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*Matt Cowdrey (AUS) at the 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships. Photo: Duif du Toit/Gallo Images*

## SWIMMERS EXCEL AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The world's best swimmers with a disability were in the pool from 2 to 8 December, giving the public a taste of what is to come at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. A total of 549 athletes from 49 countries took part in the 2006 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Swimming World Championships, which were held in Durban, South Africa, under the organization of Disability Sport South Africa.

Jessica Long (USA) and Wang Xiaofu (China) were the most outstanding athletes of the championships, each smashing five world records. They were also named 'Disabled Swimmers of the Year' by the Swimming World Magazine.

Competing in the women's S8 division, 14 year-old Long brought home world records in the 100m free (1:07.03 min), 400m free (4:53.14 min), 100m fly (1:13.25 min) and 200m Individual Medley (2:43.60 min) as well as swimming on the USA's 400m free relay world-record team (34-points). In total, Long won nine gold medals at the Championships.

In the men's S8 division, Wang Xiaofu set world records in the 50m free (26.83 sec), 100m free (57.74 sec), 400m free (4:33.37 min), 100m fly (1:01.53 min) and 200 Individual Medley (2:25.74 min). He finished the Championships with five gold medals and one silver.

South Africa's Natalie du Toit was also a stand out athlete, collecting six gold medals at the Championships. In front of a local crowd, du Toit was the darling of the South African media following her outstanding performances in the women's S9 (single leg amputee) competitions. Even more outstanding was that du Toit came in third overall in the open water swim, only two minutes and 19 seconds behind the winning male athlete, Sergei Punko of Belarus.

Commented IPC President Sir Philip Craven: "These World Championships were an outstanding event. The organizers and hosts in South Africa made every effort to ensure that the athletes received the highest standards both for the sporting competitions and their visit to South Africa. The standard of competition was extremely high this year and I could see that the athletes have already begun their extensive preparations for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games."

The overall medal tally saw Great Britain on top with a total of 52 medals, including 24 gold, followed by the USA with 56 medals, of which 23 were gold. The Ukraine came in third position with 47 medals, including 20 gold.

## SPIRIT IN MOTION



*Photo ©: IPC*  
**BOCOG Delegation  
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*Photo ©: Yuko Saito*  
**Asia Battles for FESPIC  
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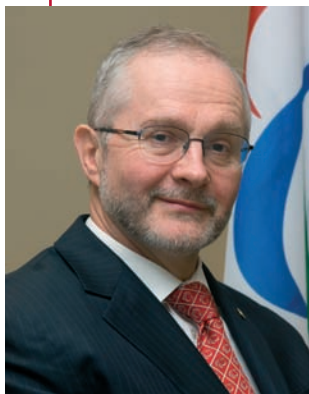
*Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys*  
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*Photo ©: Mark Zieper*  
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## IOSD Foundations Lie Strong



The last few months have been eventful, with a full schedule of IPC committee and council meetings. For me, one of the most significant was the first meeting of the International Organizations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs) Council in September 2006.

This council is made up of representatives from each of the four IOSDs: the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA), the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), the International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) and the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS).

Since the foundation of the International Co-ordinating Committee (ICC), the predecessor of the IPC, in 1982, these four organizations have provided the backbone of the Paralympic Movement. While acting as independent organizations, the IOSDs are recognized by the IPC as the sole representative of a specific disability group to the IPC.

Each IOSD co-operates with the IPC to provide the disability specific expertise required to develop sport for athletes with a disability from the grass roots level to elite level. Several IOSDs are the governing body for some of the disability-specific sports at the Paralympic Games.

It is clear to me, and to many others, that the role of the IOSDs has not diminished with the growth of the IPC, but on the contrary, that their role should continue to be strengthened to support the Paralympic Movement and its athletes.

We have also been very busy over the last few months with our Paralympic Games preparations. With Beijing clearly on next year's horizon, IPC Headquarters was honoured by a visit from LIU Jingmin, Executive Vice President of BOCOG and Vice Mayor of Beijing and also from the CEO of London 2012 Paul Deighton. Both visits were extremely productive and allowed the IPC an opportunity to welcome our distinguished visitors to the city of Bonn and give them an insight into the workings of our organization. It was also a wonderful opportunity to forge new relationships that will carry us forward in our Games preparations.

Vancouver has also shown some interesting developments after the approval of the new concept for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games by the IPC Governing Board in November. This new concept will see a new enlarged Games with two distinct venue clusters, bringing together the communities of Vancouver and Whistler for what promises to be a wonderful celebration of Paralympic Sport.

*Philip Craven*

Sir Philip Craven, MBE  
IPC President

## PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

### IPC Hosts BOCOG Team in Bonn

On 6 and 7 February, a delegation from the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG), headed by LIU Jingmin, Executive Vice President of BOCOG and Vice Mayor of Beijing, visited IPC Headquarters in Bonn, Germany, to carry out the first Paralympic Games Strategic Project Review.

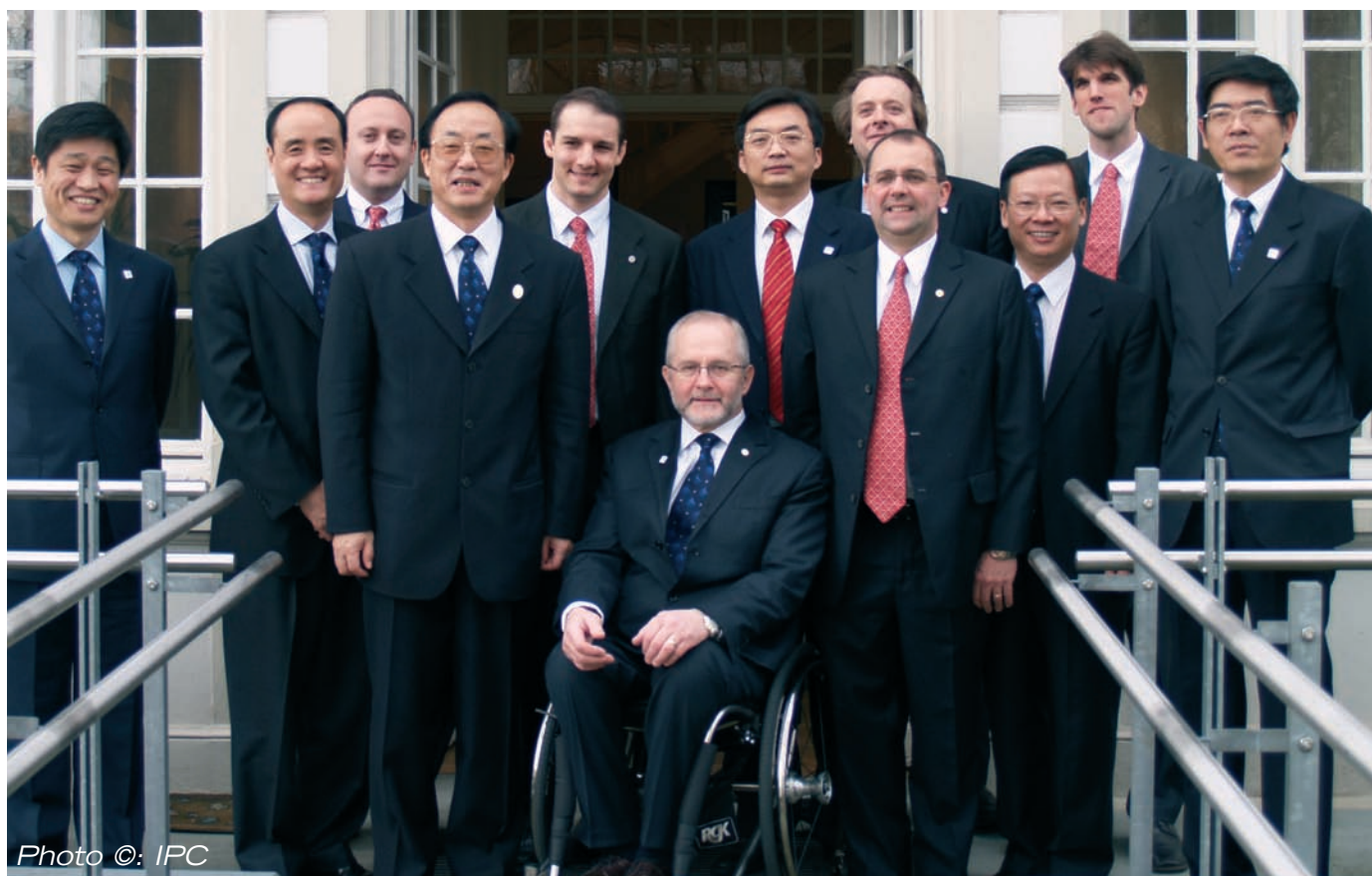
In several meetings, representatives of BOCOG and IPC discussed various aspects of the Paralympic Games preparation process, including accommodation, medical services, marketing, venue management planning and International relations.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven attended the opening session of the meeting and said: "Exactly 20 months before the opening of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, I am

happy to welcome Mr. LIU and the delegation of BOCOG to Bonn. This is an exciting opportunity for the IPC to further strengthen our relationship and enhance the Games planning process. We are sure that the Beijing 2008 Paralympics have the potential to surpass all our expectations."

Additionally to the meetings, Sir Philip Craven and Mr. LIU also met with the Lord Mayor of Bonn, Bärbel Dieckmann in her office at the City Hall of Bonn.

The next Strategic Project Review will take place from 18 to 19 July in Beijing, China, followed by the Chef de Mission Seminar from 5 to 7 September, also in Beijing. The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games will take place from 6 to 17 September 2008.



Members of the IPC Management Team with the BOCOG delegation, including (front row, left to right) BOCOG Executive Vice President LIU Jingmin, IPC President Sir Philip Craven and IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez.



The city of Beijing, China, has undergone extensive preparations for the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



## PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

### Vancouver Celebrates 'Small Town Spirit'

As a result of the decision taken by the Municipality of Whistler in August 2006 not to build a new arena for Ice Sledge Hockey, the IPC requested that the Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games (VANOC) develop a new concept for the Games that addressed not only the changes on the competition venues but also the overall impact on the Games experience. At its November meeting, the IPC Governing Board approved the new concept "Small Town Spirit, Big City Facilities and World-class Exposure" for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

The new concept is based on two main venue clusters with the snow venues in Whistler and the ice venues in Vancouver. The activities in Whistler will be concentrated in a specific area of the city: the triangle formed by the Ice Sledge Hockey venue, the Wheelchair Curling venue and the Vancouver Paralympic Village. While in Vancouver, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling will now be played at the Olympic venues of the University of British Columbia's Winter Sports Centre and the Hillcrest/Nat Bailey Stadium Park. In Vancouver, Paralympic athletes will be housed in the same Village as their Olympic counterparts.

The main benefit of this new concept is that it engages the two communities of Vancouver and Whistler, significantly increasing (two million people) the reach of the Paralympic Winter Games. VANOC has also committed itself to pursue avenues to increase the exposure of the Games at a national and international level.

Said IPC President Sir Philip Craven: "While the Paralympic Games in 2010 will no longer

be compact as originally proposed in the initial concept, we feel that this concept will enable more spectators to witness Paralympic Sport and will spread the Paralympic Spirit further through Canada. The IPC is very pleased with the work that VANOC has contributed to create such a sustainable concept for the Paralympic Games".

On 12 February, three years before the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games, VANOC kicked off a month of celebration activities with the unveiling of a giant countdown clock, proudly presented by Omega, the Official Olympic Timekeeper of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The design of the clock represents Canadian and West Coast themes and will become a landmark in Vancouver. VANOC will also host a number of other public events in Whistler, Richmond, Vancouver and West Vancouver to celebrate the countdown.

Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling are also two of 17 winter sports featured on the series of Canadian circulation and collector coins, revealed in February by VANOC and the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM).

**"This concept will enable more spectators to witness Paralympic Sport and will spread the Paralympic Spirit further through Canada"**  
- IPC President  
Sir Philip Craven



Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan welcomes the clock in downtown Vancouver counting down to the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. Photo ©: VANOC

## PARALYMPIC GAMES: LONDON 2012

### London 2012 CEO Pays a Visit to IPC HQ



Photo ©: IPC

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Organizing Committee for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games (London 2012) Paul Deighton, paid a visit to the headquarters of the IPC in Bonn, Germany, on 1 February. This was the first visit of an Organizing Committee CEO to the IPC Headquarters.

Mr. Deighton was joined by a delegation of six staff from London 2012 for a full day of meetings with members of the IPC Management Team. During the day, both teams gave presentations and updates on a

variety of issues related to the planning for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Discussions focused on Games-specific topics including education, ceremonies and marketing.

Said IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez: "It was a pleasure hosting Mr. Deighton and the London 2012 team here in our offices. I hope that it gave them an opportunity to meet our staff and learn more about the IPC. We had a very productive day of meetings and I am sure this visit will provide us with a solid ground from which we can move forward

**"It [the Paralympic Games] now offers the London Games a special opportunity to take the movement on to a new level"**  
- Bill Morris, London 2012  
Head of Culture and Events

towards 2012."

The London 2012 website now features a Blog section, where senior members of London 2012 post articles about their experiences: Bill Morris, Head of Culture and Events included the following statement in his blog following the visit to Bonn: "The IPC may be younger and more modest in scale than its older brothers at the International Olympic Committee based in Lausanne, Switzerland, but it more than makes up for it in energy, passion and welcome. As part of a London 2012 delegation including our Chief Executive and a number of my fellow Directors last week, I was surprised to discover that very few Games Organising Committees have made such trips to the IPC, and none as relatively early in their planning as we currently are."

The London 2012 Paralympic Games will take place from 29 August to 9 September 2012. For more information, please visit the London 2010 website: [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com).



## South Africa's Secret Weapon



Photo ©: Gallo Images

*At the age of only 23, South African swimmer Natalie du Toit has already taken the world by storm. After her performances at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games and the recent 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships, du Toit is an athlete who gets noticed.*

**TP: How did you come to start competing in Swimming?**

I started when I was about six years old and I haven't stopped! My brother Andre (three years older than me) was a very good swimmer. I always went with him and my mother when she took him to swimming practice. After a few times watching Andre practise, I said to my mother I think I want to try it too. The first time I jumped into a pool, I instantly felt I had a talent for swimming. I just took to it like a fish to water.

**TP: What is the nature of your disability.**

My left leg is amputated through the knee. It was the result of an accident on my scooter. While driving through a parking area, someone reversed out a parking bay without looking properly and straight into me driving past. My left leg took the brunt of the impact. The accident happened on 24 February 2001, and my lower leg was amputated five days later on 1 March 2001. The femur is still fully intact, albeit being held together by some screws! In Swimming, I am officially classified as S9, SB8 and SM9.

**TP: Are there any competitions that really stand out in your memory?**

There are two competitions that stand out for me. The first is from before my accident, ie, making the senior South African team to the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur when I was only 14 years old. The second from after my accident, ie, being awarded the David Dixon medal for the most outstanding athlete at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

**TP: What kind of training is involved?**

I train mornings and afternoons from Monday

to Friday for about two hours at a time, one two-hour session on a Saturday and Sundays I take off. In between, I go to the gym about three times a week for about an hour at a time. I train under the direction of the Hungarian-born coach, Karoly von Toros.

**TP: Are you a full-time athlete?**

I'm enrolled at the Exercise Teachers' Academy in Cape Town for a course in Sport Management. I go to classes after my morning practice until about 1pm. I also do a lot of motivational speaking. I used to have about two speaking engagements per week but I've cut down on that now that I am preparing for Beijing.

**TP: When was your first Paralympic event?**

I was only classified officially for the first time in December 2001, about ten months after my amputation. By that time I had competed in many different Swimming competitions in South Africa. The Commonwealth Games in Manchester in August 2002 was my first really big Paralympic event; I won gold in the 50m and 100m for athletes with a disability. ATHENS 2004 is my first and only Paralympic Games to date, where I won five gold medals and one silver medal.

**TP: What are your expectations for Beijing?**

To at least equal my performance in Athens and hopefully do a little better.

**TP: Who has inspired you?**

Since my accident I have realized the importance of role models. Lance Armstrong is mine. His mind is so strong and what he did to beat cancer is just super-human.

**TP: What kind of difficulties have you faced in your sport?**

Before my accident, my strong events were individual medley and butterfly. The first time I tried to do breaststroke after the accident, I swam in a circle and Butterfly was also out of the question because I couldn't kick properly anymore. So my first hurdle was to transform into an 800/1,500m freestyle

swimmer. The other difficulty to overcome was the imbalance I now have in the water. I do not have the same weight on both sides of my body so my left arm tries to compensate for the shorter left leg when I swim. It is something I have to work on all the time.

**TP: How did it feel to win six gold medals at the recent 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships in front of a home crowd?**

Absolutely fantastic! To be able to give something to all the people who have supported me so much over the last five years was simply great. South Africa doesn't often get the opportunity to host international sport events. So when we do, you have to make the most of it. I was happy that I could take full advantage of it.

**TP: How has the public/media in South Africa responded to your success?**

In general, the public in South Africa have always been very good to me. It feels like they share in my success. I guess their support for me is manifested in the demand for me to speak (or just put in an appearance) at various functions all over South Africa - meetings, banquets, corporate team-building, seminars, schools, churches, etc. I've also had a very good relationship with the media. In 2005 I won an inaugural sports journalists' award as the most media friendly sports personality in South Africa. The media were also very positive about my biography, "Tumble Turn" by Tracey Hawthorne, released in November last year.

**TP: What advice would you give to persons with a disability considering taking up sport?**

Always believe in yourself and never give up on your dreams - no matter what! "The tragedy of life does not lie in not reaching your goals; the tragedy of life lies in not having goals to reach for. It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace not to have stars to reach for. Aim high, dream big dreams and remember: Everything is possible if you can just believe." - Benjamin E. Mays (1894 - 1984).

## IPC SPORT CALENDAR

IPC Biathlon and Cross Country Skiing World Cup Finals  
IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup Finals  
2007 Visa Paralympic World Cup  
Arafura Games 2007

10 - 14 March 2007  
12 - 14 March 2007  
7 - 13 May 2007  
12 - 19 May 2007

Mt. Washington, CAN  
Zoncolan, ITA  
Manchester, GBR  
Darwin, AUS



# SPORT PROFILE: JUDO

## Judo: A Sport of Balance

*'The Paralympian' had an opportunity to speak with Jean-Claude Prieur, IBSA's Judo Representative on the IPC Sports' Council, about the long tradition of the sport of Judo and the exciting progress that has been made recently in the sport.*

**TP: What is the history behind the sport?**

Judo was created in 1882 by the master Jigoro Kano, a prominent Japanese academic who transformed Ju Jitsu, a martial art into a sport whose principal objective was to join together the effective skills and non-violent techniques of combat with a method of holistic education. One of the fundamental principles is 'mutual help and prosperity', which allows all people to practise Judo. Athletes with blindness/visual impairment, managed by the International Blind Sport Federation (IBSA), are the best demonstration of this principle.

The first official IBSA competitions were organized in Paris in 1987. Since then, Judo for athletes with blindness/visual impairment has developed considerably. The introduction of Judo to the Paralympic Games in 1988 in Seoul was a significant moment of development of Judo around the world. The next Paralympic Games in Beijing will be an important step for the 40 countries who practice Judo under IBSA.

**TP: How is the sport governed?**

Judo is administered by a technical sub-committee of IBSA, under the authority of the Director General of Sport, Prof. Antonio Ménescal. This sub-committee is comprised of expert volunteers, who provide a high level of technical expertise. It is composed of a Chairperson (myself), a representative for each region, a legal officer, two athlete representatives (one male and one female) and a marketing officer.

**TP: How does it differ from able-bodied Judo?**

In reality, Judo for persons with blindness/visual impairment differs very little in its rules. Apart from the moment when the competitors seize the Judogi (commonly known as a Kimono) of their opponent, the same techniques and rules are used. Judo is a sport of 'contact', therefore for athletes with a disability, more than for able-bodied

athletes, perception is very important. It allows the athlete to sense the movement of their opponent. Otherwise, the rules of the International Judo Federation are applied. The essential difference is the technical training. A person with blindness/visual impairment does not benefit from demonstrations, but training should utilize the athlete's senses to enhance their skills.

**TP: What is the appeal of Judo for athletes and spectators?**

The most important thing that brings athletes to Judo is the ability to compete with equal weapons and rules. They benefit from the rules of a physically challenging contact sport and the mastery of their body, which can also be used in their daily life. For spectators, it is the appreciation of a spectacular sport with extraordinary throws, but also the opportunity to understand that disability is not always a limitation.

**TP: What training, equipment and assistance is needed?**

Paralympic athletes have the same needs as able-bodied athletes. The principle thing is the provision of structures to help them progress through the club system, but this is not always the case. There are a number of coaches who will work with athletes with a disability, but they use different training methods. It is often ignorance towards persons with a disability that places barriers for athletes to enter the able-bodied world. When these barriers are removed, it will be seen how many athletes are rich in potential and people will be astonished at their performances.

**TP: What classification is used for Judo?**

The classification of Judo is in three categories (B1, B2, and B3) who compete together without distinguishing the level of disability. Until now, this has been the proof of the small difference between blind athletes (B1) and athletes with a visual impairment (B2 and B3) during competition. Over the past few years, due to the increased level of competition, there are less and less B1 athletes on the podium. This is the subject of a study for the IBSA sub-committee for the next Paralympic Games.

**TP: Which are the leading nations in the**

**sport?**

The previous World Championships for IBSA Judo were held in Brommat, France. In the men's competition the top countries were Cuba, Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, France and for the women: Germany, China, Spain, France, Hungary. There are no longer any dominant countries, which is a sign of the success that IBSA Judo has achieved across the world.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

# SPORT NEWS

## Oceania Regional Championships at Arafura Games 2007



For the first time, the Oceania Region will host the inaugural Oceania Paralympic Championships as part of the well-established Arafura Games to be held from 12 to 19 May 2007 in Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia.

The Arafura Games is a leading International sporting competition for emerging champions

from the Asia Pacific region held every two years. This year, however, the event will include regional level competitions for athletes with a disability in seven sports: Athletics, Cycling, Powerlifting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Tennis.

In these sports, athletes from over 30 countries will compete for Arafura and Oceania Paralympic Championship medals. The sport programmes for athletes with a disability will be held alongside those of their able-bodied counterparts, providing a unique opportunity for all athletes.

Said Greg Hartung, President of the Australian Paralympic Committee: "This event fills a significant gap in our competition programme in this part of the world and will

provide a wonderful opportunity for both developing and high performances athletes to compete in a fully integrated multi disability competition held every two years in the year before the Summer Paralympic Games."

The Arafura Games are a well-established event in Australia, beginning in 1991. By 2005, participation had soared to more than 3,000 athletes representing 32 nations, with competition in 30 sports.

The events included in the Regional Championships are IPC Sanctioned Competitions with the financial and organizational backing of the Australian and Northern Territory governments and the Australian Paralympic Committee. For more information, please visit the official website at [www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au](http://www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au).



Asia Competes for FESPIC Honours

On 1 December, the KL'06 Far East and South Pacific Disabled Games Federation (FESPIC) Games officially closed at the Football Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as over 3,800 athletes from 47 countries were applauded for their achievements over six days of competition.

The Games, which took place from 25 November to 1 December, involved 18 sports, 15 of which also appear on the Paralympic Programme. China won the overall medal tally by winning 199 gold medals, 72 silver and 36 bronze medals. Thailand and Korea came in second and third respectively.

Two Chinese athletes - Guo Wei and Li Ling - were voted best sportsman and sportswoman of the Games respectively. Guo Wei won three gold medals in Athletics (class

F35), while Li Ling also triumphed three times in Athletics (class F57).

The Closing Ceremony was attended by around 15,000 spectators and several VIPs including the newly elected President of the Asian Paralympic Committee Dato' Zainal Abu Zarin, FESPIC President Dr. Kazuo Hatada and the Malaysian Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Azalina Othman.

The event was jointly organized by the Malaysian Paralympic Committee, the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Malaysia.

This was the last edition of the 'FESPIC Games' as the event will be renamed Para Asian Games following the dissolution of the FESPIC Federation and the Asian

Paralympic Council. In 2010, the first Para Asian Games will debut in Guangzhou, China, under the supervision of the new Asian Paralympic Committee.

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	199	72	36	307
Thailand	61	43	47	151
Korea	58	42	43	143
Malaysia	44	59	71	174
Iran	43	43	26	112
Japan	28	33	38	99
Hong Kong	25	30	23	78
Chinese Taipei	18	29	22	69
Australia	15	17	23	55
Vietnam	9	27	32	68



Photo ©:Yuko Sato

Transfer of Para-Cycling Complete



On 7 February the transfer of governance of Para-Cycling was finalized after IPC President Sir Philip Craven and International Cycling Union (UCI) President Pat McQuaid signed an agreement during a ceremony which took place at the UCI Headquarters in Aigle, Switzerland.

The transfer was agreed by majority at the Sport Forum of IPC Cycling, in September 2006. The IPC Governing Board ratified the recommendation at its meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2006.

Said Pat McQuaid, President of the UCI: "The agreement for the transfer of governance of Para-Cycling from IPC to UCI crowns, I am pleased to say, several years of partnership between the UCI and IPC. The UCI is pleased to integrate Para-Cycling in its structures. From now on, the UCI will play the same role for this specialty as it does for all the other Cycling disciplines. It is one of the first International Federations to govern and develop a sport both for able-bodied athletes as well as athletes with a disability. The UCI wishes a warm welcome to all Para-Cyclists and looks forward to organizing the next UCI Para-Cycling World Championships."

Louis Barbreau (CAN) has been appointed to the position of President of the new UCI Para-Cycling Commission. The UCI and the IPC will continue to collaborate with their respective membership to ensure the mainstreaming of Para-Cycling programmes into the national and international competition and athlete development programmes.

Pictured: (back row) UCI Paralympic Commission President Louis Barbeau, former UCI President Hein Verbruggen, and former member of the UCI Commission for cyclists with a disability and IPC Sports' Council Representative for Cycling Tony Yorke with (front row) Pat McQuaid, UCI President and IPC President Sir Philip Craven. Photo © UCI.



## African NPCs Join for Regional Seminar



Photo ©: IPC



Photo ©: IPC

For the first time in history, around 100 participants from 21 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) from the African Region gathered together in Cairo, Egypt, from 21 to 27 January, for the African Development Educational Seminar and Congress, under the theme of "A Better African Future for Persons with Disabilities".

The seminar was organized by the African Sports Confederation of Disabled (ASCOD) and held under the patronage of the First Lady of Egypt Suzanne Mubarak. The seminar, which was held in three languages, English, French and Arabic, included a variety of plenary sessions, break out sessions and sports demonstrations.

On 21 January, an Opening Ceremony was held, with speeches from IPC President Sir Philip Craven, President of the Egyptian Paralympic Committee Nabil Salem and the

Executive Director of National Sports Council Elbeltagy Medhat.

The sessions were presented by a variety of people including IPC Governing Board Member and Chairperson of the IPC Development Committee Patrick Jarvis, representatives from the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Paralympic Games, the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF), the World Organization of Volleyball for the Disabled (WOVD), the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA), several IPC Sports Technical Committees (Athletics, Powerlifting and Table Tennis) and members of the IPC Management Team.

During the plenary sessions, the speakers addressed a wide variety of themes, including several topical issues for the Paralympic Movement such as the role of women in sport

and in Africa, sport for persons with a severe disability, anti-doping issues and classification and the IPC Classification Code.

Additional training sessions educated participants about administration, competition management and membership development for their NPCs, as well as information on marketing and fundraising. Other sessions examined the Paralympic Games and how to increase the participation of athletes in African countries, as well as a closer look at several sports in terms of their rules, regulations, classification and coaching.

The seminar was found to be very informative for all parties, providing a positive forum to exchange information and an opportunity to strengthen the network among the African NPCs. The seminar provided a strong basis for future trainings for NPC administrators.

## Asian Merger Forms New Asian Paralympic Committee

In November 2006, Dato' Zainal Abu Zarin was elected as the President of the newly formed Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) at its inaugural General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The APC was established to replace the Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled (FESPIC) Federation and the Asian Paralympic Council, which were both officially dissolved on 27 November. The APC now aims to extend the concept of centres of excellence for Paralympics throughout Asia, to strengthen and further develop the level of sport for persons with a disability in the region and to foster the collaboration with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

"The aim is to make Asia as a model for others to follow...With a committee membership that is well-spread and well-diversified of committed people, we can make Asia as an example for others to follow," said Dato' Zainal.

The members of the new Asian Paralympic Council (2006 to 2010) have been elected as follows: President - Dato' Zainal Abu Zarin (Malaysia), Vice-President - Dr. Chang-il Park (South Korea), Vice President - Tariq Mustafa (Pakistan), Sports & Development Committee Chairperson - Silas Chiang (Hong

Kong), Medical & Sports Science Committee Chairperson - Tetsuo Suyama (Japan), South Asia Representative - Imran Jamil Shami (Pakistan), East Asia Representative - Guozhong Eric Zhang (China), South East Asia Representative - Ju Seng Tan

(Singapore), Central Asia Representative - B. Moshref Javadi (Iran), West Asia Representative - Naser Hehad Ghosn Alajmi (Kuwait) and Athletes' Representative - Im Yeon Kim (Korea).



Photo ©: Zaini Husin @ Ahmad



## President Craven Addresses UNESCO Anti-Doping Convention



Photo ©: UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently hosted the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport in Paris, France. During the opening session of the Convention on 5 February, IPC President Sir Philip Craven addressed the Representatives of States.

The Convention Against Doping in Sport was developed to provide a legal international anti-doping instrument. While a large number of sporting organizations, including the IPC, have signed the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC), it is not legally binding for governments. A Convention was required to

impose an obligation on governments to apply the WADC. Such actions are complementary to the actions being taken by the International sporting movement, as any lack of harmonization has the potential to be exploited to perpetuate doping.

The Convention was unanimously adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in October 2005. After ratification by a minimum of 30 governments it entered into force on 1 February. Governments now have the tools and legal framework to restore the credibility of sport.

Commented Sir Philip: "The International

Convention Against Doping in Sport is an important example of how, with international co-operation, we can enable athletes to perform at their best, in a fair environment, free from doping, with equal rules adopted by all parties."

During the Conference, Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, expressed his appreciation for the partnership with the IPC in the fight against doping in sport.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is continuing work on its key document, the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC) by initiating a Code consultation period. This procedure will enable WADA to review and fine-tune the code to enhance anti-doping programmes.

The WADC provides the framework for harmonized anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sport organizations and among public authorities. Final acceptance of the revised World Anti-Doping Code is scheduled to occur during the World Conference on Doping in Sport in Madrid, Spain, on 15 to 17 November 2007.

As a signatory of the WADC, the IPC remains committed to a doping free sporting environment at all levels. The IPC is currently reviewing the WADC and will present its feedback to WADA. Following WADA's Code revision process, the IPC will revisit the IPC Anti-Doping Code to comply with the new WADC.

## IPC Honorary Board Welcomes Three New Members

Three more prominent world figures have accepted an invitation by the IPC to become Members of the IPC Honorary Board.

In September 2006, the Honorary Board welcomed one of the worlds' most famous sopranos, Maria Guleghina. Ms. Guleghina stated during her visit to IPC Headquarters: "My support to the Paralympic Movement is rooted in my personal experience. At my birth, the doctors told my mother that I would have to spend the rest of my life in a wheelchair. Thanks to my mother and her determination, this prediction did not come true. She also encouraged me to practice sports and take ballet lessons, both of which helped to build the confidence and stamina needed to be an opera singer. This determination, confidence and stamina are, I believe, key ingredients for the success of Paralympians."

Then in November, James Wolfensohn, former President of the World Bank and Olympic fencer, became the Board's sixth Member. Said Mr. Wolfensohn: "I am delighted and honored to join the family of the Paralympics. Sport should be available to all

for its challenge and its insights into life and values. I have seen the force of sport with the athletes of this organization and am humbled and delighted to be associated with them."

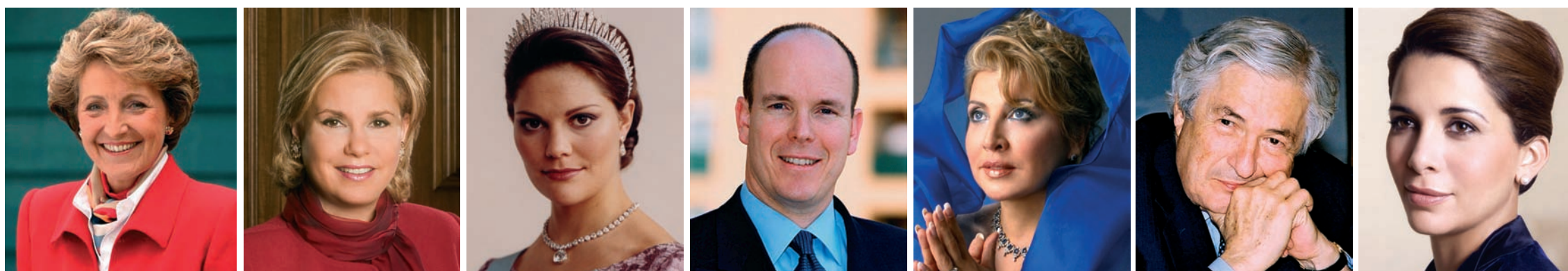
Following meetings with IPC President Sir Philip Craven in Dubai in December, the Honorary Board welcomed Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, President of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and wife of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai. Said HRH Princess Haya: "It is a great honour to be asked to join the IPC Honorary Board. I believe that the principles embodied by the Paralympic Movement - strength, spirit, absolute commitment and determination to achieve excellence - are key messages from which all of us can learn and take inspiration. I look forward to working with Sir Philip and my fellow IPC Honorary Board Members in the service of Paralympic sport."

The three new Members will join HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxemburg,

HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden and HSH Prince Albert of Monaco.

The main purpose of the IPC Honorary Board is to allow leaders of society an opportunity to support the vision of the Paralympic Movement and to strive to maintain the issue of sport for persons with a disability high on the agenda of the global community. Honorary Board Members assist the IPC in creating opportunities for raising awareness and funding, through the Member's network of contacts and sphere of influence. Through their efforts to help the IPC to achieve the above goals, Honorary Board Members will allow the mission and vision of the IPC to be fulfilled, thus improving the quality of life of persons with a disability around the world.

Commented IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez: "We are delighted with our present roster of Honorary Board Members, who with their prestige and high profile will undoubtedly help the IPC enhance its profile and generate additional resources. It is further proof of the growing momentum and impact of the Paralympic Movement worldwide."



Members of the IPC Honorary Board (from left to right, in order of acceptance): HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxemburg, HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden and HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, Maria Guleghina, James Wolfensohn and HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein.



## IPC and IAKS Award Promotes Accessibility

In 2007, the IPC will once again be joining with the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS), to offer the 'IPC/IAKS Distinction for Accessibility' to sports and leisure facilities. The Distinction recognizes the world's best accessible sports

and leisure facilities and aims to promote accessibility to sports facilities and other buildings in order to give persons with a disability the opportunity to practise or view sport without limitation or barriers.

The distinction is offered as part of the 2007 IOC/IAKS Award for Exemplary Sports & Leisure Facilities organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and IAKS. 2007 is the second time that the IPC/IAKS Distinction for Accessibility will be awarded. The entries will be judged by an international jury of representatives from the IOC, the IPC and IAKS.

In addition, the IPC will be participating in the 20th International IAKS Congress, to be held from 31 October to 2 November 2007, in Cologne, Germany. The annual Congress is held in conjunction with the International Trade Fair for Amenity Areas, Sports and Pool Facilities (FSB) and will bring together over 15,000 specialists in the design, construction and management of sport and leisure facilities from all over the world.

One of the major themes of the congress will be 'Barrier-Free Sports Facilities' and the IPC will use this opportunity to present its groundbreaking Guidelines on Accessibility, and the work being done by upcoming Paralympic Games to ensure the accessibility of their venues.



Photo ©: IAKS

Sir Philip with the winners of the 2005 IPC/IAKS Distinction for Accessibility.

## NPC PROFILE: NORWAY

### Norway Forms Sport Powerhouse

During their visit to IPC Headquarters, 'The Paralympian' had an opportunity to speak with Odd Roar Thorsen, President and Hilde Oftdal, Secretary General of the National Paralympic Committee of Norway, about the changes that will be altering the face of the NPC in 2007.

TP: Can you describe the changes taking place at NPC Norway this year?

Sport for persons with a disability had its own organization established in around 1980. So, in 1998, a new organization, called the National Paralympic Committee, was established as an umbrella organization for three sectors: Special Olympics, sport for the deaf and sport for persons with a physical disability. At our General Assembly in 1996, it was decided that sport for persons with a disability should merge into the Olympic sport system by 2015. Therefore, this organization will dissolve in 2007 and all our sports will be transferred into their respective sports federations. For example, ski athletes will now be affiliated to the National Ski Federation. This will involve the transfer of approximately 25 sports.

TP: What will be the status of the NPC after this transition?

After this transfer has taken place, the Olympic Committee will also be the Paralympic Committee. But there will still be people and expertise in the organization. Some people that work today in the NPC will be transferring to the new committee, taking with them the expertise and experience of Paralympic sport.

TP: Norway came in twelfth on the medal tally in Torino. Have you noticed an increase in attention in Norway?

What we saw was more coverage and there were more and more spectators watching the Games on television. More people are starting to be aware and have heard about the Paralympic Games.

TP: What are your expectations of the Norwegian team's performance at the Beijing

2008 Paralympics?

We are confident our results will be better than Athens. It is the Winter Paralympics that are 'our Games' as you might say. But of course we have expectations for the Summer Paralympics too. At the moment we do not know how many athletes we will send but will have athletes in Athletics, Boccia, Equestrian, Sailing and Swimming. Once the transfer has taken place, the elite sport department of the National Olympic Committee will take responsibility for our Paralympic preparations.

TP: Does that mean that athlete training will be integrated as well?

Maybe some training will be integrated. But all athletes will now have the same resources, facilities, preparation and training camps which will be a big improvement for our Paralympic athletes.

TP: You are facing a lot of changes over the next few years with this transition. What do you think will be the main challenges for the Paralympic Movement in Norway?

Recruitment will be our major challenge. This will now be the responsibility of each sport federation. They will try to do their recruitment in the same way as recruitment of able-bodied athletes. The main reason why we started this integration process was to encourage the recruitment of athletes. For example, we thought that the Ski Federation would be better equipped to recruit ski athletes, because they have more resources and they know the sport.

With this new structure, we will need to work more together with a number of different institutions. We will need to communicate more and co-operate more with the relevant sport organizations and present to them the ways to integrate sport opportunities for persons with a disability.

For more information about NPC Norway and its activities, please visit their official website at [www.nfif.no](http://www.nfif.no).



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys



Photo ©: Bryn Lennon, Getty Images



## IPC Offers its Support to Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

On 30 March 2007, the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities will open for signature at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York, USA. This will give countries and organizations around the world an opportunity to put their name to what will be "a milestone in the history of the protection of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities."

The Convention was adopted on 13 December 2006 during the sixty-first session of the UN General Assembly, under resolution 61/106. It is the first comprehensive human rights convention adopted this millennium and will potentially affect over 650 million persons with a disability worldwide. A total of 20 countries are needed to ratify the Convention and effect its implementation.

The IPC strongly supports the adoption of the Convention and aims to be integrally involved in the promotion and implementation of the Convention through Paralympic Sport and through its ongoing relations with numerous countries and organizations in the field.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven met with Ambassador Don MacKay, who has led the development of the Convention, on 8 February in Geneva, Switzerland, to further discuss the role that the IPC should play in this process. The IPC has already had significant involvement in the development of

the Convention, attending numerous Ad Hoc Committee Meetings and contributing to drafting the text, particularly Article 30: Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure and Sport.

Additionally, the IPC hopes to further demonstrate its strong commitment to human rights and plans, together with Landmine Survivor's Network and Rehabilitation International, to conduct intensive training for leaders within the Paralympic Movement, including athletes, to educate them about the Convention.

Said Linda Mastandrea, IPC Advisor on Human Rights and former Paralympian: "Through sport, individuals with disabilities develop the tools they need to become effective self-advocates and agents of change. They learn to find and use their voice, just like I did. Athletes everywhere are revered for their skills and accomplishments. Right or wrong, they are looked to as inspirations, role models, and people who have answers. Thus, individuals with disabilities who wish to effect positive change in their countries may use the vehicle of sport to gain the notoriety they need to bring attention to the issues they want addressed."

For more information about the Convention, including a copy of the text in six languages, please visit [www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable).

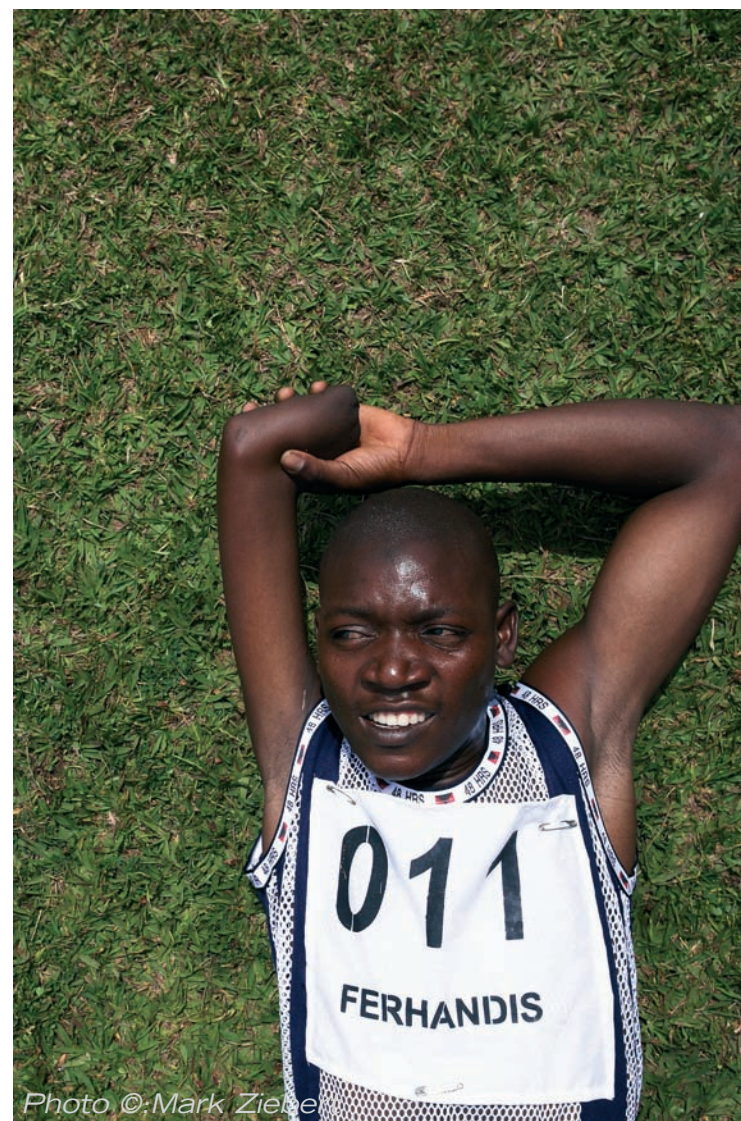


Photo ©: Mark Ziebel

## Governing Board Makes Important Steps

The IPC Governing Board (GB) met from 23 to 25 November in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. One important item on the agenda was the new Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games Concept, presented by John Furlong, Chief Executive Officer of the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC).

Among other items, the GB reviewed and approved the budget for the Financial Year 2007, as well as the transfer of governance of two IPC sports (Cycling, Bowls). The members of the GB were additionally informed about the progress being made by the Organizing Committees for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games and London 2012 Paralympic Games. Executive Vice President of the Organizing Committee for the 2008

Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG) Yang Shu'an and VANOC CEO John Furlong did their presentation onsite while London 2012 Chairman Sebastian Coe participated via video conference.

The GB was furthermore presented with a position of the International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID), represented by its President Jos Mulder. The presentation referred to the decision taken by the GB in June 2006 when it was considered that the INAS-FID eligibility and protest procedures did not achieve the standards expected for IPC sanctioned competitions, including the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, and were not sufficiently robust to ensure fair competition for athletes with an intellectual disability. The GB, after considering all

information, unanimously reconfirmed its decision from June 2006.

Commented IPC President Sir Philip Craven: "The IPC Governing Board wants to emphasize that the current decision is not a case of discrimination against a disability group. The IPC supports the participation of athletes with an intellectual disability but INAS-FID has yet to prove that they have the necessary processes in place to ensure the fairness of elite competition."

The IPC will continue to support the research being conducted in this area to form sport specific eligibility systems for athletes with an intellectual disability. As a result, the status of athletes with an intellectual disability will be re-evaluated following the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.



Members of the IPC Governing Board during their November Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Photo ©: Malaysian Paralympic Committee



## IPC, ICSSPE and UN Present Book on Sport for Persons with a Disability

In February, a special issue of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) Perspectives Series entitled 'Sport for Persons with a Disability' was published in association with the IPC and the United Nations (UN) Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace.

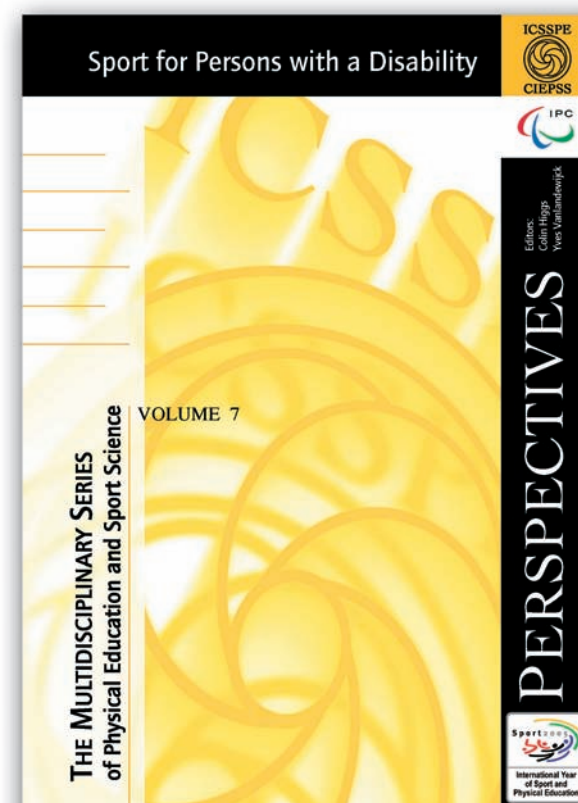
The book highlights a number of topics concerned with sport for people with a disability and the Paralympic Movement. The articles selected for the publication were chosen for the range of topics, sports, regions and fields of study that they represent. Each research article highlights a current and topical issue in the world of sport for persons with a disability, allowing a number of voices to be heard and providing an opportunity to share top quality research on an international platform.

One priority of selection for the publication was the practical implication that each study could have on the development of sport for persons with a disability. It is hoped that the

research included in this publication will inspire coaches, trainers and therapists around the world and trigger the practical application of their investigations. The IPC also encourages the submission of applications to conduct research at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games where the IPC will once again co-ordinate an active research programme designed to benefit all athletes.

The idea for this publication stemmed from the IPC's involvement in the International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE) in 2005. This initiative allowed numerous organizations to come together and work collaboratively to promote the benefits of sport and physical education. The publication is one step in an ongoing partnership with both the UN and ICSSPE and also the continuation of a high quality, long-term research programme for the Paralympic Movement.

To purchase the book online (EURO 19.95, including postage and packaging), please visit [www.icsspe.org](http://www.icsspe.org), in the 'Bookshop' section.



## Beijing 2008 Research Applications

Applications for research projects to be conducted at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games should be submitted to the IPC before 6 September 2007. Further information and the relevant documents can be found on the IPC website [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org), under 'Sport Science'.

## IPC Classification Code Moves Forward

In 2003, the IPC developed a Classification Strategy with the overall objective to support and co-ordinate the ongoing development of accurate, reliable, consistent and credible sport focused on classification systems and their implementation. The IPC Classification Code is a direct result of recommendations made in this Strategy.

The Classification Code establishes a framework for policies and procedures that are common to all sports and is intended to be specific enough to achieve complete harmonization on classification issues where standardization is required, yet general enough in other areas to permit flexibility on how agreed principles are implemented. The fundamental concept is harmonization of classification procedures.

The goal of the Paralympic Movement is to have transparent and sport-specific Classification systems and this was reiterated at the recent IPC Governing Board meeting. While the sport-specific approach may not be manageable in the short term, the IPC Classification Code needs to reflect this fundamental

principle. It needs to articulate that the mid to long-term goal is for sport-specific systems and that assistance/consideration will be given to those organizations who may take longer to achieve this.

The Code is complemented with International Standards that provide the technical and operational requirements for classification. Four International Standards will be provided: Athlete Evaluation, Protests and Appeals, Classifier Training and Certification, Classification at Paralympic Games.

The consultation of the IPC Membership in the development of the Classification Code is considered the most important step in the process of developing sport focused classification systems. This process will last until summer 2007. Final acceptance of the IPC Classification Code is scheduled to occur during the IPC General Assembly, hosted in Seoul, Korea, in November 2007. The IPC Classification Code will then be implemented on the first day of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.



Photos ©: Lieven Coudenys and Getty Images





Photos ©:Jonas Ekströmer at Pressens Bild

## Paralympic School Day Resource Kit Launched Across Europe

On the occasion of the IPC's Annual Reception, held on 18 January, the IPC officially launched the Paralympic School Day (PSD) Resource Kit. In attendance of around 60 guests, including the Lord Major of Bonn, Bärbel Dieckmann, Hay K. Yang, President of the Samsung's Chairman Office in Europe, IPC Governing Board members Ann Cody and Alan Dickson and Enrique Sanchez-Guijo, President of the European Paralympic Committee (EPC), IPC President Sir Philip Craven presented the first set of material to the public.

The PSD is an educational programme with the aim to create awareness and understanding in schools about persons with a disability, targeting an audience of young students between the ages of 6 to 15. In close collaboration with the EPC, the IPC initiated a two-year PSD pilot project in Europe through a grant from the European Union (EU) in 2004.

The result was the 'Paralympic School Day Resource Kit' consisting of three components, including the Paralympic School Day Manual, Activity Cards and the Paralympic School Day DVD. The kit includes a wealth of information and materials to assist teachers to prepare, implement and reflect on their PSD. Using these materials, teachers can apply their own creativity and individual adaptations to create the best PSD experience for their students.

Said Sir Philip: "This kit has been created by specialists in Paralympic Sport and pedagogy to provide teachers with the skills, knowledge and resources to conduct a successful

Paralympic School Day. I am sure that this kit will help to foster awareness and positive attitudes in students towards persons with a disability and to work for the full integration of students with a disability in the classroom."

The initial project, completed at the end of 2006, facilitated the organization of 35 PSDs in six countries reaching more than 5,000 children. Several more PSDs are planned across Europe in 2007, giving even more students an opportunity to experience Paralympic Sport.

For more information, please visit the official website at <http://education.paralympic.org>.

Test your knowledge of the Paralympic Movement in the new online quiz now available on the IPC website @ [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)



Watch Paralympic Sport live on the Internet at: [www.ParalympicSport.TV](http://www.ParalympicSport.TV)

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