia and Sweden, and the bottom two teams from Tournament A, Germany and Korea. The two winners of those competitions will fill the final two slots for Ice Sledge Hockey teams to compete in Vancouver.

Finishing up the winter season in Alpine Skiing, athletes were in Whistler, Canada, to compete in Downhill, Super-G, Super Combined, Giant Slalom

and Slalom. At the event, the overall Nation Ranking was won, for the first time, by Canada, followed by Austria and the USA.

Closely in Mt. Washington, Nordic Skiers completed their World Cup series in Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing. With athletes from 19 different nations in Comox Valley, the event completed the series with final rankings ensuing.

And in Wheelchair Curling, the World Curling Federation (WCF) World Wheelchair Curling Championships also had athletes finishing their season to qualify for the upcoming Games. The countries ranked in the top ten comprise Norway, Canada, United States, Korea, Scotland/Great Britain, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Japan.

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games will take place next year from 12-21 March. All Paralympic Winter sports will be in Canada, including Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling, bringing athletes out to show highly-trained and skilled performances that will inspire every Paralympic fan around the world.

For more information about the Paralympic Winter Games, please visit www.paralympic.org.

See footage from Ostrava on www.ParalympicSport.TV.

IPC ANNIVERSARY

→ page 2

20 Years of IPC

Interviews with former IPC President Dr. Robert Steadward, Hans Lindstrom and Fred Jansen recall the 20 years of the IPC and the many experiences which have occurred along the way.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven also talks about the important role that volunteers have had on the Paralympic Movement and the IPC, and the continued support welcomed from all around the world.

Athletes Grow With Organization After 20 Years

Former IPC President Dr. Robert Steadward Recalls Progress Over The Years With Hans Lindstrom and Fred Jansen

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The number of competitions and events this winter season were quite the dose of excitement for Paralympic Winter Sport fans around the world. State-of-the-art venues became fantastic background settings, and countless volunteers did more than their fair share in contributing to the success. Now with the winter season 2008/2009 officially over, athletes have the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in clear view.



"... we had the opportunity to link all Canadians with the Paralympic Winter Games next year."

record six-day run of the event had many athletes who were successful at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games seeing this event as a key stepping stone in their preparations for World Championships in 2010/2011 and the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Inside this issue, we have included a special section on the 20 year anniversary of the IPC, with interviews of people who have been a part for the organization for many years.

Through their eyes and in their words, readers have the chance to experience the past that has made IPC what it is today.

We also see the IPC Swimming Summit in Berlin covered, with athlete interviews from Athletes' Council members Teresa Perales and David Smetanine. In the Education and Development section, we examine the success of the Paralympic School Day Project that has been happening in Sweden over the past few years.

The Accessibility section includes an overview of the progress because of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. Detailed information on the Accessibility Guide and an interview with expert Nick Morris both show the plan to success in Beijing and how the results remain today.

Finally, Picking the Vault takes a look at the 1960 Games in Rome, Italy, giving readers the chance to learn about the first Paralympic Games.

I hope you enjoy the issue and have an incredibly successful summer!

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President

Sport events which have taken place in Whistler/Vancouver, Canada, this year proved that the upcoming Games will be no less than impressive. Like in Beijing, Paralympic fans will have a chance to witness Paralympic Sport on an elite level, but in its winter form. Winter athletes have been fine tuning their skills this season in order to not only prepare for the Vancouver Games, but also for qualification purposes.

After the 2009 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships and the World Wheelchair Curling Championships, to name two deciding events, athletes now have their definitive results with their respective ranking, clearing the way for training and Games preparation.

I was at the One-Year-Out celebration of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games in March, which was organized by the Government of Canada at Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Being there, we had the opportunity to link all Canadians with the Paralympic Winter Games next year.

With the winter season complete, other Paralympic sporting competitions have continued this year. The Arafura Games for example, brought together athletes with a disability integrated with able-bodied athletes. The Games provided a diverse sporting environment and experience, and also incorporated the IPC Women in Sport Summit into the 2009 Arafura International Sports Conference.

But the big event was in Manchester at the 2009 Paralympic World Cup. Athletes from all around the world competed in four sports, including Wheelchair Basketball, Track Cycling, Swimming and Athletics. The



Left Former President Steadward at the Atlanta 1996 Paralympic Games



Right The motto 'No Limits' was held by all participants throughout the Lillehammer 1994 Paralympic Winter Games

The comprehensive list of changes that has been compiling in recent years within the Paralympic Movement gives anyone a clear picture of accomplishment and evolution. This year, as the IPC celebrates its 20 year anniversary, that list has more defined borders however when focus turns to the progress of athletes and the actual organization of the committee.

Dr. Robert Steadward, the former IPC President, took office when the IPC was just beginning in 1989. He served until 2001, which encompassed three four-year terms. As the first President of the organization, he said that there was a memorable moment everyday because they demonstrated the opportunities and changes that were in fact taking place right before his eyes with and for the athletes.

"There were so many memorable moments, including the debate and discussions we had surrounding the creation of the IPC in Dusseldorf, Germany, to establish the Headquarters in Bonn," Dr. Steadward said. "It gave us a home base with professional staff which would help support our volunteer based organization at the time, and ultimately lead to the growth of the Paralympic Movement for our athletes."

From the beginning, the gigantic organism that is international sport was a challenge for the IPC and other organizations representing athletes with

a disability to work with on an equal level. Sport for people with a disability had in the past principally focused on rehabilitation through the implementation of remedial exercise and was not really seen as on a high level.

"In the 1980s we struggled for our rights, recognition, respect and equality in order to equate ourselves with the so-called normal realm of sport," Dr. Steadward said. "Our athletes were considered patients rather than high performance athletes and were

"Sport for people with a disability had in the past principally focused on rehabilitation through the implementation of remedial exercise."



About 50% of the athletes at the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games competed in Swimming and Athletics

coached primarily by doctors, nurses and physical therapists."

After the IPC formed, and the organization that was built before on volunteers grew, the new professional direction that was shaping up saw administrative sophistication with technical developments which changed the Paralympic Movement quite considerably. Much of that development could not have begun

without the work in establishing the sports technical structure, IPC sports programme and rules, which was lead by former IPC Executive Committee Member Hans Lindstrom. Mr. Lindstrom recalled this as a difficult, but rewarding task to complete.

"When the IPC was founded there was no sports programme, no sports technical infrastructure and no comprehensive rules package," Mr. Lindstrom said. "It was necessary to immediately prepare the constitution for the operational practicalities of the organization."

Mr. Lindstrom, who was also with the IPC at the beginning, said it started almost as a kitchen table operation, and established itself as a professionally recognized and respected organization in the international world of sport. Like Dr. Steadward, Mr. Lindstrom said the enormous change was caused by the hiring of qualified, professional staff.

"I think the IPC of today is more united and stable, because time has allowed the organization to grow together and build and strengthen routines and operating procedures," Mr. Lindstrom said.

IPC Governing Board Member Fred Jansen said the IPC quickly changed from a gathering of several interest groups with no funding or regulations, into a solid group of stakeholders supported by professional management in Bonn and better financial support with harmonized rules. Mr. Jansen had been part of the IPC for many years, formerly a member of the IPC Executive Committee.

"The IPC over the years has broadened its horizon from exclusively elite sports to supporting development in nations and sports," Mr. Jansen said. ►►

Volunteer Foundation Within IPC

When looking back at the Paralympic Movement and its inception, the importance of volunteers can never be overstated. They have been crucial to the building blocks that have made the IPC what it is today.

Volunteers were part of the Opening Ceremony in 1948, where Dr. Guttman organized the first competition for wheelchair athletes, called the Stoke Mandeville Games. The first official Paralympic Games in 1960 took place in Rome, Italy, furthering this new development in sport and bringing along with it dedicated individuals who wanted to lend a hand in the process.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven said that looking back at the 1950s and 1960s gives perspective on exactly how vital the volunteers have been to the Paralympic Movement.

“The world’s volunteers gathered once a year at Stoke Mandeville to enjoy Paralympic Sport on the highest level, concurrently discussing that it could in fact be developed around the globe,” Sir Philip said. “Volunteers developed

NPCs, Paralympic sports and they populated the Executive Committee, thus they continue to play a primordial role in the Paralympic Movement.”

Former IPC Executive Committee Member Hans Lindstrom said that the first people engaged in the IPC were in fact volunteers. The numerous enthusiastic people, young and old, spent their full days and at times late nights assisting the organization.

“They served the athletes and coaches and team leaders at the Games and it still makes me warm with admiration and gratitude,” Mr. Lindstrom said. “With them and the volunteers in the NPCs and organizations around the world, we would not have the great Movement and Games as they are today.”

“The idea of putting the needs of others before themselves and living by the ethic of giving first can be considered at the heart of the volunteer and others associated with the Paralympic Movement.”

The Paralympic spirit that athletes, officials, trainers, administrators and Paralympic fans alike have forwarded on to other people is created by all of those within the Paralympic Movement. The idea of putting the needs of others before themselves and living by the ethic of giving first can be considered at the heart of the volunteer and others associated with the Paralympic Movement. This brightly-burning spirit remains today because of the volunteers that have devoted their time to the IPC.

All around the world, volunteers have provided valuable assistance to the NPCs, IPC Committees and Councils, and competitions that have taken place. Their participation will continue to be a key factor to the Paralympic Movement and the IPC.

The IPC acknowledges the talent, commitment and unbreakable spirit that every volunteer has, giving up their free time for the benefit of the Paralympic Sport.

Chairperson of the IPC Sports Council Committee and IPC Governing Board Member Fred Jansen said volunteers have always played a major role in the IPC and it would be difficult for him to imagine the organization without them, even with the increased professional support in Bonn and elsewhere.

“The expertise, drive, passion, energy and the time that volunteers are giving is a great gift,” Mr. Jansen said. “A common saying is ‘you must be nuts to do this’, and I am pleased and proud of all these ‘nuts’. They really make a difference.”

The Paralympic Movement is all about the people and the volunteers said Sir Philip, and that everyone involved is a volunteer at heart.

“Their hearts have to be locked onto the spirit of Paralympic Sport and that

spirit which is generated by the athletes and indeed by the volunteers,” he said. “The passion for Paralympic Sport shown by volunteers is a fundamental aspect of this Movement, and without it I am not sure that the Paralympic Movement will survive.”

The more than 30,000 volunteers in China for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games for example showed the openness and desire for people to gain knowledge about everything. Sir Philip said this gave him an immensely positive impression of their devotion and dedication to the Movement, and great anticipation for the future.

At the moment, the Headquarters in Bonn employs more than 30 people, but this in no way changes the importance and continuing need of volunteers within the Paralympic Movement. With each person lending their hearts, the four Paralympic values of courage, determination, inspiration and equality can do no less but continue to shine, further enabling athletes to reach their own successes.

“It has made huge steps towards professionalizing the support for its members and other relevant bodies dealing with athletes, sports and nations. The IPC has managed to create much more awareness worldwide and has been successful in attracting media attention.”

Former IPC President Dr. Steadward said that much of the IPC’s profile over the last 20 years has grown because of its credibility in the international world of sport, the good image of the athletes, and the media attention.

“I believe the other reason for our growth has been the changing attitude of the general public and the various government agencies around the world,” Dr. Steadward said. “Governments have been focusing more and more on opportunities for people and athletes with a disability, as well as realizing the importance of focussing on public attitudes, law changes and accessibility.”

Dr. Steadward said this was realized because of the growth and success of the IPC and the Paralympic Movement.

“I also believe that throughout the last 20 years, we have been blessed with unbelievable leadership,” he said. “Leadership and dedication have come from the current President, Sir Philip Craven, the coaches, staff, volunteers, and most considerably the athletes. Not only have they been wonderful ambassadors for themselves, their sport and their countries, but they have also been great mentors for young people with a disability.” ■

Natalia Partyka



The Ability of Athletes With a Disability

SUMMARY OF ATHLETES WHO COMPETED IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES BRINGS THE QUESTION OF POTENTIALITY TO SURFACE

The Paralympic Games are sustainable, and after the enormous success of Beijing, they will continue to be the target for athletes with a disability. There is however an extensive history of the Paralympic Movement within not just the Paralympic Games, but the Olympic Games. And although the household name of Paralympian Oscar Pistorius (RSA) comes to mind on the mention of an athlete with a disability in the Olympic Games, there have been decades of Paralympic spirit already inside these venues.

Most recently, but not as publicized, Paralympians Natalie du Toit (RSA) and Natalia Partyka (POL) competed at the Beijing Olympics in Swimming and Table Tennis respectively. Out of the limelight and into the water, du Toit made it a point to focus on the competition throughout her performance, just as Partyka had her eyes on each Table Tennis match.

Even though so many athletes with a disability have previously competed in the Olympic Games, only in 2008 did so many sporting officials more frequently question the dynamics of the Paralympic Games and the Olympic Games. Pistorius has been referenced in causing a “tipping point” in questioning the future of the Paralympic Games and athletes with a disability.

Sir Philip Craven, President of the IPC, was asked this question in so many ways over the course of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games by various journalists and inquisitive onlookers, as well as during official press conferences. He answered each time, saying that the focus is on the present day, and to realize the distinction between the two largest sporting contests in the world.

“At the moment we are happy with the format of the Paralympic Games,” Sir Philip said. “I realize that there is a lot of interest out there going both ways in terms of the future relationship between the Paralympic Games and the Olympic Games, however the foreseeable future maintains the unique relationship which we currently have.”

The list below comprises athletes with a disability who have competed in the Olympic Games.

This article is a condensed version of one printed in PALAESTRA: The Forum

of Sport, Physical Education, and Recreation For Those With Disabilities. For more information, please visit www.palaestra.com.

Athlete	Year and City	
George Eyser (USA)	1904 (St. Louis)	
Oliver Halassy (HUN)	1928 (Amsterdam)	
	1932 (Los Angeles)	
	1936 (Berlin)	
Karoly Takacs (HUN)	1948 (London)	
	1952 (Helsinki)	
Lis Hartel (DEN)	1952 (Helsinki)	
	1956 (Stockholm/Melbourne)	
Wilma Rudolph (USA)	1956 (Stockholm/Melbourne)	
	1960 (Rome)	
Sir Murray Halberg (NZL)	1960 (Rome)	
	1964 (Tokyo)	
Neroli Fairhall (NZL)	1984 (Los Angeles)	
Jim Abbot (USA)	1988 (Seoul)	
Tamas Darnyi (HUN)	1988 (Seoul)	
	1992 (Barcelona)	
Pyambuu Tuul (MGL)	1992 (Barcelona)	
Paola Fantato (ITA)	1996 (Atlanta)	
Marla Runyan (USA)	2000 (Sydney)	
Natalie du Toit (RSA)	2008 (Beijing)	
Natalia Partyka (POL)	2008 (Beijing)	

“The Paralympic Games are sustainable, and after the enormous success of Beijing, they will continue to be the target for athletes with a disability.”



Vancouver in Less Than a Year

COUNTDOWN MARKER MET WITH FESTIVITIES
AT THE CANADIAN CAPITAL

Celebrations for the one-year countdown to the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games began in March, with Canadian cities Ottawa, Vancouver and Whistler as the background setting.

The events of the official day on 12 March included the official raising of the Paralympic Flag at Parliament Hill and a number of events. Celebrations were organized by the Government of Canada in Ottawa along with Minister of State for Sport Gary Lunn, John Furlong, CEO of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games (VANOC), Carla Qualtrough, President of the Canadian Paralympic Committee and other high-ranking officials.

In Vancouver, the public was invited to come and have their photo taken with Paralympic mascot Sumi in front of the Vancouver 2010 Countdown Clock, where cupcakes were served and Paralympic stickers handed out.

Whistler at the same time was the place to mingle with some of the world's top Paralympic Alpine Skiers starting with the awards celebration for the IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals in the afternoon, followed by the distribution of

Countdown Cake and a festive countdown celebration at the base of the Games venue.

IPC President Sir Philip was at the event in Ottawa and said Paralympic athletes and fans of the Paralympic Movement are joyfully looking forward to a unique experience in March 2010.

"From this day onwards, the excitement will mount every single day," he said. "Preparations related to the Paralympic Games are fully underway and the courage and determination of Paralympians will be inspirational for all of us. I can only recommend all to attend the Games - as a participant, volunteer or spectator!"

The following week Sir Philip personally invited the National Paralympic Committees (NPC) of the world to come to Vancouver and Whistler for the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. At the same time, the Chef de Mission Seminar gathered delegates of around 30 NPCs to receive updates on topics including Qualification, Accreditation, Sport Entries, Classification, Sport and Venues, Transport, Paralympic Village and NPC Services. Besides various

presentations and workshops aiming at briefing the NPCs on the preparations for the Winter Paralympics, listening to their needs and seeking their opinions and suggestions to improve the preparations, the seminar included a venue tour to competition venues and the Paralympic Village.

At the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, approximately 600 athletes from 45 countries are expected to compete in five sports: Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling.

For more information, please visit the official website at www.vancouver2010.com.

Watch highlights of the event on www.ParalympicSport.TV.

Above Paralympic Flag waves at Parliament Hill
Below Distinguished guests were among the many Paralympic fans at the event



Tickets Now Available for Vancouver



Official Ticket Kick-off

Official ticket sales for the upcoming Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver were launched at the beginning of May with a kick off that was met with a celebration at the Library Square Conference Centre at the North Promenade in Vancouver, Canada.

The 250,000 tickets are currently available on a first come, first serve basis. They are sold in real-time and there is not a random lottery process for any Paralympic event. Paralympic fans do have the opportunity to buy tickets for every session, however some sessions have limits on the number of tickets one can purchase.

VANOC says that 70% of Paralympic events at the Vancouver Winter Games are available to the general public, with most tickets ranging in price from CAN\$15-30. All Canadian residents, regardless of citizenship, can purchase tickets from the Vancouver Organizing Committee either online, by phone, or at box offices in Whistler and Vancouver. Non-Canadian residents must purchase tickets through their respective NPC or the Official Ticketing in their respective territory.

For the Opening Ceremony on 12 March 2010, tickets range from CAN\$30-175. Tickets are not yet available for

the Closing Ceremony, but pricing will be similar in range.

On hand for the big event were VANOC Executive Vice President (Revenue Marketing and Communications) Dave Cobb and VANOC Vice President (Ticketing and Consumer Marketing) Caley Denton. Paralympic mascot Sumi was also at the event, accompanied by four Paralympic Winter Sport athletes from Canada aiming to compete at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. Josh Dueck (Alpine Skiing), Jim Armstrong (Wheelchair Curling), Joe Skillen (Ice Sledge Hockey) and Courtney Knight (Cross-Country Skiing) each gave interviews and demonstrated their respective sports and equipment.

For information on ticket sales and prices, please visit www.vancouver2010.com.

Sumi, the Paralympic Mascot, is passionate about the environment and is a fan of all Paralympic sports





ANNOUNCEMENT

Upcoming Athletes' Council Elections

The call for nominations for the IPC Athletes' Council (AC) Elections taking place during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games will be sent out by the IPC at the beginning of September.

The IPC AC is composed of nine Paralympic athlete representatives elected for a four-year term. Six athlete representatives are elected from summer sports and three from winter sports at the Paralympic Games. Athlete candidates are nominated by their respective NPC, and must have competed at a Paralympic Games within the previous eight years.

All NPCs who have widely and regularly practiced Paralympic Winter Sport in the past four years will have the chance to submit candidates who demonstrate strong qualities of leadership, accomplishment, knowledge and respect, both on and off the field of play.

Further information regarding the submission process will follow in the coming months.

LATEST NEWS

Candidate City Tour Concludes

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Evaluation Commission for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games finished its busy four-city tour in early May, officially completing the site inspections. The Commission including IPC representative Greg Hartung, is lead by Chairperson Nawal El Moutawakel.

The first stop on the list was Chicago (USA) in early April. The Commission was presented with details of the city's Candidature File, ranging from Environment to Paralympics. During the visit, various federal, state and local government officials, leaders from the business, civic and community world as well as Olympic and Paralympic athletes introduced their respective areas of expertise. The visit ended with a tour of the proposed venue sites.

Second on the list was Tokyo (Japan) in mid-April. The inspection in the Japanese capital included meetings with several Government representatives like the Prime Minister, the Japanese Olympic and Paralympic Committees, Sports Federations, the Japanese business community, and numerous Olympians and Paralympians which Tokyo has involved in the planning process. Along with members of the sports community, the Commission also met with volunteers and was briefed on several subjects such as the Tokyo 2016 legacy and sustainability.

The third city visited was Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in late April and early May. The inspection was

over the course of four days and included meetings with and presentations by several Government representatives, such as Minister of Sport Orlando Silva, Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes and Governor Sergio Cabral, Rio 2016 Bid Committee members, as well as Paralympic and Olympic athletes from Brazil.

The fourth and final city was Madrid (Spain). From 5-8 May, the 2016 Evaluation Commission was in the Spanish capital for a series of meetings and presentations by representatives from the Spanish Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Spanish government and the bid committee as well as Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

In Madrid, as well as every other city visit, the Evaluation Commission had an in-depth look, provided through presentations and on-site visits, into 17 different themes, including Paralympic Games, Transport, Accommodation, Technology, Media Operations, Environment and Meteorology, Finance, Security, Sport and Venues and Athletes Village(s).

The outcome will be summarized in a technical report, which will be published and submitted to all IOC members no later than one month before the election of the Host City, which takes place on 2 October during the IOC Session in Copenhagen, Denmark.

For more information about the bid for the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, please visit the official website of the IOC at www.olympic.org.

London 2012



The latest London 2012 webcam images are always available on the official website

Massive Survey on Accessibility Underway

A major survey has been commissioned to improve accessibility in London for all people with and without a disability, for the purpose of creating the most inclusive Paralympic Games in 2012.

The Deputy Mayor of London, Richard Barnes, has made an official call on everyone who has any difficulty getting around the British capital to bring in their ideas and suggestions to improve the city ahead of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Mr. Barnes said that all Paralympians, spectators and visitors must be able to participate in what London has to offer without experiencing obstacles.

The goal of the survey is to bring in everybody who finds it difficult to get around the city, including persons with a disability, parents with young children and older adults. The city's government sees this as a great opportunity to show the world an inclusive and accessible London in 2012, making hospitality services available for everyone.

This accessibility survey is held in partnership with Direct Enquiries, the Nationwide Access Register. It is part of a series, and other surveys will follow, covering a range of issues like parking and getting around London, as well as how people are treated in the city.

To take part in the accessibility survey, please go to <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/olympics/accessibility>.

Fourth Co-ordination Commission

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Co-ordination Commission for the London 2012 Games, including IPC representative Patrick Jarvis, received updates in April from the London 2012 Organizing Committee (LOCOG), the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the other organizations involved in preparing for the Games.

This fourth visit to London was held over three days, and included a tour of the site of the Olympic Green in the city's north east, which will host the majority of the Paralympic sports in 2012. During a Paralympic working group session, LOCOG and the IPC discussed the general progress on the Paralympics, with additional focus on Accommodation, Transport, Venue locations as well plans for selling the broadcast rights for the Paralympics.

Said Mr. Jarvis: "We are very pleased with the progress made on the planning for the Paralympic Games. Following fantastic and colourful Games in Beijing, the distinct potential of the Paralympic Games has been fully embraced by LOCOG through an integrated working approach."

Around 4,200 athletes from 150 countries are expected to participate in the London 2012 Paralympic Games from 29 August to 9 September 2012.

For more information, please see the official website at www.london2012.com.

Sochi 2014



First Project Review Completed

The delivery of the first accessible Paralympic Winter Games in Russia was over-viewed in Sochi at the end of April, including topics from Venue Development, Transport, Marketing and Communications, to Education, Technology and the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Legacy.

The IPC delegation, which included five representatives, met with key officials from the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Russian Paralympic Committee and the Olympstroy State Corporation. During the meetings, Sochi 2014 presented two major programmes to the IPC aiming on changing attitudes towards people living with a disability in Russia.

One landmark activity agreed to help achieve this is a 'Paralympic Day', which will celebrate the Paralympic Movement, and thus educate people living in cities across Russia in December 2009.

Another key element will be fully integrating the Sochi 2014 Volunteer Programme into the Paralympic Games preparation, which will see volunteers trained specially to provide maximum support for athletes and visitors with a disability.

The second major programme presented at the Project Review focuses on creating an environment without barriers, with Sochi becoming an accessible and barrier-free city for the Sochi 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and beyond.

The Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee plans to promote the Paralympic ideals in Russia

Accessibility Legacy

The Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games will help to accelerate social cohesion, give access to winter sports and improve quality of life for the 11 million people in Russia living with a disability. Sports venues in Sochi will also be fully equipped for people with a disability in keeping with the IPC requirements. Additionally, the region's transport vehicles, infrastructure, and information provision will be enhanced for residents and visitors with a disability.

Dmitry Chernyshenko, Sochi 2014 President and CEO, said: "The Sochi 2014 Paralympic Games have reinforced Russia's commitment to social advancement. In preparation for the Games and Sochi's continued development into a world class tourist destination, we will set new standards for urban planning and development to improve the lives of people with a disability in Sochi and across the nation."

For more information about the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, please visit the official website at www.sochi2014.com.



Swimming Summit Meets Expectations

MEMBERS OF THE SWIMMING COMMUNITY OUTLINE FUTURE WITH BERLIN AS A BACKDROP

The first three days in June brought out IPC Swimming to Berlin, Germany, with the overall goal of engaging each attendee and promoting a real dialogue. This was the first IPC Swimming Summit and it followed in the spirit of the IPC Athletics Summit which occurred just months earlier in Bonn.

Before the IPC Swimming Summit, members of the Swimming community undoubtedly had their list of items and expectations that they were ready to bring to the table in Berlin. As a result, the Summit brought organizers and participants together to develop many planned-for objectives, as well as find newly discovered ones.

IPC Swimming Sport Manager Agnes Szilak was the main organizer behind the inaugural event. She said there was no such gathering since the 2006 Sports Forum and there was a need to align thinking, directions and priorities.

"The IPC Swimming Summit collected experts from different fields and put them together to correlate and combine thoughts," Ms. Szilak said. "The Summit determined our priorities, where we had to focus first, and what could be done later."

Ms. Szilak saw the Summit as a chance to learn from the past, identifying all challenges. With 20 countries represented at the Summit, this information is valuable in finding what does need to improve to determine the future of IPC Swimming.

"It is important that everybody understands the needs of others, and to accept that there might be other matters more important," she said. "Being objective is important, as we then are able to accomplish more."

Australia's Swimming coach Brendan Keogh agrees with Ms. Szilak. Before the Summit he explained that there was a need to have a vision in which everyone can agree upon, and which accurately reflects where the Paralympic Sport is headed.

"I hope to bring an Australian vision for Swimming," Mr. Keogh said. "From my own perspective I would like to see coaches having more of a voice. We want the best for the swimmers and we are the ones dealing with them on a daily basis."

Mr. Keogh decided to attend the Summit because he recognized the opportunity for him to not only voice his opinion, but also listen to what other participants wanted to contribute, with the hope of beginning a new era for IPC Swimming.

Athlete David Smetanine from France, member of the IPC Athletes' Council, saw the Summit as a chance to bring a new vision to IPC Swimming, bringing people who are connected to the Paralympic sport together to make it stronger.

"I have been dealing with Swimming for a long time now, and I am sure that because of this experience, I could contribute to its development," he said. "This is a great opportunity for all of us to take the time and discuss important changes."

One of the changes that fellow athlete Teresa Perales from Spain hoped to see is improving Swimming for athletes with high support needs.

"I know that it is very difficult, but if we do not, we will lose the Paralympic spirit and the magic of the sport," Ms. Perales said.

Ms. Perales was able to bring her experience of three Paralympic Games to the Summit. She competed in Sydney, Athens and Beijing.

"I want to explain the importance of practice and sport from an active point of view," Ms. Perales said. "I train a lot, I compete and I know what it means to make a dream come true. I want other athletes to have the chance to do that as well."



David Smetanine, Teresa Perales and Brendan Keogh

Like other attendees at the Summit, Ms. Perales was very excited about the event and knew there would be a lot of people with the same goal.

"I hope we improve the sport of Swimming, work in the athletes' best interests, and make our competitions more attractive to everybody," Ms. Perales said.

Sessions Extract Priorities

When the IPC Swimming Summit ran through its third and final day, it was clear that the expectations and goals presented were reached.

The themes of the Summit, "The Water is Open, Make Your Splash, Create the Wave", gave the participants a chance to put together their ideas and answer questions beforehand in preparation. "The Water is Open" aimed to look at things from all aspects, and thinking broadly to create changes in the future. "Make Your Splash" brought ideas to

the table for the purpose of listening and learning from others. Finally, "Create the Wave" wanted participants to make the input known and therefore build the future of the sport.

The format of the Summit was based on Open Space Technology, which is the idea that each person will have topics or ideas to share, as well as contribute to other topic areas. The organizers of the Summit set the themes mentioned, but the specific order of events and workshops was left up to the participants in the first hour of the first session.

Discussion papers which were submitted from participants from around the world were utilized in each session and expanded upon as everyone had a chance to have their own opinion heard, getting direct feedback from others.

The third and final day included a summary session which closed the Summit with general feedback and recommen-

dations from the 70 participants toward the future of the Paralympic Sport.

The end of the Summit is but another step forward for the Paralympic Sport, and will continue to bring more and more individuals into the influential dialogue.



Participants exchange ideas

"The organizers of the Summit set the themes mentioned, but the specific order of events and workshops was left up to the participants in the first hour of the first session."



Discussion papers were sent from all around the world for the Summit

The Open Space Technology allows themes to be set at the beginning of an event



Para Table Tennis Matched at International Federation



Jordi Serra

ITTF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JORDI SERRA EXPLAINS ENCOMPASSING TABLE TENNIS UMBRELLA

As a child, Jordi Serra had always regarded Table Tennis as the sport of his life. After trying out his own skills as a player, he went on to become a coach and an umpire, thoroughly learning about the sport from several perspectives. Eventually, Mr. Serra became involved in the Barcelona, Catalonia and Spanish Table Tennis Federations.

Now as Executive Director of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), Mr. Serra recognizes how the sport has grown and the significance of his leadership in moving it forward together with the Paralympic Movement.

Can you describe the integration process of Para Table Tennis (PTT) into the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)?

The first contact with ITTF was in 2001. The IPC was also involved following its decision in 2003 to promote sports independence. The decision by the ITTF was taken in 2005 to integrate what was then the International Paralympic Table Tennis Committee into the ITTF. The IPC Table Tennis Assembly formally resolved at its assembly held in Montreux, Switzerland, appropriately close to the ITTF headquarters in Lausanne, to recommend to the IPC Governing Board that it becomes part of the ITTF. This was formalized in 2007 with the transfer of governance agreement being signed, and the Para Table Tennis Division being born under the ITTF on 1 July 2007. This is the technical aspect of the integration process between IPC and ITTF.

What has been the response in the international community of the integration?

It has generally been positive as it is a process being implemented in several international federations. With increasing integration at a national level, there is a clear filtering process into the nation's society and this can only be good for us all.

How has the integration at a national level progressed?

There is a variation in the level of integration from full integration through to separate structures in several other nations. We are working with the IPC to move up the pace of integration, and we hope this will happen in most of our member nations by the beginning of 2010. This is when the ITTF national members will be responsible for the entry process to ITTF Para Table Tennis (PTT) events including the World Championships to be held in Korea.

It has become clear that in many nations, even though there may not be full integration, players with and without a disability often play at the same clubs and indeed against each other in local leagues, including sitting players against players without a disability! I think for both the IPC and ITTF, it has been a steep learning curve but the ITTF promotes "One Sport, One Family" and thus is a sport without any barriers to entry or participation.

Can you describe your motto "One Sport, One Family"?

I think it is a very easy way to communicate to everybody our wish of full integration. We do not think there is a specific "Table Tennis for able-bodied athletes" and another, "Table Tennis for athletes with a disability". We all believe that we have only one sport, which is "Table Tennis". Everybody practicing this sport is part of the Table Tennis family.

Why do some national associations need guidance in the integration process?

Firstly, many societies have not been tolerant of disability traditionally and therefore they need to overcome the stereotypes with which they have grown up. This is an ongoing education issue and the Paralympic Movement in sport has promoted this particularly with the Paralympic Games and the posi-

tive media generated. There are various national associations which are not well-off and thus believe that the integration will be costly. We are promoting the concepts of reducing duplication overall in the sport and that there is a value added concept as a result for governments to consider as well as the private sector.

What are the advantages of having the accountability line to the ITTF Board of Directors?

The advantages for us at an international level mirror those at a national level. We are able to promote a single international federation responsible for our sport. We incorporated the specific rules for Para Table Tennis into our rules in 2005 and this allows us to move into training umpires and referees to officiate at any Table Tennis event at all levels of our sport. Our Equipment Committee approves the tables which are compatible for players who use a wheelchair. We are working towards an integrated development programme and have already produced a level one coaching course for potential PTT coaches. This all arises from the accountability to the Board of Directors.

How can sustainability be best achieved?

Sustainability is not only an issue applicable to PTT, but also to ITTF. Everyday we grapple with how we can improve our services to our membership and provide a return on investment. Sustainability is integrally linked to commitment, and in reality, the commitment of individuals to Table Tennis is the key to sustainability.

Many think that sustainability only refers to finances, but without people the ITTF would not exist. Having said that, funding does promote overall sustainability particularly since the ability of volunteers to contribute in the current economic circumstance is certainly being put to the test. Our sustainability is therefore based on people, our development programmes, delivery to our



ITTF motto

"We are working with the IPC to move up the pace of integration, and we hope this will happen in most of our member nations by the beginning of 2010."

stakeholders including funders as well as ensuring we have a positive reputation in terms of good governance.

What are some challenges ahead?

The main issue in relation to PTT is ensuring that the national and local integration process is facilitated and takes root in all of our activities. One of the main issues for ITTF is to develop the funding streams for the organization including PTT which is a particular challenge in the current economic climate. With the proliferation of sports in the international arena, we are working to ensure that Table Tennis and the ITTF remain top of mind which means we must

remain relevant to internal and external stakeholders, promote good governance, and ultimately expand our membership.

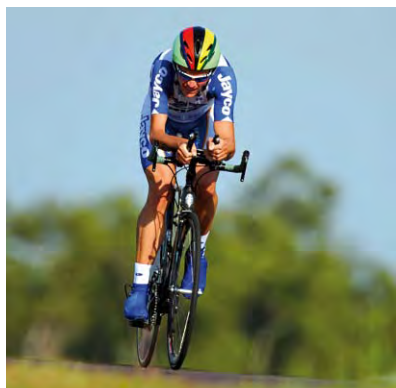
For more information about ITTF, please visit www.ittf.com.

To watch Table Tennis footage, visit www.ParalympicSport.TV.



Table Tennis in Beijing

BT Paralympic World Cup Finishes in Manchester



The Paralympic World Cup bridges the gap between the Paralympic Games

The annual world class multi-sport event for elite international athletes with a disability did not disappoint Paralympic fans in Manchester, Great Britain. In what was created to bridge the gap between the four yearly Paralympic Summer Games brought out over 400 participants from over 31 countries this year from 20-25 May.

Athletes competed for a total of 357 medals with the final two days seeing swimmers cutting through the water at the Manchester Aquatics Center. The 2008 BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year, Eleanor Simmonds (GBR), took the gold medal in the Women's 100m Freestyle (S6) with a time of 37.15sec. Simmonds was followed by Natalie Jones (GBR) and Erika Nara (JPN). In the Men's 100m Freestyle (S11), Poland's Damian Pietrasik took the gold with a time of 1:03.41, followed by Keiichi Kimura (JPN) and Philip Scholz (USA) respectively.

Familiar Paralympian Natalie Du Toit from South Africa also reached her gold medal target in the Women's 100m Freestyle (S9) with a time of 1:02.42. Du Toit was followed by Great Britain's Louise Watkin and Stephanie Milward. In the Men's 200m Individual Medley (SM10), Brazil's Andre Esteves placed first, over four seconds ahead of silver medal winning Lucas Ludwig from Germany. Australia's Rick Pendleton and Jeremy Tidy took third and fourth place respectively.

On 24 May, Paralympic fans got their first taste of Athletics since athletes were inside the Bird's Nest in Beijing, competing at the Games. Well-known Paralympian Oscar Pistorius from South Africa was the focus of many spectators as he took two gold medals over the span of the day in the Men's 100m (T44) and the Men's 400m.

"Paralympic fans got their first taste of Athletics since athletes were inside the Bird's Nest in Beijing, competing at the Games."



The fifth day saw over 100 athletes competing in Athletics in Manchester

James Singleton (USA) and Ian Jones (GBR) took the silver and bronze in the 100m respectively. Jones also won in the 400m, taking the silver medal, followed by David Prince (USA) who took the bronze.

In the Women's 200m (T46), Russia's Nikol Rodomakina and Evgeniya Kutasonova took the gold and silver medals, followed by Poland's Alicja Fiodorow. The Women's 100m (T44) results had a good mix of winners with Germany's Katrin Green in first, followed by Marie-Amelie Le Fur (FRA) and Stefanie Reid (CAN) respectively.

The Track Cycling event had an extensive three days of competition, with a qualification round in the 4km and 3km Pursuit filling the first day. On 21 May, Great Britain's Jody Cundy took the gold in the Men's 1,000m (LC1/LC2/CP4). Cundy finished at 1:06.03, followed by Ishii Masahi (JPN) and Mark Bristow (GBR) respectively. In the Women's 500m (LC1/LC2/CP4), USA's Jennifer Schuble set a new world record in her class with 38.957sec. Schuble was preceded by Sarah Storey (GBR) and followed by Greta Neimanas (USA) in the overall placing.

Athletes in Wheelchair Basketball had four full days to compete in their Paralympic Sport, with Women's teams from China, the Netherlands, Mexico, and Great Britain. Men's teams were from Germany, Australia, Great Britain and USA. The first day's third session began with China (Women) winning against Great Britain 48:46. The second and final game saw The Netherlands (Women) win against Mexico 56:37.

In the Men's Final on 23 May, Australia outscored the USA in every quarter, giving them the gold medal win 69:48. The Men's bronze medal game saw Great Britain win against Germany 69:49. In the Women's Final, The Netherlands took the gold medal, with the silver going to Mexico and the bronze to China.

For full results from the 2009 BT Paralympic World Cup, please visit www.btparalympicworldcup.com.

For footage of the 2009 BT Paralympic World Cup, go to www.ParalympicSport.TV.

Nordic Skiing Finals Conclude in Mt. Washington

After the 2009 IPC Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing World Cup Finals in Mt. Washington, Canada, completed the World Cup series, final rankings were subsequently calculated, additionally encompassing the 2009 Paralympic Winter World Cup in Solleftea, Sweden, and the 2009 IPC Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing World Cup in Whistler, Canada.

The big event in Mt. Washington was the final series of World Cup races, taking place from 11-14 March, with athletes from 19 different nations at the Canadian venue in Comox Valley.

Finishing atop the list in the Women's Sitting Cross-Country Skiing category was Liudmila Vauchok from Belarus with a total of 580 points. Following Vauchok were Monica Bascio from USA and Olena Lurkovska from Ukraine. In the Men's Sitting category, Irek Zaripov from Russia finished first with a total of 380 points, followed by Dzmitry Loban from Belarus, and Roman Petushkov from Russia.

In the Women's Standing Cross-Country Skiing category, Anna Burmistrova from Russia finished first with 340 points, followed by Larisa Varona from Belarus and Katarzyna Rogowicz from Poland. In the Men's Standing category, Ilkka Tuomisto from Finland finished first with 336 points, followed by Yoshihiro Nitta from Japan and Nils-Erik Ulset from Norway.

In the Women's Visually Impaired Cross-Country Skiing category, Yadviha Skorabhataya with guide Vasili Haurukovich from Belarus finished first with 410 points. Coming in second and third were Tatiana Ilyuchenko with guide Valery Koshkin from Russia and Robbi Weldon with guide Brian Berry from Canada. In the Men's Visually Impaired category, Vasili Shaptsiaboi with guide Mikalai Shablouski from Belarus finished first with 405 points, followed by Russia's Nikolay Polukhin with guide Andrey Tokarev and Evgeniy Safronov with guide Salavat Gumerov.

In the Women's Sitting Biathlon race, Olena Lurkovska from Ukraine was at the top of the list with 340 points, followed by Irina Polyakova from Russia and Lyudmyla Pavlenko from Ukraine. In the Men's Sitting category, Georges Bettega from France took first with 385 points, followed by Irek Zaripov from Russia and Trygve Larson from Norway.

The Women's Biathlon Standing category saw Oleksandra Kononova from Ukraine take first with 400 points, followed by Shoko Ota from Japan with 365 points, and Pamela Novaglio from Italy with 273 points. The Men's Standing category saw Nils-Erik Ulset from Norway take first with 460 points, followed by Yannick Bourseaux from France and Grygorii Vovchynskyi from Ukraine.

Yadviha Skorabhataya and guide Vasili Haurukovich from Belarus once again took first position in the Women's Biathlon Visually Impaired category with 386 points. She was followed by Russia's Tatiana Ilyuchenko with guide Valery Koshkin and Liubov Vasileva with guide Viacheslav Goldinov. In the Men's Visually Impaired category, Thomas Clarion from France with guide Tommy Terraz took first position with 435 points. He was followed by Irek Mannanov with guide Salavat Gumerov from Russia and Vitaliy Lukyanenko with guide Volodymyr Ivanov from Ukraine.

The complete World Cup Rankings can be found at www.ipc-nordic-skiing.org.



A total of 19 countries were represented in Mt. Washington



Athletes Power Through Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals



Canada won the overall Nation Ranking for the first time, followed by Austria and the USA

A total of 130 athletes from 19 countries came to Whistler, Canada, for the final races in Downhill, Super-G, Super Combined, Giant Slalom and Slalom. And after four days of exciting competitions, the 2008/2009 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup season officially ended on 14 March with many athletes having reached their respective finish lines.

With her wins in the Giant Slalom and Slalom, Lauren Woolstencroft (CAN) became the dominating athlete in Whistler, and subsequently the best Alpine skier of the season. In the Women's Standing category, Woolstencroft won the World Cup Rankings in Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super-G and Downhill, and the overall World Cup Ranking of all disciplines combined. Melania Corradini from Italy won the ranking in Super Combined.

Germany's Gerd Schoenfelder was as successful as Woolstencroft this season in the Men's Standing category. Schoenfelder won the final Giant Slalom and Slalom races in Whistler, and finished first in all World Cup Rankings, except the Slalom where Vincent Gauthier-Manuel from France managed to take first place, followed by Adam Hall from New Zealand and Schoenfelder respectively.

The Women's Sitting category was dominated by Austrian skier Claudia Loesch and Laurie Stephens from the USA. Loesch placed third in the final Giant Slalom race of the season, first in the Slalom, and as a result, she placed first in the Slalom World Cup Rankings. Loesch also won the Super Combined World Cup and the overall World Cup Ranking. Laurie Stephens took first place in the Giant Slalom race on 13 March, and was first in the Downhill and the Giant Slalom World Cup Point Lists. The Men's Sitting category saw many different winners this sea-

son. The Slalom World Cup Point List was won by Harald Eder (AUT), whereas Japanese Taiki Morii placed first in the Giant Slalom World Cup Point List. The speed disciplines were dominated by USA's skiers, with Christopher Devlin-Young winning the Super-G World Cup and Tyler Walker taking the Downhill World Cup. German Martin Braxenthaler finished first in the Super Combined World Cup and managed to repeat his win in the overall World Cup from last season, just 13 points ahead of Morii.

After winning the last Giant Slalom race of the season on 13 March, Canadian Vivian Forest and her guide Lindsay Debou managed to win the Giant Slalom, Downhill, Super Combined and overall World Cup Rankings this season in the Women's Visually Impaired category. Henrieta Farkasova and her guide Natalia Subrtova from Slovakia won the Slalom on 14 March, and finished first in the Super-G World Cup Point List. The Slalom World Cup was won by Anna Cohi from Spain and her guide Raquel Garcia.

Jon Santacana (ESP) together with his guide Miguel Galindo dominated the Men's Visually Impaired category, winning the overall World Cup Rankings, and the Giant Slalom, Super-G, Downhill and Super Combined World Cup Rankings. The Slalom World Cup was won by Jakub Krako (SVK) and his guide Juraj Medera.

The overall Nation Ranking was won, for the first time, by Canada, followed by Austria and USA.

For complete results of the IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals and the complete World Cup Rankings, please visit www.ipc-alpineskiing.org.

For highlights, watch www.ParalympicSport.TV.

Full Programme at Arafura Games

With eight Paralympic sports on the schedule at the 2009 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia, spectators had the chance to experience a fantastically integrated event.

A total of 367 athletes with a disability from 30 different countries were among the over 3,000 participants. The various sports included Athletics, Cycling (Road), Football 7-a-Side, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis and Wheelchair Tennis.

On the final day of competition on 17 May, Great Britain claimed their win in Football 7-a-Side against the host country. With the final score at 2:0, goals were scored from Michael Wilson and Richard Fox. The bronze medal game earlier in the day between Korea and Japan saw Korea win, also 2:0.

In the Men's Powerlifting competition, Mohammed Khamiss Khalaf from the United Arab Emirates took the first position with a formula score of 195.42. Coming in second position was Darren Gardiner from Australia with a score of 180.37. In the Women's competition, Tzu Hui Lin from Chinese Taipei took first with 114.51, followed by compatriot Ya Hsuan Lin with 78.42. The scores are calculated according to the so-called A.H. Formula. This means that the bodyweight of each athlete is equated to a coefficient that in turn is multiplied against their best result.

Paralympian Michael Gallagher from Australia stole the spotlight days earlier, after winning the gold medal in the Men's Cycling Time Trial on 14 May. Gallagher covered 31.6 km with a time of 45:50min, faster than all other athletes, including able-bodied.

Gallagher is no stranger to a gold medal however, finishing first in the Men's Individual Pursuit (LC1) at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, and also the bronze medal in the Men's Individual Road Race (LC1-2/CP4).

In Athletics, a World record was broken in the Women's T42 200m event. Australia's Kelly Cartwright and Michelle Errichiello finished their heats both before the previous 40.20sec record. Errichiello ran first, clocking at 37.79sec. Less than five minutes later, Cartwright finished at a time of 36.48sec in the following heat. The athletes share the same coach, Paralympian Tim Matthews.

New Zealand's Grant Phillip took the second position in the Men's Shooting Air Rifle competition on 13 May, about one point behind Australia's Jason Maroney. In the Men's Shooting Air Pistol competition, Australia took control of the results, with James Nomarhas in first position, while teammates Steve McCormack and Mark Gleeson followed in minor placings.



Football 7-a-Side was one of eight Paralympic sports in Darwin

The event was held from 9-17 May in partnership with the Oceania Paralympic Committee and the Australian Paralympic Committee, and incorporated athletes with a disability in the Oceania Paralympic Championships. The Oceania Paralympic Championships were open to eligible athletes with a disability from all countries around the world.

IPC Women in Sport Summit in Darwin

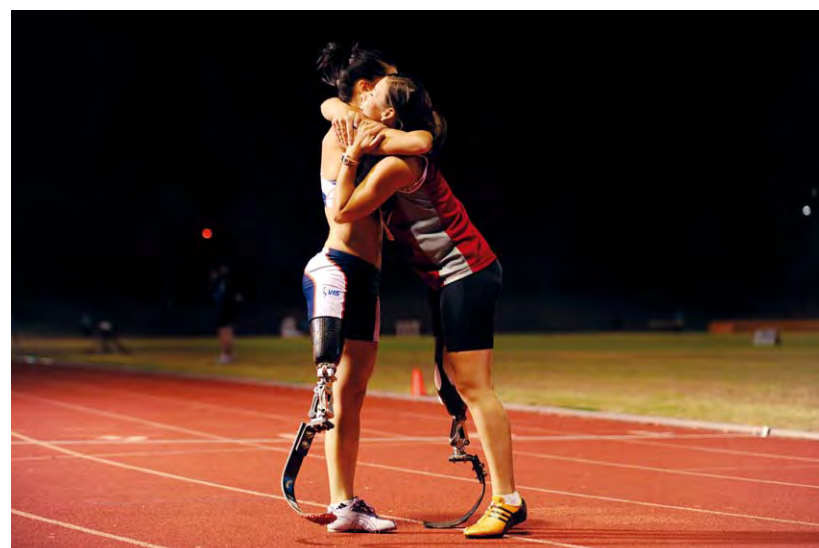
At the beginning weekend of the Games, the Arafura Games International Sports Conference held three streams as programme cornerstones, one of which incorporated an IPC Women in Sport Summit.

Called the "Paralympic Sport Stream", the conference provided development opportunities to athletes, administrators, coaches and officials. Taking

place at the Darwin Convention Centre, attendees at the conference had the chance to share knowledge, exchange information and learn about the current issues which are relevant to their respective sport.

Tine Rindum Teilmann, chairperson of the IPC Women in Sport Committee, was the keynote speaker on the first day, addressing Paralympic Sport and the growth of the Paralympic Movement. Ms. Teilmann spoke to the audience on female participation in sport and sports leadership, and on how to increase the awareness of female participation and increase the opportunities for women in leadership inside the Movement.

For more information about the 2009 Arafura Games, please visit www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au.



Arafura Games have been held every two years in the capital of Australia's Northern Territory, Darwin, since 1991

Paralympic Sport Accelerates in Colombia

WITH 5,000 ATHLETES REPRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE, NPC COLOMBIA HAS A FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS THIS YEAR

To begin with a little history and background, the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Colombia was created from a legal framework set by the Associated Sport System for people with a physical, mental and sensory disability. Being part of the national sport system, the foundation of the Committee was conceived, processed and submitted by various leaders in the Paralympic community. Because the Colombian legislators supported the formation, a clearer pathway for NPC Colombia has taken shape.

Under the umbrella of the committee are five federations, which include the Colombian Wheelchair Sport Federation, Colombian Sport Federation for People with a Visual Impairment, Colombian Sport Deaf Federation, Colombian Sport Federation with Cerebral Palsy, and the Colombian Special Sport Federation.

NPC Colombia spoke with The Paralympian, highlighting their growth and success in recent years.

Could you explain the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games experience and the team's results?

Colombia's team felt it could really have strong results with our twelve athletes in Beijing. It was the first time in history there were more than ten competitors at the Paralympic Games. At the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, the participation was almost about half that of Beijing.

The two Paralympic medals we won made our country very proud. Swimmer Moisés Fuentes took the bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke (S4), and Elkin Serna got the silver medal in the Men's Marathon event (T11) on the last day. Together, it was the same number of medals that our country's Olympic athletes brought home from Beijing.

What other competitions or championships have been important globally and regionally?

The important competitions include the Parapan American Games, Youth Parapan American Games, and the National Paralympic Championships.

NPC Colombia also participates in World Championships. For example, we were for the first time at the IPC Athletics World Championships (France 2002), Cycling World Championships (Switzerland 2006), Boccia (Rio de Janeiro) and Swimming (Bordeaux, France).

We hope to increase our participation in all Paralympic Sport competitions in the future.

Could you explain the main objectives of the Committee?

NPC Colombia is the entity that promotes the formulation and implementation of the sport public policy, recreation and the sport rehabilitation within the Colombian Paralympic System. It also co-ordinates and implements the different programmes of Paralympic sports in the Colombian territory, along with its previously mentioned federations.



Moisés Fuentes won the bronze in 100m breaststroke in Beijing

What have some of the recent challenges been?

The main challenges are the Parapan American Youth Games this year in Bogota, the upcoming Boccia America's Cup, the Para-Cycling Championships in Cali (Colombia 2010), the National Paralympic Championships in 2011.

We are also working on the support of the candidature for the Panamerican and Parapan American Games in 2015, taking place in Bogota, and we would like to strengthen the Paralympic system in looking ahead to the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

What educational programmes have taken place in Colombia, related to Paralympic Sport?

We are implementing agreements with universities to establish a professorship in Paralympic sports in technical, medical and administrative topics.

We are also using the web as a teaching method. We have made pedagogical videos about Paralympic Sport, which have been broadcasted on public

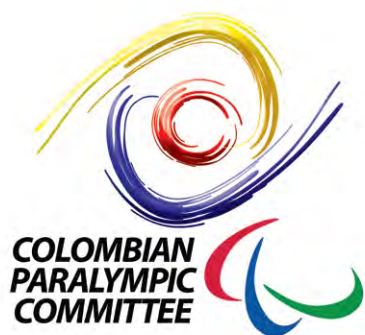
television, getting the most out of the sports events. We have made an institutional bulletin, called "Paralympic Facts", distributed through e-mail. We also had an international seminar about Paralympic Sport within the frame of the upcoming Parapan American Youth Games in October, and we will organize an international Swimming course together with the IPC during the event.

What is the media and audience response to Paralympic Sport in Colombia?

It is very much optimal. It has been an absolute surprise and something we really appreciate. We have had very

important exposure from the media, which have spread the awareness about Paralympic Sport in our country. We had a three and a half hour broadcast during the Beijing Games where high level sports journalists changed their own minds about the Paralympic sport concept after becoming more familiar with it.

The audience is learning more about these sports and they are recognizing it as high performance, but also as an opportunity for inclusion. Even though we currently have a very young system, it is recognized by all media in the country.



Columbian athlete
Jainer Cantillo Portada

+++ NPC TICKER +++



Mr. Gerard Masson is the new President of NPC France, Mr. Yves Foucault is the new Vice President and Mr. Jean-Paul Moreau is the new Secretary General.



Ms. Anne d'Ieteren is the new President of NPC Belgium, and Mr. Philippe Mees is the new Secretary General. The term of office is four years.



In the United Arab Emirates, His Excellence Mohammad Al Hameli is the new President of the NPC, His Excellence Tariq Al Mansouri is the new Vice President, His Excellence Thani Berregad is the new Second Vice President, and Mr. Majid Rashed is the new Secretary General.



Mr. Davaa Nyamkhuu is the new President of NPC Mongolia, and Ms. Nasanbat Oyunbat is the new Secretary General.



In Austria, Ms. Maria Rauch-Kallat is the new President of the NPC, and Mr. Peter Wittman is the new Honorary President.



Panagiotis Stamatopoulos is the new President of NPC Greece, Georgios Kouzas is the new First Vice President, Ioannis Karakoulakis is the new Second Vice President, and Georgios Fountoulakis is the new Secretary General.



Allianz Visits World Cup in Whistler



Allianz had a strong presence in Whistler

IPC Gold Patron Allianz made its first visit to an IPC World Cup event in March this year at the 2009 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals in Whistler, Canada, in a clear effort to support the Paralympic Winter Sport series.

This visit is a part of a much broader goal in producing a new edition of their "Paralympic Moments" project, which follows their previous work leading up to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. This time around, Allianz is focusing their "Paralympic Moments" on the athletes aiming to compete in the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. The project is a collection of video clips which show athletes in their sporting life, taking a look at past Paralympic Games and looking ahead to Vancouver.

During the IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals in Canada, Allianz took the opportunity to film some footage of three athletes. The portraits recorded focused on Danja Haslacher, Martin Braxenthaler and Tyler Walker, all of whom competed in Whistler and are hoping to reach the podium in Vancouver next year. Additionally, Allianz met with the IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee, the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC), IPC President Sir Philip, and the Disable Skiers Association of British Columbia.

Allianz, as the Gold Patron of the IPC, has said that throughout 2009 they will be creating more "Paralympic Moments" in other Paralympic Winter sports like Ice Sledge Hockey, Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing.

In looking back at the last three years of co-operation with Allianz, together with its partners have helped foster public awareness and create a greater interest in Paralympic Sport in general. The partnership initiated with the IPC and the Deutsche Behindertensportverband (DBS) by Allianz in 2006 continues the commitment to supporting athletes in preparing for the Paralympic Games.

Together with Paralympic athletes, Allianz wants to share its passion for Paralympic Sport and provide insight into the Paralympic Movement, spreading emotions associated with the sports to a broad audience.

For more information about Allianz, please visit www.allianz.com. **Paralympic Moments will be available starting next winter on www.ParalympicSport.TV.**

Outstanding Events Advance Movement



Edelman and IPC Continue Public Relations



The IPC renewed its global working relationship with Edelman as its Official Media & Communications Agency. The assignment is an extension of an agreement originally forged in 2006, when Edelman was selected as the IPC's first global public relations agency of record.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven said Edelman has been a terrific partner to the IPC over the past three years, and particularly around the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. "Their expertise in the sports industry and media relations, combined with their global reach, has helped us improve our global communications efforts, expanding the Paralympic message to a much broader audience," said Sir Philip.

Edelman will continue to support the IPC on the development of its global public relations programme and implementation in key countries, leveraging the firm's expertise in sports marketing, corporate reputation, consumer and multicultural marketing, and issues management. Edelman's IPC team, based across the UK, USA, Canada, Germany and China, will expand to include offices in Russia and Australia as part of the new agreement.

Kate Gordon, Edelman's UK Head of Sports & Sponsorship, said: "Our relationship with the IPC means a great deal to Edelman on many levels. This project not only offers an interesting and challenging assignment for our sports teams around the world, but we truly believe in the power of the Paralympic Movement to change attitudes and perceptions in a positive way. It is rewarding for us to put our expertise to work for such an important organization."

For more information about Edelman, visit www.edelman.com.

With each fundraising event that carries the banner of the Paralympic Movement and the IPC, further commitment to the future of Paralympic Sport is openly displayed.

A good example is the IPC Gala which took place in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, toward the end of last year.

Funding partner of the IPC, Charity & Sport, organized the big event to support various development projects of the IPC all around the world. President of Charity & Sport Rob Visser presented IPC President Sir Philip Craven with a cheque for EUR 151,000 that evening, evidence of the strong commitment that the organization has toward the IPC and Paralympic Sport. Sir Philip said that the success of the event in Rotterdam clearly promotes the Paralympic Movement on a large scale.

The Dutch organization aims to bring the worlds of sport and charity closer together. Their goal is to support the sporting world in showing more social responsibility and doing more for the community. Guided by four key principles, including helping others, involvement, goodwill and community spirit, Charity & Sport has agreed to raise funds in the Netherlands for the IPC and the Paralympic Movement through various activities.

For more information about Charity & Sport, visit www.charityensport.nl.



The IPC Gala was held in St. Laurenskerken, the biggest church of Rotterdam

MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC NEWS

Boosting Scientific Survey Presses Education



Preparing Boosting investigation with Stuart Willick at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games

In 2006, the IPC successfully applied for a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Social Science Grant to conduct a study on the awareness of boosting by Paralympic athletes. The final report was submitted at the end of April 2009 to WADA by researchers in the scientific community, recommending more education programmes regarding the issue. Contributors to the report included representatives of the IPC Sports Science and Anti-Doping Committee.

Athletes with cervical or high thoracic spinal injuries can suffer from an abnormal sympathetic reflex called autonomic dysreflexia. This reflex is caused by painful stimuli to the lower part of the body, particularly distension or irritation of the urinary bladder. The symptoms of dysreflexia are a rapid rise in blood pressure, headache, sweating, skin blotchiness and gooseflesh. In serious cases, confusion, cerebral haemorrhage and even death can occur. But it also is known that the condition leads to enhanced performance capacity. The sympathetic reflex may happen spontaneously or may be deliberately caused ("Boosting"). As this is a health hazard, the IPC forbids athletes to compete in a hazardous dysreflexic state.

The report, entitled "Boosting in Athletes with High Level Spinal Cord Injury: Incidence, Knowledge and Attitudes of Athletes in Paralympic Sport", had several objectives. The first was to examine the incidence of boosting in competitive high level spinal cord injured athletes. Additionally, the report aimed to evaluate the knowledge and beliefs of the participants with respect to the effects of boosting on sport performance and overall health, as well as to document their attitudes towards boosting and other performance enhancement strategies in competitive sport.

The four-phase study had 99 participants who completed the survey, wherein only a little over half had previously heard of boosting.

Because some competitors were using it, the participants in this study, both males and females, were strongly opposed to the use of boosting to improve training capacity, enhance performance during competition. This opinion was independent of their sport, education level, employment status, and duration of injury.

Approximately 40% of the participants felt that boosting was more useful in some sports compared to others, while 15% indicated the opposite. The remaining 44% of the participants were unsure whether boosting was more useful in some sports compared to others.

The following recommendations were made by the investigators based on the findings:

- 1 Develop written educational materials pertaining to the effects of autonomic dysreflexia and boosting so that athletes, coaches and trainers can increase their awareness and knowledge about this prohibited method which can be dangerous to their health.
- 2 Coaches and trainers should be educated about this practice and convey this information to their athletes so that the overall incidence of boosting can be reduced.
- 3 Boosting educational programmes be targeted
 - in regions where the awareness is low
 - to junior level so that these individuals are fully aware of the dangers of boosting when they become competitive athletes
 - to specific sports (e.g., Wheelchair Rugby, Athletics) in which the incidence of boosting is likely to be high
- 4 Increase the frequency of boosting tests at competitions so that the incidence and trends in this practice can be systematically evaluated.
- 5 Further research should be conducted on a larger sample size of competitive spinal cord injured athletes of both genders with lesion levels above thoracic vertebral segment six (T6) so that the findings can be generalized to a larger segment of this population.

To the best of the researchers' knowledge, this is the first study that has systematically examined the incidence, knowledge and beliefs, and attitudes towards boosting in Paralympic athletes with high level spinal cord injuries.

The full report can be found www.wada-ama.org → Education → Social Science Research → Funded Projects.

Paralympic School Day Project in Sweden

What began as the Paralympic School Day (PSD) concept has turned into a highly developed educational initiative that has been well implemented around Europe. Starting back in 2004, the IPC, in close collaboration with the European Paralympic Committee (EPC), initiated a two-year PSD pilot project in Europe. The Swedish Development Centre for Disability Sport (SUH) was one of the partners that worked together in collaboration with the IPC to develop Paralympic Education with PSDs.

The pilot project went further, as SUH collaborated with the National Paralympic Committee of Sweden (NPC Sweden) to initiate a subsequent three-year project. With the pilot project aimed at following the English resource kit provided by the IPC, the three-year project included a resource kit designed to meet Swedish culture and Swedish needs.

In order to conduct PSDs successfully, SUH targets having at least one Paralympian as part of the programme. It is important for the children to meet and interact with these athletes SUH says, as it provides real sport figures with experience in their field. And with a good resource kit and some education, many people can be activity leaders including high school students.

As SUH is a resource at a national level however, it is not possible for actual involvement in every PSD. Therefore, SUH has been working in collaboration with NPC Sweden, as well as establishing a university course in adapted physical activity held in co-operation and on behalf of the University of Gävle. One of the particular tasks of this course is for the students to organize a PSD, preferably in their hometowns. After finishing this course, students can become good resources themselves for continuing to organize PSDs throughout the country.

Currently, PSDs which focus on summer sports have been greater in number across the country. However, because of the high popularity of winter sport in Sweden, emphasis on these other sports has been implemented into the PSD programme. The organization of the PSDs which focus on winter sports has proven to be more demanding and a bigger challenge for SUH, but it continues to be a priority.

In late March for example, the second PSD in winter sports took place at the Lillbo School in the small municipality of Edsbyn, Sweden. A total of 130 students took part in the educational sporting event, with various activities to educate youth about Paralympic Sport. The PSD enabled the children to learn about individual differences and disability issues in a fun and playful environment.

The students for example, experienced Alpine Skiing with sit skis and ski carts, as well as going down hills blind-folded and using a guide. They also had the possibility to try out Cross-Country Skiing under different conditions. At the same time, summer sports were included in the programme including Wheelchair Basketball and Goalball.

One of the highlight activities during the day was the chance to meet Paralympian Per Jonsson, an athlete in Athletics. Jonsson gave a testimony about his experiences as a participant in the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games and answered the children's questions.

At the moment, approximately 3,500 children, ages 6-12, have participated in PSDs, and about 300 high school students have been involved as activity leaders. In addition to these numbers, university students and primary school staff have also been part of the country-wide project.

The Swedish resource kit for PSD is not only aimed to support organizers in Sweden. Beginning in August 2009, SUH will have a web based PSD resource on its website where new information and material will constantly be added.

For more information about the Swedish Development Centre for Disability Sport, please visit www.suh.se.



The weather in Sweden permitted winter sports to be experienced

Education Committee Aims at Awareness

The IPC Education Committee has propelled itself over the last few years to further its integrating of Paralympic ideals and values into a system of education. Around the world, there already are Paralympic School Days which have been heavily influenced from the committee for example, teaching acceptance and appreciation for people with a disability. The Paralympic School Day project in Sweden is one model for what is possible in other countries, according to the IPC Education Committee.

The objective of the committee is to educate the general public with a specific focus on youth about the Paralympic Movement. Whether creating high-quality resources, encouraging programme implementation, providing Paralympic-specific training or promoting scholarly research activities, the IPC Education Committee hopes to extend the knowledge and understanding to a global audience.

Changing the perception and attitudes towards people with a disability will continue to be on the table of ideas that will guide educational programme directors around the world into the future. Chairperson Ann Cody said that Paralympic athletes demonstrate courage and determination and they inspire others to believe that anything is possible.

"The Paralympic Brand is a bridge which links sport with social awareness to challenge stereotypes and ultimately leads to equality," Ms. Cody said. The philosophy of Paralympic education will continue to be grounded in a social-relational model that instils positive values."

For more information about Paralympic Education, visit www.paralympic.org → Education.

"At the moment, approximately 3,500 children, ages 6-12, have participated in PSDs, and about 300 high school students have been involved as activity leaders."



Top Children at Paralympic School Days gain respect and understanding for people's differences
Left Children's open forum and discussion on Paralympic Sport



Paralympic Sport Expands in Rwanda

WORKSHOPS LEAD BY NPC INCREASE ATHLETES' SKILLS IN GREAT LAKES REGION



Lively instruction with Q&A was part of the programme

The Great Lakes region in Africa has recently been busy with creating an improved platform for athletes with a disability, even amongst the political and economic difficulties in the area.

The term "Great Lakes" region refers to a group of countries on the massive continent which includes Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. And recently, the countries in the region have been convening for the betterment of Paralympic Sport, which therefore increases opportunities for athletes with a disability.

One of these busy leaders of the workshops and activities is the President of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Rwanda, Dominique Bizimana. Mr. Bizimana has been in the middle of much of the planning and carrying out for the education of trainers, judges, referees and athletes in the region.

NPC Rwanda organized a seminar this year in April for training in the Paralympic sports of Athletics and Goalball for visually impaired athletes. A total of 20 participants were from Rwanda, as well as one from Kenya and one from the Democratic Republic of Congo. As a result of the training, Athletics and Goalball became more of a reality afterwards, as the region gained coaches, judges and referees for the sports.

Mr. Bizimana said the athletes and coaches get to experience the activities and improve their performance techniques with each workshop.

"Those activities that we have already done give the athletes in the Great Lakes region a better path to playing in competitions," Mr. Bizimana said. "And we are planning to bring more athletes to the London 2012 Paralympic Games in Athletics and Goalball, as well as in Cycling and Sitting Volleyball."

Rwanda's NPC has also been focusing much of their resources on Sitting Volleyball. In November 2008, the committee organized a workshop on the Paralympic Sport, bringing in the surrounding countries in the region. The workshop was sponsored by the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and managed to have Jouke de Haan on hand to lead the group. Mr. Haan is an expert in Sitting Volleyball from The Netherlands. He was joined by the President of the World Organization Volleyball for the Disabled (WOVD), Pierre Van Mannen.

A total of 12 coaches and eight referees were trained at the workshop in Sitting Volleyball, with coaches from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. Mr. Bizimana said the two experts helped to conduct the seminar and activities, and as a result, helped to set up a calendar for developing the sport up to the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

"NPC Rwanda is ready to help develop Sitting Volleyball in Uganda, Burundi, Kenya and Tanzania by sending experts to those countries," Mr. Bizimana said. "We also had our National Championships in Sitting Volleyball from 2-3 May in Rwanda's North Province."

The overall objective at the moment is to prepare the national teams for July's Open Great Lakes Sitting Volleyball competition in Rwanda, which will be a qualification opportunity for the 2010 World Cup Sitting Volleyball competition in USA.

NPC Rwanda President Dominique Bizimana has been involved in sports for most of his life. After he lost his left leg in Rwanda's civil war in 1994, he decided to continue competing in sports. In 2001, Mr. Bizimana was asked to develop sports for people with a disability, as only Swimming was available at the time. The same year he participated in a seminar in France about sports for people with a disability, where he received information that led to the founding of the National Federation of Sports for People with Disabilities in the country.

After being elected Vice President in charge of development and technique, Mr. Bizimana started to recruit new athletes from the university where he studied how sports can contribute to the integration of people with a disability into society.

"I started in Sitting Volleyball as a player, and I managed to create a link with WOVD," he said. "I was elected President of NPC Rwanda in 2004, and re-elected this year in 2009."

Mr. Bizimana said that he will continue to organize seminars in the region, in the hopes of expanding the Paralympic Movement as well as athletic opportunities and success for people with a disability.



Inside the classroom

"The overall objective at the moment is to prepare the national teams for July's Open Great Lakes Sitting Volleyball competition in Rwanda."



Top Practical training included competition on the court
Right Rwanda is pulling together other countries for the future benefit of Paralympic Sport



Seamless Pathways Mark Beijing

EXPERIENCE IN BEIJING AND IPC ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE TARGET FUTURE

When the IPC Accessibility Guide started to take shape, several goals were put on the table. Main objectives included responding to the needs of the host cities of Olympic and Paralympic Games, and creating a benchmark on accessibility for a global audience. These needs can be anything from designing venues and services, to recognizing insufficient legislation, building codes and learning about established practices in the field.

Around the same time, everyone who attended the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games witnessed an incredible series of events that have since gone down in the history books. The people behind much of the work that was needed for such a success however, continue to utilize the results in maintaining the high standard set.

The building of the IPC Accessibility Guide and the experience in Beijing were together driving forces. Just like Beijing, the guide was a long time in the making. As the now global audience is learning, and so too is the Paralympic Movement along with it, many people have wanted to have a standard to find and reference when planning various facilities.

Standards in China were raised to incorporate accessibility in not only venues and the Athletes' Village, but monumental sites like the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. Changes implemented paralleled changes in legislation, wherein public buildings and city transport were also included in the aim toward accessibility.

Nick Morris is one of two Directors at Morris Goding Accessibility Consulting in Australia, and worked with the IPC during the planning stages for the Beijing Paralympics. Mr. Morris said the team really had a powerful voice in directing the Organizing Committee in Beijing, as many areas in Accessibility were taken on from the very beginning.

One of the first experiences in his going to Beijing prior to the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, was presenting workshops to the Organizing Committee on many of the important Paralympic planning areas including Accessibility.

"Probably the biggest thing is keeping the Paralympics on the agenda as the Olympic planning is so massive in its own right," he said. "I remember discussing with the IPC that Air China had little or no 'aisle' wheelchairs on their planes."

Mr. Morris said that soon after word had gotten through about the lack of wheelchairs, a total of 956 had been purchased to distribute on the planes.

Some of the other challenges in Beijing occurred just days before the Games according to Mr. Morris. He said the busiest time is always the ten days before the Opening Ceremony, with tasks like checking every venue and the village making sure the shower seats are correct.

"One of the biggest challenges was the day before IPC President Sir Philip Craven had to carry the Paralympic Torch," he said. "There was no attachment to his wheelchair, so we met with the Otto Bock Repair Crew to adapt the Torch to make it usable."

Mr. Morris said that winning the silver award in Event Services at the Sport-Business Management Awards in 2008 was fantastic recognition for not just his company, but also for the IPC team and the Paralympic Movement in general.

"Standards in China were raised to incorporate accessibility in not only venues and the Athletes' Village, but monumental sites like the Great Wall and the Forbidden City."

"It was widely recognized after the Beijing Paralympics that the impact was monumental in terms of changing China's perception, integration, expectations and inclusion of people with a disability," he said. "Never forget that there are at least 100 million Chinese people with a disability, and they now can visit the Great Wall of China. That is the impact that the IPC has made and to be recognized for that is fantastic."

But the progress and heightened standards was something that was also recognized by many others not directly connected to the IPC.

Sally Swanson, an American architect specializing in Accessibility and universal design who attended the Games, said the dedication and hard work that went into hosting and staging the event were evident everywhere.

"I was simply overwhelmed by the Opening Ceremony and the joy of the athletes with a disability and visitors alike through an overarching theme of inclusiveness," she said. "And getting around the city was made relatively simple by a comprehensive transit system, including accessible buses."

Ms. Swanson continued saying that Beijing made great strides in providing access for people with a disability and has clearly established a new threshold for excellence in hosting the Games.

"As someone who has dedicated a career toward enhancing access, I congratulate the people of China for their remarkable achievement and encourage their continued pursuit of universal design standards to further embrace the concept of mobility for all," she said.

And this pursuit of higher design standards is exactly what Nick Morris has held strong these days.

"If you are building venues and facilities that are going to stand for 40 years, it is essential that they are universally accessible to all community members," Mr. Morris said. "Because one day your city may want to bid for a National Championships, Regional Championships such as a Commonwealth or Pan American Games, FIFA World Cup or even the Olympics and Paralympics."



Mr. Morris added that many organizers of major events, not exclusively with a Paralympic component, are starting to realize that the concept of universal accessibility presents so many positives. Furthermore, it is not just in bidding for major events, but also to be used by all of the community.

A total of five chapters make up the aforementioned IPC Accessibility Guide, beginning with concepts and fundamental principles comprising equity, dignity and functionality. More specifically, it describes how the beneficiaries of accessibility are a significant segment of the population. The second chapter focuses on the main elements that bidding or hosting cities of the Games should be committed to having to ensure accessibility. Chapter three addresses requirements on Games infrastructure, while chapter four goes into technical specifications. The final chapter targets the staff members of the Games Organizing Committees (OCOGs) and the volunteers.

There are direct and indirect benefits to the guide. The OCOGs benefit most directly, as it provides the outline on making all Games-related infrastructure and services accessible and inclusive. Indirectly, local governments and authorities, businesses and tourism organizations will be providing solutions and practices, creating a culture of inclusion.

For more information on the IPC Accessibility Guide, contact IPC Head of Paralympic Games Strategic Projects Apostolos Rigas at apostolos.rigas@paralympic.org.



The specially designed torch holder was swiftly made by Otto Bock at the last minute



Rome 1960

STARTING POINT FOR PARALYMPIC GAMES STILL EXTRAORDINARY

Sometimes history can blur the past into simply names, places and a timeline. But if the historian in question takes the extra minute or two to delve into the fact at hand, then much more can come from that discovery.

The Games in 1960 were extraordinary. This was the first time the Paralympic Games were put together and assembled to be equivalent to the Olympics, in the same city. Founder of the Paralympic Movement Sir Ludwig Guttman and Director of the Spinal Centre at the Italian institute INAIL Antonia Maglio started preparations in 1958 to stage what was called the 9th Annual International Stoke Mandeville Games (the term “Paralympic Games” was only approved by the International Olympic Committee later in 1984).

The Games were held from 18-25 September under the auspices of the INAIL and the Italian Olympic Committee, six days after the Closing Ceremony of the XVII Olympic Summer Games. The

Opening Ceremony on 18 September saw a crowd of 5,000 spectators greeting the colourful entry of the wheelchair athletes at the Acqua Acetosa stadium. Camillo Giardina, the Italian Minister for Public Health at the time, declared the Games open. It was the largest international Games to date with 400 athletes from 23 countries, the largest delegation coming from Italy.

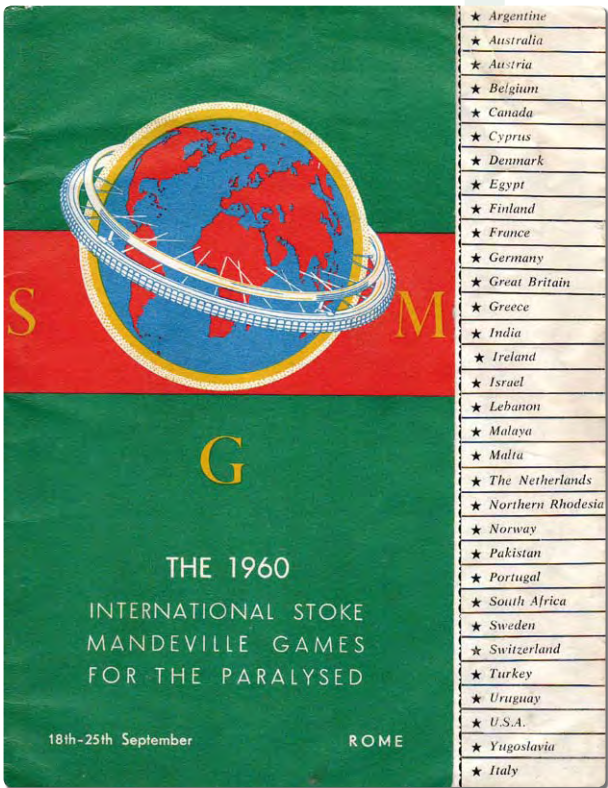
The competitive programme included eight sport events considered beneficial and suitable for athletes with spinal cord injuries: Snooker, Fencing (foil or sabre), Javelin and Precision Javelin, Shot Put, Indian Club Throwing (throwing a baton), Men’s Basketball and Swimming (Freestyle, Breaststroke and Backstroke). Other events were: Table Tennis (singles and doubles), Archery, Dart Archery and the Pentathlon (Archery, Swimming, Javelin, Shot Put and Club Throwing)

Medals were presented in 57 different events, with Italy finishing on top, followed closely by Great Britain and USA.

The Closing Ceremony on 25 September was held in the Palazetto dello Sport in the Olympic village in the presence of the Patron of the Games and wife of the Italian President Donna Carla Gronchi, and Sir Guttman.

At the time, Sir Guttman summed up the Games saying, “the vast majority of competitors and escorts have fully understood the meaning of the Rome Games as a new pattern of re-integration of the paralyzed into society, as well as the world of sport.”

“It was the largest international Games to date with 400 athletes from 23 countries, the largest delegation coming from Italy.”



Programme cover of the Rome Games



Meal tickets for athletes in 1960

CRASH COURSE: THE MOVEMENT

Do you know...

- 1 Where was the first General Assembly held?
- 2 How long is the 2009 IPC Conference and General Assembly?
- 3 What is one of the most important items to be covered at the General Assembly this year?
- 4 How many delegates is each member allowed to bring?
- 5 Where is the General Assembly taking place this year?



Sir Ludwig Guttman



Sir Ludwig Guttman, Prince Philip and archer at the Opening of the Stoke Mandeville Stadium (1969)

- 1 Dusseldorf, Germany
- 2 Four Days
- 3 The Governing Board Elections
- 4 Two Delegates
- 5 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

New Honorary Board Member

Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Astrid of Belgium accepted the IPC's invitation to become a member of the IPC Honorary Board in late April at an event in Brussels to discuss various issues regarding sport for people with a disability.

In agreeing to join the Honorary Board, HRH Princess Astrid supports the IPC's goal in keeping the issue of Paralympic Sport high on the agenda of the global community.

Laureus Award Winner

The winner of the 2009 Laureus World Sports Awards is Daniel Dias from Brazil (Swimming). Nominations had been announced in late April for the World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability category. The list comprised six athletes who were prominent competitors at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games:

Daniel Dias (Brazil), Swimming (winner); April Holmes (USA), Athletics; Darren Kenny (Great Britain), Cycling; Jonas Jacobsson (Sweden), Shooting; Teresa Perales (Spain), Swimming; Zhang Lixin (China), Athletics.

Footage of the Laureus Award winner will be shown on www.ParalympicSport.TV.

Governing Board Meeting in USA

The Governing Board (GB) concluded its 52nd official meeting in Colorado Springs, USA, at the end of March. During two successful days of meetings at the US Training Centre in Colorado Springs, Headquarters of the US Olympic Committee (USOC) and US Paralympics, the GB discussed and approved several issues, including the adoption of the audited accounts and financial results of the Financial Year 2008.

Furthermore, the GB approved the action plan presented by the IPC/ the International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) Working Group as well as a policy for recognizing International Federations, a position statement on Boosting, the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games Classification Programme and a new set of IPC Ethic Procedures, Rules and Regulations. The Board also received updates on the work of various IPC Standing Committees and Councils.

International Paralympic Day

On 11 July, the International Paralympic Day will again be the main event at the Pariser Platz in Berlin, Germany. That Saturday, Paralympic fans can make their way to the centre of the Germany capital and experience the excitement of Paralympic Sport.

An interesting variety of Paralympic sports will be demonstrated, including Football 5-a-Side, Long Jump, Table Tennis, Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby and Wheelchair Dance Sport. With the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games on the horizon, the IPC has added the Paralympic Winter sports Biathlon and Ice Sledge Hockey to the programme.

Presentations from the Organizing Committee of future Paralympic Games will also be in attendance, including the London 2012 Organizing Committee. A VIP area will also serve as the reception area for all Governing Board Members, Honorary Board Members, as well as Partners and Patrons.

Highlights will be on www.ParalympicSport.TV.



PARALYMPIC VALUES INSIDE THE MOVEMENT

The Question:

With the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games one year away, how has it made you aware of the Paralympic Values?



Courage

"Courage is one of the qualities I value most in people, and I found this to be the case in speaking to athletes with a disability at Paralympic events. The One Year Countdown showed the world how big this event will really be for the athletes, and I think this value will be easily recognized by anyone who witnesses the events."

Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium
IPC Honorary Board Member

Inspiration

"One year before the start of the Paralympic Games is like a timeline of the Paralympic cycle energizing the whole system of the National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine. We see the inspiring and intensive work from all coaches, specialists and managers as they aim to prepare for the most elite sport event of the Paralympic Movement. Every day brings us closer to the Games and to those unique and unforgettable feelings of competition and victory."

Valery Suskevich
President of NPC Ukraine

Determination

"With the Vancouver Paralympics being less than a year away, the event takes on even more significance for the athletes and teams involved. After waiting and training for over three years for this event, it feels like we are finally on the home stretch which is both exciting and nerve-racking. It is at this time that determination is critical to continue to push and strive for your goals in Vancouver."

Toby Kane
Australian Paralympian
in Alpine Skiing

Equality

"In watching the celebration, it was clear to me that organizers in Canada are delivering an incredible event, and have been incorporating equality into everything, including the Paralympic test events in Whistler. The IPC received a very special recognition in the One Year to Go Celebration with the raising of the Paralympic Flag on Parliament Hill as well as a warm welcome from Canada's Governor General, the Rt. Honourable Michaëlle Jean."

Stephanie Keller
IPC Head of Protocol
and Hospitality

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