

ISSUE 2008

No.

2

INSIDE



Photo: © BOCOG

The official medals of this year's Paralympics

## A Synergized Paralympics Say Hello to Beijing

The decision, the agreement, the extension and the association. The confusion? The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) continues to inspire and bring an inherent excitement within each of us that cannot be denied. This excitement is independent of which part of the world you might be living in at the moment. What does seem to bring about questions is the connection to the Olympics. The event is after all taking place in Beijing.

Since 1960, the Paralympic Games have always been held the same year as the Olympic Games. The venues, however, were not corresponding until the Seoul Paralympic Games in 1988 and the Tignes-Albertville Paralympic Winter Games in 1992. For years thereafter the Paralympics and Olympics continued to be held at the same time and the same place.

The dawn of a new century brought on the dawn of a new commonality. In 2000, a co-operation was outlined between the IPC and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) with principles defining a continued association. One year later, in June 2001, an agreement was then signed between the two entities to secure and protect the organization of the Paralympic Games. This of course also included the city bidding process, wherein the Paralympics would automatically be part of each city's bid for the Olympics.

Further milestones thereafter saw an adjustment and extension to the agreement. The Organizing Committees for the Olympic and Paralympic Games from 2008 until 2016 would respectively deal with the marketing rights and financing in connection with the Paralympics.

The entire process is a strong eight years in the making. These eight years have been filled with agreements and meetings and proposals and outcomes, all agreed upon, however, yet to be proven.

The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games mark the first year, according to the agreement, wherein the Paralympic Games will indeed take place shortly after the Olympic Games using the same sports' venues and facilities. Audiences will notice a much higher profile event in all areas, witnessing exactly what has been jointly set in motion. The contributors and supporters of the Games will watch as the extensive preparation and revision come together.

At the moment, on-the-ground actual results have been impressive growth and care taken in the planning for the Paralympics. Essentially, a motivated Beijing has ever-positively expressed its determination in making 2008 not only something that follows a regulation, but rather an experience that follows IPC's vision to enable Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world.

The agreement between IPC and IOC has provided a long-term look into future Games and planning that does not end with the Beijing Games. Vancouver, London and Sochi are cities which already are adhering to the eight-year endeavour, hoping to follow in the success of Beijing. They are demonstrating how even though this positive collective and collaborative process continues to be compacted with solid responsibilities, they welcome the challenges ahead.

The decision, the agreement, the extension and the association. It is the realization of these significant events that ultimately will shed light on the subject.



Photo: © FSA



Photo: © Getty Images



Photo: © NPC China





# The President’s Message



Over the last few months we have seen a series of events marching toward a common goal. Big enough in themselves, they of course ultimately lead to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, which are now a serious reality.

I am thrilled to report to the readers that this is more than a moment. This is major event in the making. We have been working together around the world with the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG), to ensure that our extensive seven years of planning come together successfully.

During the final project review for the Paralympics in May, IPC staff members visited the various final competition and training venues. This four-day preparation included a last examination of overall accessibility, ticketing, the Paralympic Village, and general technology which all co-incided with operational deadlines.

We congratulate BOCOG on the excellent progress that has been made through our meetings and recommendations. After in-depth updates on accessibility improvements while in Beijing, especially in public areas of interests, I can say that I look forward to watching the athletes be part of the results. The creating of a vibrant atmosphere with full venues and athletes will be key success factors for the Games.

“I am thrilled to report to the readers that this is more than a moment. This is major event in the making.”

Our cover story this issue deals with the specifics of IPC and IOC. This is a topic which we frequently are asked about and therefore have decided to detail out for readers. We hope this might lessen the uncertainty of many.

Inside, you will find a profile of Beijing which covers some of the basic facts, statistics and specific athletes, along with a few feature stories about accessibility and soon-to-be-famous mascot, Lele. We also described the two main venues which are making quite the impression in the Paralympic community.

The following pages also include an update on the future Games, a profile of China’s National Paralympic Committee, a new section devoted to our archives, and of course our sports news.

I was actually in Manchester for the Paralympic World Cup, one of the major events in May. I must say that I was certainly impressed with the world-class readiness of the athletes. It was a definite indication of what to expect in Beijing.

In closing, I would like to thank our supporters and partners, as well as wish our Paralympians the best of luck in Beijing. Your extensive training and preparation will most certainly not go unnoticed as an audience of millions will be cheering you on, hoping for your success at reaching the finish line.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE  
IPC President

# The Breakdown

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Time              | 6-17 September  |
| Participants      | around 4,000 athletes   |
| Countries         | around 145  |
| Medal Events      | 471   |
| Disability Groups | Spinal injury, amputee, visually impaired, cerebral palsy, les autres |
| Slogan            | “One World One Dream”   |
| Theme             | “Transcendence, Equality, Integration”                                |
| Name of Mascot    | Fu Niu Lele   |
| Media             | around 4,000  |
| Volunteers        | 30,000  |
| Spectators        | 1.5 million   |



# The Sport-Venue Lineup

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Archery               | Olympic Green Archery Field   |
| Athletics             | National Stadium  |
| Boccia                | Fencing Hall  |
| Cycling               | Laoshan Velodrome/Cycling Road Course   |
| Equestrian            | Hong Kong Equestrian Venue  |
| Football 5-a-side     | Olympic Green Hockey Field  |
| Football 7-a-side     |   |
| Goalball              | Beijing Institute of Technology Gymnasium   |
| Judo                  | Workers’ Indoor Arena   |
| Powerlifting          | Beijing University of Aeronautics & Astronautics Gymnasium  |
| Rowing                | Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park   |
| Sailing               | Qingdao International Marina  |
| Shooting              | Beijing Shooting Range Hall   |
| Swimming              | National Aquatics Center  |
| Table Tennis          | Peking University Gymnasium   |
| Volleyball Sitting    | China Agriculture University Gymnasium  |
| Wheelchair Basketball | National Indoor Stadium (Finals)/University of Science and Technology Beijing Gymnasium (Preliminary Round) |
| Wheelchair Fencing    | Fencing Hall  |
| Wheelchair Rugby      | University of Science and Technology Beijing Gymnasium  |
| Wheelchair Tennis     | Olympic Green Tennis Center   |



Beijing Paralympic Pictograms

Photo: © BOCOG

# Lele the Mascot



The curious Lele

After careful consideration for perfect representation, Lele was chosen as the Official Mascot of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. Well, the full name is actually Fu Niu Lele, but to promote its image ambassadorship of friendship, the preference becomes a shortened Lele. ‘Lele’, which means “Happiness”, is the name of the cow that will invite people from across the globe to come to Beijing

The bovine creature was unveiled at a grand ceremony on 6 September 2006 at the foot of the Great Wall, marking the two-year countdown to the opening of the Paralympic Games. The modern cartoon figure represents not only a general genality, but the special connectedness of humans to nature.

The design of the mascot blends the modelling and design styles of Chinese folk engraved prints, with colours rooted in traditional Chinese New Year drawings and toys. Cows are often depicted as hopeful animals in traditional Chinese culture, inviting good weather and plentiful harvests. The characteristics of a cow, like diligence, determination, courage, endurance and strength, also incorporate the spirit of Paralympians competing in Paralympic Games.

# The City Has its Manners in Order

The citizens are anything but a throng of people, running toward an open door at the same time. Good manners are taking over the city of Beijing and hope to promote a successful Games.

Beijing organized an official citywide “Queuing Day” on 11 February 2007, leading off to a monthly occurrence on the eleventh day of each month. The Municipal Government introduced the initiative as part of the Good Manners Campaign for the Games.

Approximately 4,000 campaign guiders were street-bound for the launch, helping more than one million people line up at 1,800 different bus stops. The massive undertaking jump-started the now more organized, guide-free lines found at hospitals, supermarkets, post offices and other public places.



Beijing workers assist in National “Queuing Day”

Photo: © BOCOG





Photo: © BOCOG

The much visited Temple of Heaven

## Lighting the Torch

The torch will be lit on 28 August at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. The official torch relay had been planned to continue thereafter on an international route for 10 days, through the future Paralympic Games' host cities (London, Vancouver and Sochi).

However, due to the devastating earthquake that struck China, BOCOG has decided to modify the arrangements and cancel the aforementioned international route. The modifications include now two shortened national routes within China, including the cities of Shenzhen, Wuhan, Shanghai, Qingdao and Dalian for the Route of Modern China. The Route of Ancient China includes the Huangdi Mausoleum, Xi'an, Hohhot, Changsha, Nanjing and Luoyang.

According to BOCOG, those changes have been made to afford the Chinese government to focus on the rescue and relief work and show support for the people affected by the earthquake, especially persons with a disability.

The international route would have been historic as the first torch relay on such an expansive, international level for the Paralympic Games. The IPC is disappointed and hopes to see this landmark event take place at another Games in the future.

The starting point for the modified national routes does remain at the Temple of Heaven. This well-known structure and UNESCO World Heritage Site is the collection of several Taoist buildings in southeastern Beijing. Constructed from 1406 to 1420, the complex was visited by Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties in order to pray for a good harvest.

The Temple of Heaven was renovated and restored at a price-tag of EUR 3.8M in preparation for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. It is one of the 60 tourist attractions in Beijing that have been made accessible to people with a disability, just in time for the Games.

## Impressive and Iconic Structures

### National Stadium: “Bird’s Nest”

There was no wrong turn taken, this is the correct stadium where Athletics is taking place for the Paralympics. Deemed as the jewel of the Beijing Games, this sports venue is dually a tourist attraction.

The National Stadium is nicknamed the “Bird’s Nest” from the creative design of interlocking cement and steel frames, and a fitting holed-roof. The 330 million EUR (500 million USD), 91,000-seat capacity stadium, is the most eye-catching Paralympic venue with construction officially finishing just this year.

It is believed to be the largest enclosed space in the world, with a total land surface of 258,000 square meters. Keep this in mind when you are planning to meet someone there!

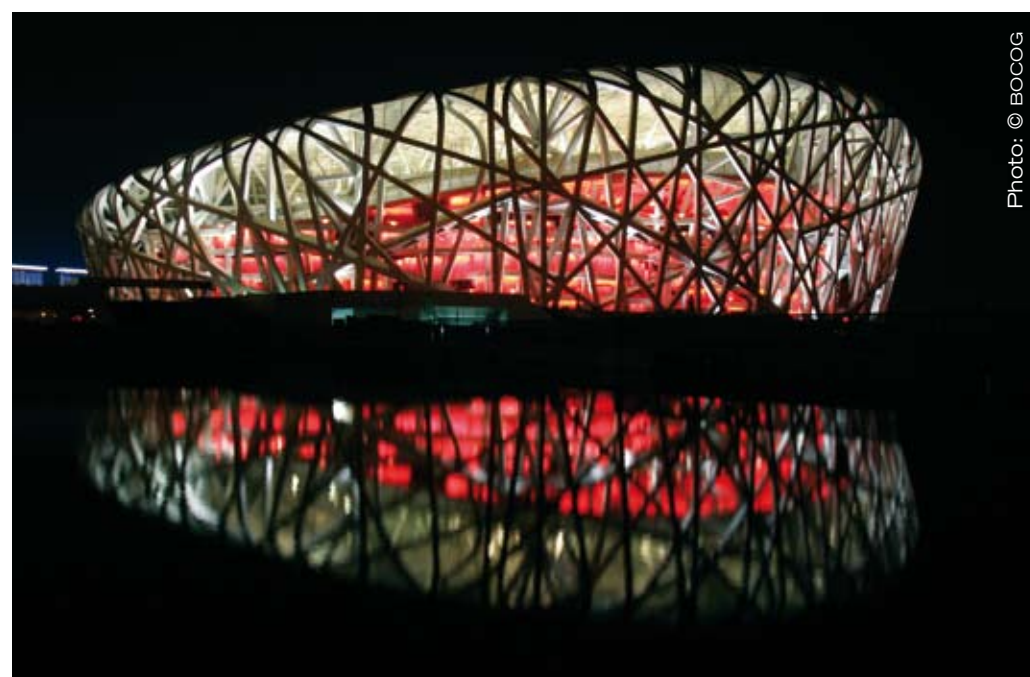


Photo: © BOCOG

### National Aquatics Center: “Water Cube”

The roof and walls of this structure are made up of 3,000 bubble-like shapes with air-filled layers of ETFE (Ethylene Tetrafluoroethylene) membrane, the first surface-use of its kind in China. ETFE is a wonder polymer that is a transparent plastic related to Teflon, and likely to replace glass and plastic in some of the most innovative buildings being designed and constructed today.

A fluctuation of light is allowed to penetrate the nearly transparent ETFE membrane, varying for the winter and summer periods. After the 30-year life of the membrane, the “bubbles” can be restored rather than replaced.

A special moat, with its water recycled every eight hours, has been dug around the structure so that people are kept away from the “bubbles”. Once inside, the public is also strategically unable to come close to the wonder-surface. If you are determined however, you can locate the soon-to-be famous Bubble Bar, in which people do have the needed opportunity to touch this wall (and get a drink).



Photo: © BOCOG

Paralympic Venues: The National Stadium (Top) and the Aquatics Center



The Paralympics will have a slew of intense competitors, and there are likely to be high-level performances that will inspire and excite the audience. There might be some hesitation though in providing names of specific athletes in specific sports. We have taken the liberty in compiling a few individuals and teams that are officially in the limelight for the Paralympics this year in Beijing.

**Chinese Team**  
**Gender: Male**  
**Sport: Football 7-a-Side**  
**Country: China**

A newer addition to the Football 7-A-Side Sport line-up, China formed their team in July 2006. That same beginning year, they participated in the ninth Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled (FESPIC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

China's team finished third, which was considered an impressive showing after just starting out participating in major sporting competitions. In preparation for the Beijing Games, they attended the World Championships in Brazil and the 2008 Football 7-A-Side Tournament in Ukraine.



**Brazilian Team**  
**Gender: Female**  
**Sport: Wheelchair Basketball**  
**Country: Brazil**

Competing for the first time in the Paralympic Games, the Brazilian Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team boosted its standing after finishing fourth in the Parapan American Games in 2007. They also impressed audiences at the World Cup in Manchester this year.

The head coach of the team, Wilson Caju, holds his players in deep regard, but at the same time aggressively pushes them towards peak performance. One of the top players, Jucilene Moaraes, says that Caju is someone she looks up to and continues to model her achievements after. Nicknamed Batatinha, she trains five hours a day, five days a week, fiercely preparing for the Games.

Most of the players are also active participants in the All Star Rodas, a Brazilian Wheelchair Basketball Championships, which most certainly has prepared them for Beijing.



**Iranian Team**  
**Gender: Male**  
**Sport: Sitting Volleyball**  
**Country: Iran**

Sitting Volleyball is one the most popular sports in Iran which enjoys a very extensive financial, educational and international support of the Iran National Paralympic Committee. The achievements of this sport in the last three decades have left very considerable effects on the development of other Paralympic sports in Iran.

The country's first experience with the Games was in 1988 at the Paralympics in Seoul. In this first official participation, the Men's Sitting Volleyball Team ended up impressing audiences and taking home the gold medal.

The Iranian Sitting Volleyball Team has become one of the strongest teams in the world and has achieved gold medals in four Paralympics, including in 1992 (Barcelona), 1994 (Atlanta), and 2000 (Sydney). The team has also medalled at the 1994 World Championships in Germany.

**Jessica Long**  
**Gender: Female**  
**Age: 16**  
**Sport: Swimming**  
**Country: USA**

Long entered the international Swimming stage at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, where she won three gold medals. Only 12 years old at the time, Long was the youngest athlete on the US Paralympic Team.

By the age of 14, Jessica Long has already accomplished what many swimmers would hope to have done in a career. During the 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships, Long won nine gold medals (class S8).

Two years later, she still has an impressive career to showcase: She owns 34 American records, 17 Pan-American records, two Paralympics records, and five world records.

On 10 May 2008, Long received the Juan Antonio Samaranch IOC President's Disabled Athlete Award, in Manchester, Great Britain. This award is presented annually to an athlete with a disability, past or present, displaying courage, desire and athletic ability to competitively achieve goals in the face of adversity. Long will be sure to impress those at the Water Cube in Beijing this year.





**Abebe Fekadu****Gender: Male****Age: 38****Sport: Powerlifting****Country: Australia**

Abebe Fekadu only recently became an Australian citizen in 2007 after arriving in the country as a refugee from Ethiopia. When he was a child, his father was taken from the government and accused of being anti-revolutionary, and therefore was executed. Fekadu lost his own freedom as an adult, when his secret pro-democracy meetings were discovered. The quick-to-ensuing speed chase lead to him being thrown from the vehicle and breaking his back.

After arriving in Australia, Fekadu turned to Powerlifting training in the hopes to become as strong as possible. He consequently went on to become Australian champion from 2004-2007, and win the silver at the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) Powerlifting Cup in Kuala Lumpur in 2007. This was his first competition representing the country.

"It is very important for me to do my best at the Paralympics. I want to show the world what it means to be Australian," he said.



Photo: © Alan Hill Photography

**Leung Yuk Wing****Gender: Male****Age: 23****Sport: Boccia****Country: Hong Kong**

Training for six years in Boccia, Leung Yuk Wing has quickly moved up to number one in world ranking place under BC4, one of the four different classifications. His string of gold medals has impressed audiences at each respective competition.

Wing won the gold medal last year at the Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CPISRA) Boccia World Cup in Vancouver. Most notably, he also participated at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, taking the gold medal both in the individual and pairs categories.

Since Athens, Wing has been gaining experience and focusing on his competition in Beijing. He will most certainly be there to repeat his previous Paralympic showing, and create yet another memorable moment in his performance.



Photo: © HKPC&amp;SAPD

**Ingela Lundbäck****Gender: Female****Age: 33****Sport: Table Tennis****Country: Sweden**

Lundbäck came into the Table Tennis scene in 2005 when she took home the gold medal at the European Championships in Italy. She won in the Women's open wheelchair and Women's singles (class 5).

Since 2005, Lundbäck has continued competing every year in various competition throughout the world. In 2007 she kept her gold-medal status, winning at the US Open in Chicago again in the Women's open wheelchair and Women's singles (class 5). She also maintained her previous results in her return to the European Championships in 2007, winning the Women's open wheelchair competition.

Lundbäck, a right-hander, is planning on continuing her success this year in Beijing.



Photo: © Gael Marziou

**Hollie Arnold****Gender: Female****Age: 13****Sport: Javelin****Country: Great Britain**

Only recently did Arnold qualify to compete in Javelin for the Games this year in Beijing with a lifetime best throw of 32.25m at the Dutch Open Championships in Emmerloord in June.

In 2007, Arnold (class F46) broke a total of five national records in Great Britain at the Disability Sport Events (DSE) Championships in Javelin, Discus, Shotput, Long Jump and the 100m. With this in mind, it is clear that she is an all-around athlete, however, her Javelin skills bring her to the Paralympics.

Arnold is looking forward to competing in Beijing and is overjoyed with the entire experience.

"I do not know if I will win any medals, but just being there and representing Great Britain will be an absolute honour," she said.



Photo: © Grimsby Telegraph

**Cyril Jonard****Gender: Male****Age: 32****Sport: Judo****Country: France**

French competitor Cyril Jonard seems to be covering as many bases as possible. He is a sportsman of all qualities and more specifically, has competed with two different disabilities.

As an athlete with a visual impairment and deaf, his ability to woo over the audience is something to be reckoned.

Jonard has successfully participated in numerous competitions. He took home the Gold in Judo at the 2006 Broomat World Championships, the 2007 Baku European Championships, and several IBSA European Championships.

With receiving the gold medal in Athens in the class "Up to 81Kg", he is certainly ready for competition this year in Beijing.



Photo: © FFHandisport

**Eli Nawi****Gender: Male****Age: 40****Sport: Rowing****Country: Israel**

Nawi started rowing in 2006 when a Rowing coach spotted his sporting ability as a swimmer. He took up the challenge and started Rowing in the arm's men's single (AM1x).

Just one year later Nawi was on the medals podium at the World Rowing Championships picking up a bronze medal. This third place finish in Nawi's first ever international race not only secured him a spot at the Paralympic Games, but it also made him the highest placing Israeli rower with a disability.

Despite this fantastic effort, Nawi admitted that he was disappointed by his World Rowing Championships result. He wanted to win. With his attitude and such a huge improvement over a short period of time, Nawi is definitely a rower to watch at the Paralympic Games.



Photo: © www.drc.org.il





The Great Wall with its dramatic backdrop



IPC President Sir Philip Craven at the Great Wall



The landmark Hall of Supreme Harmony at The Forbidden City

## Forbidden City and Great Wall Ready to Go

IPC President Sir Philip Craven visited the two well-known, historic monuments on 18 May for their re-opening after accessibility adjustments. His goal was to confirm the commitment Beijing had made in having many of its sites more accessible to people with a disability.

The Forbidden City is located in the middle of Beijing and consists of 980 surviving buildings, covering 720,000 square meters. Currently, Tiananmen Square is accessible, as is the main pathway. The entrances to the individual temples however, where many of the exhibits are, have not been accessible for some time. The Great Wall was subject to similar obstacles, until now.

There is an old proverb in China that references the utter importance of visiting the Great Wall. Running on undulating mountains, the Badaling section was previously not easily accessible to wheelchair users. Now people on wheelchairs can access this most visited section of the Great Wall via a barrier-free ramp of 180 meters and an elevator. The elevator has double doors, allowing wheelchairs to enter from one door and exit the other.

Tourists with a disability from all over the world will now have better access to Beijing's most famous Forbidden City

and Great Wall, following the extensive renovations. The new facilities were opened in May to mark the National Help-the-Disabled Day in China.

Sir Philip noted how this was an excellent example of how Beijing and China are intending to advance accessibility for all people in the years to come. He also took the liberty in testing the facilities himself.

**“When you consider that the Great Wall was built to be intentionally inaccessible, it’s amazing,” Sir Philip Craven said.**

The Forbidden City has numerous stone steps and thresholds, which are distinguishing features of traditional Chinese architecture, but along with it comes multiple barriers for people with a disability. The famous landmark provides now accessibility with routes available at the main scenic locations. About 1,000 meters long, the central path runs from Wumen (Meridian Gate) in the south to Shenwumen (Gate of Spiritual Valor) in the north.

With the help of the newly installed elevators, people using a wheelchair can ascend the Wumen Tower and avoid the nearly 100 steps. At Taihedian, Zhonghedian and Baohe-dian, wheelchair stair lifts are also available to access the highest point.

The Vice Director of the Forbidden City, Li Ji, was pleased with the ability of the construction to create a fitting structure to the overall accessibility project.

“The barrier-free facilities and the ancient architecture in the Forbidden City complement each other, which embodies the concept of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games – Transcendence, Equality and Integration,” he said.

In addition to these two major landmarks, there are also other various accessibility-related construction projects which have taken place in Beijing.



## Watch the Beijing 2008 Paralympics on ParalympicSport.TV!

ParalympicSport.TV will be on-site in Beijing to report from the biggest sport event in Paralympic history, the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. With two daily highlights, daily news, background stories and athlete interviews, viewers of ParalympicSport.TV will be kept up-to-date with what is going on in Beijing. Additional live-coverage is planned.

Tune in to [www.ParalympicSport.TV](http://www.ParalympicSport.TV) to watch and be inspired by true Paralympic Sport.



## Sochi 2014: First IOC Co-ordination Commission Site Visit



It may be more than a good five years away, but the planning for the Sochi 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games is already underway. The recent law enacted which merges the entire process of the Olympic and Paralympic Games was embraced throughout the official visit from 22 to 23 April.

Several Russian high ranking government officials were in attendance including former Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov and Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Zhukov. Along with Dmitry Chernyshenko, President of Sochi 2014, they emphasized their goal of building a strong relationship during the planning period so as to deliver the most innovative Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in history.

IPC Vice President Miguel Sagarra was present in Sochi and positively noted the careful consideration that was taken during the planning process. More specifically, he recognized how the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee was embracing the Paralympic Games from the beginning, as reflected in the Olympic and Paralympic Law.

"Promoting inclusiveness as one of their core values, the Organizers assured the planning for both Games receives the same level of attention," he said.

A month prior to the IOC Co-ordination Commission's site visit, IPC held a one-day Paralympic Orientation Workshop in Moscow with the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee. The workshop's objective was to build a solid foundation at an early stage, defining the Paralympic framework for the host city. The meeting provided an introduction to the Paralympic Movement, the Games and the Paralympic stakeholders.

IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez attended both meetings and was optimistic, seeing the excellent level of attendance in Moscow and Sochi. He said that Sochi clearly recognizes the opportunity and benefits that the Paralympics can bring in order to set an example and leave a long lasting legacy for the region.

The Sochi 2014 Winter Games will be held from 7 to 16 March 2014.

## London 2012: Pro-active Education and Handover Process

The London 2012 Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) recently met at the IPC headquarters in Bonn, presenting an overview of educational activities for the upcoming months. The main focus was the Cultural and Education Programme launch that will in turn be instrumental to the success of the Games.

Beginning in September, the Education Programme will take key existing educational themes and priorities and use London 2012 to bring them further to life for children and young people. The aim is to create a network of schools, colleges and other educational institutions across Great Britain demonstrating and living their actual commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic values.

The Committee will see the education through the year, on an extensive journey which has senior management working together with young people to develop their vision and goals for the programme, and embed them in their self-evaluation framework. The young people as a result will reach their "Road to 2012".

At the end of September, there will be the Cultural Programme launch, extending the already working Education Programme. Called "The Cultural Olympiad", it will be a series of events to showcase the city's arts and culture to the rest of the world. It will be a four-year celebration designed to facilitate an extensive range of people across Great Britain to take part.

With the planned programmes, LOCOG said they celebrate the Handover opportunity and the Games coming to Great Britain. The goal of educating young people about the Paralympic Movement and providing resources was presented as a priority, and they will continue in aiming to connect with them in the months to come.

The official Handover will take place in Beijing on 17 September at the Closing Ceremony of the Paralympic Games with the passing of the IPC Flag to the 2012 hosts.



## Vancouver 2010: Third Project Review



A nine-member delegation from the IPC travelled Vancouver, Canada, in May, meeting with several Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) Departments to discuss the current preparations for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. In various parallel working group sessions, the IPC received a detailed update on the preparation progress. The areas in which VANOC focused on included ceremonies, budget, media operations, broadcasting, transport, ticketing and venues.

The concluding meeting addressed the planned outcomes and the priorities which would be in the continued planning process. IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez said the workshop was an ideal opportunity to discuss the current planning and expressed confidence in VANOC's delivery of an excellent Games in 2010.

"VANOC presented possible solutions to accommodate the Paralympic Family and stakeholders in Whistler and we now hope that a final consensus can be found in the very near future," he added.

The delegation from the IPC also visited the venues which will be used during the Games. Included in this visit was the BC Place Stadium, which will be getting an upgrade in time for the Winter Games. The site of the Opening Ceremony on 12 March 2010, the 60,000-seat stadium will see renovations in its suites, seating, washrooms, concession stands, and the enhancement of the existing roof liner. All of this will ensure a most successful Games, with the spectator being the biggest beneficiary. VANOC CEO, John Furlong, said that outside of the sport venues, the stadium is where many of the most spectacular moments will happen.

"Memories will be made there and BC Place Stadium will permanently gain a special stature as a premiere Games venue," he said.



Photo: © World Rowing

FISA Executive Director  
Matt Smith

Matt Smith is the Executive Director and Secretary General of FISA, the International Rowing Federation based in Lausanne, Switzerland. He holds a Bachelors degree and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he also was an athlete on their Rowing team. He has worked in Washington DC for Congressman Robin Beard as well as for Price Waterhouse and TRW both in the Los Angeles area.

The Paralympian asked Matt Smith several questions about this year's Rowing participation in Beijing.

#### How important is your inaugural participation in the Adaptive this year?

Becoming a member of the IPC and, therefore, a sport on the programme of the Paralympic Games is a tremendous advancement for our sport and has given a big boost to participation, giving athletes not only more incentive to take up Rowing, but also giving us, as a sport, broader exposure among the community of persons with a disability.

#### What is the history behind FISA's involvement with Adaptive Rowing?

FISA held its first Adaptive Rowing events on a World Championships level during the World Rowing Championships in Seville, Spain, in 2002. The sport has continued to develop since with adaptive events at the 2003 World Rowing Championships in Milan, Italy. At the 2004 World Rowing Senior and Junior Championships in Banyoles, Spain, 66 Adaptive Rowing athletes took part. The discipline reached its highest level in 2007, during the World Rowing Championships in Munich, when 116 Adaptive Rowers competed in 58 boat classes.

What differentiates Adaptive Rowing from some other sports is that it is governed by the same governing body as able-bodied Rowing. FISA works in close collaboration with IPC to manage this Paralympic discipline as it does all other disciplines of Rowing.

Rowing was admitted onto the Paralympic Games programme in 2005, and consequently 2008 will be the first time Rowing events are actually held during the Paralympic Games.

#### What does FISA's responsibility entail at the Beijing 2008 Games?

FISA's Adaptive Rowing Commission has been working closely with the organizers of the Paralympic rowing regatta to ensure that the athletes find the same standards of competition and infrastructure as they are used to at our world level competitions. FISA will manage the event with approximately 35 international technical officials and hundreds of BOCOG staff and volunteers.

#### Which teams are expected to excite spectators the most in September?

We expect excellent performances from the Brazilian and Israeli teams as well as the traditional powers such as USA, Great Britain and Germany.

#### What are the aspirations of FISA?

Our aspirations are that Adaptive Rowing grows significantly through the exposure provided by the Paralympic Games and that more and more clubs and coaches become motivated to start Adaptive Rowing locally.

#### How have the developments with FISA this year affected the sport of Rowing?

FISA is proud to be able to mention that Rowing is a part of the Paralympic Games and this has added a great deal of credibility to the organization. We hope that the IPC is also pleased to include one of the founding Olympic sports (in the Olympic programme since 1896) on the programme of the Paralympic Games too.

#### Why has Rowing just now become a part of the Paralympic Games?

Adaptive Rowing first appeared at the World Rowing Championships in 1993 and then again in 1995 but struggled to take off. Many seminars were held to educate and raise awareness during the period starting 1996 and on. Then, a separate Adaptive Rowing Commission was added to FISA in 2001 which lead to the first credible appearance at World Championships in 2002. Becoming part of the Paralympic Games is a long process, but we are satisfied that FISA moved very fast, and was accepted into the IPC very quickly compared to many other sports.

#### Please describe the total necessary equipment that will be used and seen during the competitions.

FISA and its partner boat builders will provide, free of charge, all the necessary boats and equipment at the Paralympic Games. This way the athletes will arrive in Beijing and be able to claim their boats, adjust them and start rowing. No expensive transports of boats will be necessary for Rowing. The boat classes include single sculls, double sculls and coxed fours. All are matched with similar physical disabilities to match the competitors with the equipment.

For more information about FISA, please visit [www.worldrowing.com](http://www.worldrowing.com)

Rowing Boat for Adaptive AW1x or AM1x



Photo: © World Rowing



# A Preview of Beijing Success at Paralympic World Cup in Manchester

The English city of Manchester hosted four major sporting events from 7 to 11 May, encompassing the 2008 Paralympic World Cup. The competition delivered an impressive set of winners that showed a strong readiness for the upcoming Games.

The Regional Arena was witness to an exciting four days of Wheelchair Basketball teams competing, with the US American men and Dutch women winning gold medals.

Although beginning the series of games with a defeat by Great Britain, the US team quickly made up for the loss with an onslaught of victories the other three days against Germany and Sweden. The final saw a rematch against Great Britain, ending however in the opposite result, 60 to 58, giving the US team the gold.

The Netherlands stayed undefeated during the four days of competition in Women's Wheelchair Basketball. Playing against China, Brazil and Great Britain, their most narrowly won victory was game one against China, 51 to 42.

In the Women's Track Cycling event, China, Germany and Great Britain brought home the gold. Athlete Aileen McGlynn (GBR) impressed audiences with two different wins in 3km Pursuit and Tandem Kilo.

The Men's Track Cycling also saw the gold medal twice won by Great Britain's Anthony Kappes in Tandem Sprint and Tandem Kilo. Other gold winners included Darren Kenny (GBR), Jody Cundy (GBR), Jiri Jezek (CZE) and Ralf Arnold (GER).

The swimming competition at the Aquatics Centre was a two-day event, which saw a concentration on Natalie Du Toit from South Africa, as she qualified for the Paralympics. Du Toit had already qualified for the Olympic Games at the Open Water Swimming Championship. She assumed her reputation by winning the 100m freestyle competition.

In the Athletics event on the final day, Jason Smyth from Ireland broke his own world record in the 100m (T13) with a time of 10.85 seconds. In addition to claiming the distinguished US Paralympian of 2007, Jessica Galli (US) impressed the Regional Arena in four competitions, winning at least one of each medal. David Weir (GBR) also won more than one medal in the 400m and 1500m races.

The five-day event had over 400 competitors from 45 different countries competing for 175 medals. The city of Manchester and record crowds were able to see a glimpse of what the Paralympic Games will be like this coming September in Beijing.



Urs Kolly of Switzerland competes in the F42/44 mens Long Jump

# Rowing Athletes Qualify for Paralympics at World Championships

The chance to compete in Rowing's debut as an official Paralympic Sport in Beijing is now a reality. The final Qualification Regatta finished on 10 May after three days of exciting competition in Munich, Germany. Two boats in each of the four events had the chance to qualify their team.

The qualification occurred either from finishing in first or second position during the finals. The events held included: Arms Women's Single Sculls (AW1x), Arms Men's Single (AM1x), Trunk and Arms Double Sculls (TA2x), and Legs, Trunk and Arms Mixed Coxed Four (LTAMx4+).

In order to seek the greatest geographical distribution and the largest number of participating countries, FISA and the IPC decided to allocate four qualification slots that had not been filled, in accordance with a special Bipartite Process. Eight Bipartite Invitation slots were available, four eligible males and four eligible females, as described in the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games Qualification Criteria.

The decisions occurred on the day after the final competition. They included: Hong Kong, Spain, Japan and South Africa.

As a result of the World Championships, a total of 22 countries will be participating in the Paralympic Rowing Regatta in Beijing: four Asian, one African, three from the Americas, one from Oceania, and 13 European. These athletes will now compete in the Games, in addition to the 64 rowers who qualified at the 2007 World Rowing Championships on the same course in Munich last year.



Chinese Rowing Team celebrates qualification

# Canada Shines at IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships

The Canadian Team took home the Gold Medal after the World Championships in the A-Tournament, winning all five of its games. Other teams in the A-Tournament included Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway and the United States.

The growing city of Marlborough, Massachusetts hosted Tournaments A and B of the 2008 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships this year, with a total of 200 athletes from ten different countries participating. The event took place at the New England Sports Center from 27 March to 5 April.

Day one for Canada ended with a strong finish, resulting with 11:0 as the final against Italy. Billy Bridges was the player to watch, scoring three goals for Canada against the Italian team, and then going on to repeat three more goals against Germany. Norway's Rolf Pederson and the US player Taylor Lipsett similarly followed the triple-scoring trend with their teams' respective games against Japan.

In the B Tournament, Korea secured the Gold, remaining undefeated throughout its competitions against Poland, Estonia and the Czech Republic. This tier of teams were all vying for a position in next year's 2009 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships A Tournament, with the advancing going to Korea and Czech Republic. The move gives the two teams, as well as all others in the A Tournament, the opportunity to therefore qualify for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

The team captains and flag bearers representing the ten competing countries were honoured before the event took place in an impressive Opening Ceremony. The champagne-breaking introduction was at the TD Banknorth. Medals were awarded as follows:

| A Pool |          | B Pool |                  |
|--------|----------|--------|------------------|
| Gold   | – Canada | Gold   | – Korea          |
| Silver | – Norway | Silver | – Czech Republic |
| Bronze | – USA    | Bronze | – Estonia        |

For more information, visit [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org).



Canadian player blocks goal attempt



## From Athens to Beijing

The National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of China was founded in 1983. Over the years, sports organizations have been set up in 27 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, promoting the co-ordinated development of sports for athletes with a disability.

In China, the Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) is at city and country-wide levels and have a full-time staff already in place in charge of sports. NPC China is part of CDPF and has put in place a smooth and effective work network where contacts with the IPC, domestic and International Sports Organizations are available at different levels, essentially optimizing all communication.

The major targets of NPC China are to mobilize and help people with a disability get involved in physical exercises and rehabilitation activities. In addition, they organize national and international competitions in order to promote exchanges, and enhance friendship with other athletes around the world. Overall they want to contribute to the development of the Paralympic Movement.

The Paralympian interviewed NPC China about their upcoming role in the Beijing Games.



NPC China holds a national meeting on training

**As the host country of the 2008 Paralympic Games, what are you most looking forward to?**

We are looking forward to the excellent performance of our Paralympic athletes. It is the first time the Organizing Committee is working under the agreement between IOC and IPC, and China considers it a very honourable opportunity to be the host country. We look forward to seeing our athletes display good sportsmanship, and also achieve accomplishments that complement the host country, making new contributions to the promotion of the Paralympic Movement.

**China jumped in overall standings in Sydney from 6 to 1 in Athens. What do you attribute to this success?**

The results achieved in Athens are due to a more open policy launched in the 1980s. The party and central government have been attaching more importance towards people with a disability, including sports. The whole society also supported this. An increase in financial help, and laws enacted helped efforts to promote the overall development

Secondly, organizations have been set up across the country and their functions have been improved. They are empowered to promote the development of sports, stage competitions at national and regional levels, and create conditions for athletes with a disability to display their abilities through sports.

**How have the Chinese competitors prepared for another first place overall standing in 2008?**

The Chinese athletes will participate in all 20 sports of the Paralympic Games. They have been training at 18 training bases across the country and actively participating in the IPC sanctioned individual competitions and the test tournaments organized by NPC China. They are aiming to make them ready for the Paralympic Games, both in sporting excellence and spiritual tradition.

**What impression do you hope to have audiences take away from the Games?**

The concept of the Beijing Paralympic Games is "Transcendence, Equality, Integration". The target is to inspire and excite spectators with excellent performances and the spirit of athletes with a disability, as well as improve awareness in the sports. We hope to more socially integrate athletes both who are able-bodied and with a disability. We also hope to show the meaning of "Equal Splendor of the Two Games".

**How will the Beijing Games influence the future of NPC China?**

Our expectation is to not only produce milestones in the Paralympic Movement around the world, but also apply our abundant experience to the future work of NPC China. The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games will make it possible for NPC China to make full use of the existing venues and facilities for future promotion of sports activities for athletes with a disability. Our aim is to realize the target of "Rehabilitation and physical exercise, social inclusion and equality".

**"The concept of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games is 'Transcendence, Equality, Integration'."**

**What is the overall feeling and expectation of the athletes competing in their home country?**

Chinese athletes feel proud and genial in their participation in the Paralympic Games in their home country. As the host ready to offer high hospitality, they are expecting to make friends with athletes from the world, exchange skills with them, encourage each other for better performance, and enable foreign athletes to experience love and harmony in China. Surely, the Chinese athletes are aiming high for the best performance to win honour as a token of gratefulness to the love of their home country and people.

**Do you feel the Paralympic Mascot, Lele, has preference to the Chinese competitors?**

We should say that the Paralympic mascot has preference to the Chinese competitors because China as an agriculture-strong country has a stronger preference to cows. The image of the Fu Niu Lele implies not only the Chinese traditional culture but also the common nature of athletes with a disability. Cows are everywhere and are friends of all people in the world. Therefore, Fu Niu Lele belongs to the world, representing such positive attitudes towards life as solid work, persistence, never give-up, honesty, optimism and diligence.



NPC Classifier's Seminar in March



Chinese powerlifter





## Allianz's Initiative Introduces Athletes

As the Beijing 2008 Games are really upon us, one of the IPC's Gold Patrons, Allianz, has supported the production of video portraits of five outstanding Paralympic athletes who are on their way to Beijing. Ranging from two to four minutes, the revealing introductions will be provided free of cost to the rights holding broadcasters of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games and are also available on ParalympicSport.TV, IPC's internet TV channel.

"Paralympic Moments" is aimed at further increasing the visibility of the Paralympic Movement to the public. On the one hand, the production crew took a look into the private lives of the athletes, visiting them at home and interviewing them. On the other hand, the athletes' sport-lives are in focus with images from training and past competitions. Below are the featured athletes.



Vergeer on break from the courts and camera

**Esther Vergeer (NED):** Being the most successful Wheelchair Tennis player of the past years, Esther has been ranked number one in the world since 1999 and has not lost a single match since 2002.



Bruhn after 100m Breaststroke win

**Kirsten Bruhn (GER):** Kirsten has already won four medals at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, one of which was a gold medal. She is one of the biggest German hopefuls in the swimming pool for Beijing.



Lopes on cue in between laps

**Carlos Lopes (POR):** Portugal's fastest blind man. His success is based on perfect communication and confidence with in his guide Nuno Alpiarca.



Teuber after Individual Pursuit Bicycle win

**Michael Teuber (GER):** After a horrible accident at the age of 19 the diagnosis was that he would never be able to walk again. But Michael did not want to accept this. Willpower and overwhelming self-confidence made him become what he is today: one of the most successful Paralympic cyclers.



Popow resting from practices runs

**Heinrich Popow (GER):** Heinrich's left leg was amputated when he was nine years old. Now at the age of 25, he is preparing for his second Paralympic Games as a runner and is aiming for another medal.



# The Exciting New Programme from the IPC



NPC Palestine staff member Ehsan Abbas Idkaidek

This programme is unique. It shoots straight to the root of development and works with National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) to create a solid foundation whereon a home can be built. If you were to ask where the excitement could be found in such a programme, you can look to the results already documented thus far.

Described here is the ambition and inspiration within the Organizational Development Initiative, or ODI. The Paralympian hopes to spread the word to a wide audience and see the continued success of the programme.

Launched in July 2007, in its first year, ODI inspired the participants and furthered the goals of the programme. This IPC programme received additional funding support from strong external partners, including UK Sport and Commonwealth Games Canada. This consequential support played a crucial role in the success of ODI.

The ODI is the new strategic investment programme of the IPC to help promising NPCs reach their full potential. More specifically, it helps NPCs strengthen and stabilize their capacity and capability to deliver Paralympic Sport in their country and to be active members of the broader Paralympic Movement. NPCs participating in the ODI go through a series of on-site workshops and receive specialized coaching to deliver activities which they outline as priority for their NPC, thus developing an organizational capacity over a four-year period.

**With 14 NPCs participating from four different regions, the ODI officially went global. The NPCs that joined the ODI in the first two years include:**

|            |           |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Azerbaijan | Burundi   | Cape Verde |
| Kenya      | Lesotho   | Morocco    |
| Namibia    | Palestine | Rwanda     |
| Tanzania   | Tunisia   | Turkey     |
| Uruguay    | Zambia    |            |

ODI is more about developing the core of NPCs, by providing them with support in cultivating their inner capacity and capabilities. With approval from the Governing Board, IPC is concentrating on organizational development.



NPC Rwanda inside their new facility

According to IPC policy, ODI is an effective and appropriate engagement strategy for NPCs that want to get to the next level. The primary aim of this development investment is to strengthen the Paralympic Movement, including increased participation of athletes in Paralympic Sport through high functioning organizations.

The NPC Tanzania was one of the first NPCs to join ODI, holding a workshop in Dar es Salaam in September 2007. In February of this year, the Secretary General of the NPC of Tanzania, Iddi Kibwana, proudly welcomed one of the ODI funding partners, UK Sport, to visit their new office, donated by the Sports Council and built next to the new National Stadium.

Kibwana explained that having all of their people and papers in one place will help the NPC to grow. “I think that

improving organizational capacity is a great idea. Most African NPCs lack something in organization, in management and so on ... We need to start with NPC administration and then move on to training coaches and classifiers,” he said.

The NPC Rwanda entered the ODI in 2008 and has benefited from the IPC’s support but also from a growing co-operation with its neighbour, NPC Tanzania. Rwanda has had many successes securing funding for important investments and now sees the ODI as a chance to accelerate into the future, hoping to bring its neighbouring countries along with it.

NPCs can apply for the ODI on a yearly basis. Between five to eight NPCs will be selected to enter the ODI each year depending on the level of resources available.



NPC Namibia with IPC staff during a workshop



## IPC Reviews Anti-Doping Code Following WADA Revision



The revised World Anti-Doping Code was approved unanimously by the WADA Foundation Board in a meeting that had preceded the World Anti-Doping Conference last November. The new code will come into force on 1 January 2009, significantly affecting all international sporting authorities at that time.

Due to this major action, IPC is currently reviewing its own Anti-Doping Code. The major change will blend the result management process together with the WADA Code provisions. This includes the athlete's right to promptly request the analysis of the B Sample, following notification of the initial review process outcome. In failing such a request however, the B Sample analysis may be deemed waived.

The WADA Code revision process had extended over 18 months and involved three rounds of review, followed by three successive draft revisions distributed to all stakeholders for feedback. The new WADC code provides additional sanctions in doping cases involving several noted aggravating circumstances.

There is also a greater amount of flexibility relating to sanctions in general. Reduced sanctioning may however be considered by the result management authority when an athlete can establish that the substance involved was not intended to enhance performance. The reduced sanctioning may also be held in the case of substantial assistance to an Anti-Doping Organization discovering a rule violation by another person, or simply voluntary admission thereof.

During IPC's Anti-Doping Code revision process, the Registered Testing Pool set-up will be reviewed. Additionally, IPC will re-examine and update its TUE Management policies in accordance with the revised International Standards for Testing (IST) and for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE), recently approved by WADA.

The purpose of the IST is to appropriate effective testing, while maintaining the integrity and identity of the samples from notifying the athlete and transporting them for analysis. The IST also includes the processes and procedures with regard to athlete whereabouts information, relevant to athletes that are part of the national or international federation Registered Testing Pool.

The main purpose of the ISTUE is to ensure that the process of granting TUEs is harmonized across sports and countries. A Therapeutic Use Exemption may in fact give an athlete the authorization to take medication needed that is listed under the Prohibited List. The criteria for granting such a TUE for an athlete includes health risks without taking a prohibited substance, substance usage not producing significant enhancement of performance, and an unavailable therapeutic alternative to using the prohibited substance or method.

The IPC will also take the opportunity during the review process to strengthen the co-operation with the National Anti-Doping Organizations, entering athlete data in ADAMS, complementary Out-of-Competition Testing programmes, and mutual recognition of TUE Certificates.

The IPC is expecting to finalize the review process by this summer, followed by its submission to the IPC Governing Board in September for approval. The IPC Membership will be informed about the changes and updates this autumn. Additionally, updated information will be posted on the IPC website under 'Anti-Doping'.

**For more information, please visit the 'Games' section on [www.wada-ama.org/en/](http://www.wada-ama.org/en/).**

## VISTA 2009 – Call for Abstracts!

The doors are now open to receive all abstracts for the fifth VISTA Conference, held in Vancouver, Canada from 22 to 26 March 2009. The theme this year will be "Paralympic Legacy and Innovation". The conference will immediately be following the Chef de Mission Seminar for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

Organized by the Canadian Paralympic Committee and 2010 LEGACIES NOW, this IPC conference will continue to bridge the gap between theory and practice, providing the ideal environment for discussions about research and expertise relating to Paralympic Sport and the Paralympic Movement. VISTA also promotes and advances the mission, goals and reputation of IPC.

**The deadline for all abstracts is 31 October 2008.**

**For more information, go to [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)**



Athletes taking the Anti-Doping Education Quiz



# Women in Paralympic Leadership Summits Enlighten Reader



Nora Scheffe (centre) discusses with participants at the Asian Summit in Malaysia



Closing Ceremony signing of the Kuala Lumpur (KL) Declaration at the Summit.

I have just returned from facilitating my third IPC Women in Sport Summit. In addition to developing action plans for women in sport projects, the sessions are designed to provide skills and motivation to the participants. As content leader for the sessions, I ended up learning a lot more than what I taught. In addition to new knowledge, I left each Summit with a renewed energy and enthusiasm!

My first exposure to a Summit was Kenya in 2005. About six weeks before the event, I was approached to see if I could facilitate the event. Having lived in Zimbabwe for four years, I was quite comfortable to return to an African setting and work with local leaders. During the session, we had participants from all over Kenya, as well as a few women from Uganda and Tanzania.

The strength and resilience of these leaders was striking. Even with the journey to the session, participants had to overcome barriers - enduring long bus rides on bumpy roads and arranging transport from rural areas. Once together, the group formed a quick bond and we spent three days together practicing leadership skills and talking about concrete ways to create more opportunities for girls and women in Paralympic Sport.

One year later, Germany hosted the European Summit, bringing together a very competent group of leaders from 16 European countries. I was struck by the level of every individual's experience and the genuine interest in learning from others. The session had a warmth and openness that allowed the group to have candid discussions about how to move forward both in their home countries and as a region.

**"I was struck by the level of every individual's experience and the genuine interest in learning from others."**

A common theme throughout the three days was the need for a regional network to support others and assist with various action plans. After working together during the day, eating all our meals together and socializing in the evenings, the group formalized their network and created a group that will continue to support the momentum of the Summit.

The most recent summit, hosted by Malaysia this year in May, was another wonderful experience. I felt nervous as I entered the meeting room and saw 60 delegates from 19 participating nations. Unlike Africa, which for me felt a bit like a second home, and Europe with a familiar western culture, this was embarking on an exciting journey into a new and vast cross-section of cultures. We had women and men from a multitude of cultural and religious backgrounds; representatives from Qatar to Timor Leste to Japan had all come together to share their experiences.

Following the colourful and elaborate Opening Ceremony that highlighted Malaysian culture, we had a very open discussion about cultural differences and how to be effective when working in other cultures. As the delegates spoke freely about their experiences, the group of 60 felt more like a group of old friends, enjoying a candlelit meal together, swapping our favourite travel stories. Even though I started the morning feeling like an outsider, I was quickly drawn in by the energy of this group and their accepting attitudes.

That first discussion, which focused on our differences, had the ironic effect of bringing us closer together. Interestingly too, as the participants spoke about the women in sport activities in their home countries and discussed the barriers faced by women, it was clear that even in very different cultural contexts there were many similar experiences for women in sport throughout the region. Together, the group endorsed a Declaration for Women in Sport and each delegation identified two key activities focused on increasing the number of opportunities for girls and women in their nation. The impact of these activities will be felt throughout the region well beyond this calendar year.

It has been a tremendous learning experience for me to have the opportunity to work with diverse groups from around the globe and facilitate leadership workshops discussing women in sport issues. The need is clear, the commitment is strong, and with the contribution of all the leaders who attended the Summits, I am confident that the next generation of females will have more opportunities and more role models in Paralympic Sport.

## Inspired to be a Reader's Letter contributor?

If you want your words, thoughts, opinions, and/or experiences with any aspect of the Paralympic Movement written here, please send your idea for your own Reader's Letter to Jeff Wolfshohl at [jeff.wolfshohl@paralympic.org](mailto:jeff.wolfshohl@paralympic.org). The restrictions are minimal, the field is open. All ideas are welcome.

What do you want to say to The Paralympian Audience?



## Finding Footage and Preserving It

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) seeks to safeguard its own heritage and eventually create a public access point. At the Documentation Centre in Bonn there is a constant influx of information that is being received and therefore in need of upkeep. The focus here: footage.

The IPC has already invested in the recovery of footage from the past. We really do not discriminate against types of footage. We are absolute in accepting from a wide variety of sources. This could be from amateur, semi-professional, all the way up to professional footage that was recorded in the past at sport competitions for athletes with a disability. The current IPC footage collection primarily contains videotapes in different formats from the previous Paralympic Summer and Winter Games. At the moment, the majority hails from Barcelona (1992), Nagano (1998), Sydney (2000), Salt Lake City (2002), Athens (2004) and Torino (2006).

The earliest footage in the IPC Collection is a clip from the Tokyo 1964 Paralympic Games. The timely video, gives a realistic glimpse into the past, as the Parade of Nations moves down the Athletics' Track for the Opening Ceremony in the Japanese capital. This is followed by athletes competing in wheelchair slalom, javelin and shot put. The now digitized black and white video is a mere piece of what else could be recorded.

Other footage received highlighted the Games in Heidelberg in 1972 and the Games in Toronto in 1976. Both were transferred to the IPC from the Danish Disability Sport Organization.

In January 2004, IPC appointed Input Media, a London-based television production and facilities company, to market and manage its expanding videotape archive. This year, eight different donors have provided various films to IPC, adding to our growing collection. These films were digitized by Guertler Multimedia, a German company specializing in digitization, and thus made available in an uncompressed data format, on Digital Betacam tape, as well as on an easy-to-view DVD, continuing the preservation strategy.

Most of the historic footage received is recorded on cellulose acetate, a type of film which unfortunately begins to deteriorate to an unusable state when exposed to heat and humidity. In addition, if for example these old tapes are somewhere deep in your own storage area, be weary of dirt, dust and tape-hungry mice.

The conclusion: contact us if you have footage in order to preserve it in the best possible way. The IPC hopes to continue gathering the historic films to show on ParalympicSportTV and to encourage the production of a documentary on the history of the Paralympic Games in the future. The films will certainly present strong, emotional images, and as a result, enliven the Paralympic values.

For more information, please contact Stefanie Pohle at [stefanie.pohle@paralympic.org](mailto:stefanie.pohle@paralympic.org).



Photo: © IPC

Archive footage reels

## Crash Course: The Movement

Do you know...

1. Who started the Paralympic Movement in 1948?
2. How did it actually materialize?
3. When was the International Paralympic Committee founded?
4. What is the vision of the International Paralympic Committee?
5. Where are the official headquarters?



Founder of IPC



(These questions will be *much* more difficult next time)

- 1.) Sir Ludwig Guttmann
- 2.) Sir Ludwig Guttmann organized a sports competition involving World War II veterans with a spinal cord injury in Stoke Mandeville, Great Britain.
- 3.) 22 September 1989
- 4.) "To Enable Paralympic Athletes to Achieve Sporting Excellence and Inspire and Excite the World"
- 5.) Bonn, Germany



## Second Laureus Award for Vergeer

Earlier this year, Dutch Wheelchair Tennis player Esther Vergeer was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year with a Disability at the ninth Laureus World Sports Awards in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Esther also won the award in 2002 and was nominated in 2006 and 2007. In the last year, Vergeer won all her singles matches, four Grand Slam Tournaments, the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters and was a member of the Dutch women's team which won the World Team Cup. She remained number one in the singles ranking throughout 2007.

The prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards honour the world's best sportsmen and women, celebrating sporting excellence across all disciplines and continents each year. The winners are selected by a jury, including members of the Laureus World Sports Academy.

## 50th Governing Board Meeting Concludes in Iran

Over the three-day period in early May, the IPC Governing Board focused on the upcoming Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, receiving an update on the final preparations during their meeting in Tehran, Iran. One of the results was the knowledge that Beijing will see an expected record number of women and more athletes with high support needs.

The Governing Board also discussed other issues, including receiving the audit for the Financial Year 2007, an update on the IPC Business Plan implementation and a progress update on the Vancouver, London and Sochi Games.

## Athletes' Council Elections

During the Paralympic Games in Beijing, the IPC will be organizing the election for new members of the Athletes' Council. Each athlete will be able to vote, and the six athletes receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.

Every Summer Paralympic Games incurs the electing of six athletes, with every Winter Games electing three. Each National Paralympic Committee may nominate one candidate for the election.

This year, voting will take place at the Beijing Paralympic Village, and the Qingdao and Hong Kong Paralympic Villages. Overseen by the Election Task Force, operation hours will be 4 to 15 September from 9:00 – 21:00 for Beijing, and 5 to 8 September from 13:00 – 21:00 for Qingdao and Hong Kong.

All ballots will be counted in Beijing and the elected candidates will be officially announced at a press conference prior to the Closing Ceremony. Results will also be published on the IPC website.

### PARALYMPIC VALUES INSIDE THE MOVEMENT

## The Question: Where do you see the Paralympic Values in your own personal experience?



### Courage

"Courage is not always about overcoming fear; it can also be about having the will to dare greatly and achieve something extraordinary or unbelievable. The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games Organizing Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, International Sport Federations and their partners have been courageous by daring to establish unprecedented standards and working collaboratively on a scale that promises to deliver an extraordinary environment and atmosphere for Paralympians to achieve their competitive dreams, while inspiring and exciting the China public and the world like never before."

– David Grevemberg, IPC Executive Director Sport and IPSF Relations

### Inspiration

"I could say that sometimes I mix up motivation with inspiration, but I have learned that they actually work hand in hand. I see the inspiration each time I begin a race, as well as when I complete it."

And the more I think about it, almost every moment that I have spent on the track inspired me when I studied at university and vice versa."

– Cheri Blauwet, Paralympic Gold Medalist in Wheelchair Racing

### Determination

"In the past and even today, we have seen athletes with a disability at a national, international and Paralympic level using their own determination in overcoming barriers that society imposes upon them. These athletes concrete their ability rather than their disability, leading to not only high sporting achievements but also a better quality of life."

– Martin Mansell, IPC Education Committee

### Equality

"I saw equality when I witnessed the joint, stage-one planning for the upcoming Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It continues to be held in constant co-operation with the IOC and IPC and will certainly pave the way towards a prosperous future."

– Miguel Sagarra, IPC Vice President



### Imprint

Editor: Steffi Klein  
Assistant Editor: Jeff Wolfshohl  
Graphic Design: Clever + Klug GmbH  
Printing: welzel+hardt GmbH

All rights reserved  
International Paralympic Committee, 2008  
ISSN 1609-1329

For subscriptions please visit [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)

### International Paralympic Committee

Adenauerallee 212-214  
D-53113 Bonn, Germany

Phone: +49 228 2097 200  
Fax: +49 228 2097 209  
Email: [info@paralympic.org](mailto:info@paralympic.org)  
Web: [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)

The views expressed in The Paralympian are not necessarily those of the IPC. In case of republication of any part of The Paralympian, please send a copy to the IPC.

The publisher reserves the right to edit submitted articles.

### Worldwide Partners:



### Gold Patrons:



The International Paralympic Committee endeavours to be as current and accurate as possible with this publication, aiming to treat all readers with courtesy and respect. We can not guarantee however that the information contained in this publication is complete and accurate in all respects and readers are taken to understand and agree to this disclaimer upon reading any part of The Paralympian. Articles, pictures and other written or graphic devices published in The Paralympian may not be reproduced without the prior written permission of the International Paralympic Committee Media Department.