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Action from the IPD 2007 in Berlin Photo ©:Lieven Coudenys

IPD 2007: A PROFILE IN GLORY

The International Paralympic Committee staged its largest and most successful International Paralympic Day (IPD) yet before Berlin's Brandenburg Gate on 23 August.

The event unfolded with great success in this beautiful, iconic site; a place that is saturated in history. IPD 2007 will not only be remembered for the show stopping performances given by the athletes, it will also go down in Paralympic history for attracting record numbers of media, VIPs and spectators.

45,000 to 50,000 people flocked to the event to get a glimpse of Paralympic athletes in action, and put their own sporting prowess to the test. A variety of sports demonstrations and competitions took place, including Wheelchair Basketball, Long Jump, Sitting Volleyball, Five-a-side Football, Fencing, Table Tennis and Biathlon.

The excitement was transmitted around the world thanks to the media output which was truly remarkable. IPC negotiated dedicated partnerships for the event with German broadcaster RBB and Der Tagesspiegel, one of Berlin's top daily newspapers which conducted extensive reporting leading up to and during the event, including an

eight page news supplement. Worldwide, IPD sparked an estimated 20 million media contacts. With massive coverage by news distribution agencies many newspapers featured the event in more than 220 articles. China got great results in terms of online coverage. The US team secured a print publication including image within the Atlanta Journal Constitution and an interview with Casey Tibbs.

International Paralympic Day was also an effective way of educating the media about Paralympic Sport because it incorporated a panel discussion on athlete preparations and the economy, politics and public image of the Games.

The event was also pivotal in consolidating relationships with our sponsors, Allianz, Deutsche Telekom, Samsung and Otto Bock, as well as generating support from a variety of key supporters in Germany, including government, educational and corporate figures. London 2012 sent representatives who expressed their determination to hold a future IPD in London prior to 2012.

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SPIRIT IN MOTION



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The last few months have been action packed and there is still so much to look forward to. Of course, one of the main highlights was IPD - an event that whipped up excitement and interest in the Paralympic Movement as it unfolded before Berlin's renowned Brandenburg Gate. As always, the athletes

produced show stopping performances, giving the people of Berlin a real taste of the excitement of Paralympic Sport. People were provided with a rare opportunity to come face-to-face with famous athletes and find out about the sporting opportunities that exist to enrich the lives of people with a disability.

A couple of days before IPD I was in Rio de Janeiro attending the Parapan American Games. The glittering opening ceremony signified the start of the largest sporting event for the Paralympic Movement this year. And, for the first time, it took place directly after the Pan American Games in the same venues.

But Brazil wasn't content with just one major sport event and also hosted the 3rd International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Championships and Games at the end of July.

During the run-up to the Games, IPC held its Governing Board meeting, where we discussed a number of important issues, including the Classification Code and the Budget, which will be proposed to the General Assembly (GA) for adoption in November.

There have also been exciting developments relating to the Paralympic Games. The launch of the London 2012 emblem certainly caused quite a stir, but, at the same time, was hugely encouraging for the future of the Paralympic Games because for the first time the Olympic and Paralympic emblems were enclosed within the same shape. This shows London's commitment to fully promoting the Paralympics alongside the Olympics.

At the beginning of July, I was in Guatemala for the announcement of the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Games, to take place in Sochi, Russia. As you can imagine the suspense and the excitement leading up to the announcement was electric. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Paralympic supporters in Russia and Sochi for winning the bid and thank bid cities of Salzburg (Austria) and Pyeong Chang (Korea) for their commitment and effort.

I am pleased to report, after attending the One Year Out Ceremonies that preparations for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, are steaming ahead, giving me great confidence that it will be one of the most spectacular events in sporting history. And finally I had a chance to meet with some of the Chefs de Mission who were in Beijing for seminars and it was truly gratifying to share ideas with the people who bring excellence to the Games!

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President

PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

Chefs de Mission meet in Beijing

"You are the ones who bring excellence to the Games!" proclaimed IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez, to the Chefs de Mission who gathered from September 5 to 7 at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games Chef de Mission Seminar in Beijing. Delegates of more than 90 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), as well as International Paralympic Committee (IPC) representatives participated. Chefs de Mission are representatives selected by each NPC to oversee the general management of its team for the Paralympic Games.



Photo ©: BOCOG

During three days of meetings, the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG) presented updates on topics such as Qualification, Accreditation, Sport Entries, Classification, Sport and Venues, Transport, Paralympic Village and NPC Services.

The Chefs attended presentations and workshops, expressed their needs and offered their opinions and suggestions to improve the Games. The Seminar included a tour of the competition venues and the Paralympic Village. They also attended an official dinner at the State Guest House in Beijing on the occasion of the One Year Countdown to the Games.

"With the support of the Chinese Government and Chinese people, the preparatory work for the Beijing Paralympic Games has progressed smoothly in the past six years," said Liu Jingmin, Vice Mayor of Beijing and BOCOG Executive Vice President. "The major objectives for every

step have been fulfilled as scheduled to lay a foundation for the success of the Paralympics."

IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez expressed his appreciation to the Chinese Government for its support to the Paralympics and for the voluminous work of BOCOG.

"What we are building in these sessions is a new type of Paralympic team where the Organizing Committee, the IPC, the NPCs, government, sponsors and the community are united to showcase the best in Paralympic Sport," he said. "China is breaking new ground in so many ways that it will be hard to be beat in the future.... but, to be sure, the Paralympic Movement is on the rise!"

He urged the Chefs to take an active part in the proceedings, listen to their colleagues, learn, be critical, ask questions, give feedback, to help BOCOG to make the Games the best yet.

Beijing Celebrates One Year Countdown



Photo ©: BOCOG

The one-year countdown to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games has begun. The occasion was celebrated by a number of events in Beijing in September and was attended by International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Sir Philip Craven, IPC Governing Board Members Greg Hartung and Shen Zhifei as well as IPC Chief Executive Officer Xavier Gonzalez and other IPC staff members.

During a ceremony held at the China Millennium Monument, the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG) and IPC formally conveyed invitations to National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) to attend next years' Games. Representatives from more than 90 National Paralympic Committees met in Beijing for the Chef de Mission Seminar. The celebrations were followed by the first Paralympic specific test event of Goalball.

"I am truly honoured to be here today to represent Paralympic athletes and fans of the Paralympic Movement around the world and mark the beginning of this great countdown," said Sir Philip Craven. "Activities and preparations related to the Paralympic Games are in full swing gearing up towards a successful experience in September 2008. From this point on, the excitement will mount every single day."

BOCOG also officially launched the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Torch Relay, which for the first time will include an international itinerary. The Torch will start its journey on 28 August 2008 under the slogan "Light the Passion, Share the Dream" in Beijing. The relay will travel in three routes simultaneously to several cities in China and abroad. Future Paralympic Games host cities (London, Vancouver and Sochi) have been invited to participate in the relay. The three flames will merge in Beijing on 6 September 2008 before heading to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by various Chinese Government officials, including BOCOG President Liu Qi, President of China Disabled Persons' Federation Deng Pufang, Beijing Vice Mayor Liu Jingmin, Jia Qinglin, President of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and other BOCOG Executive leaders.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: LONDON 2012

London Five Years Out

Five years to the start of the London 2012 Paralympic Games! From August 29th to September 9th 2012, London and the UK will be the centre of the world's attention as the London 2012 Paralympic Games get underway.

To celebrate the five year marker, the London 2012 Roadshow visited the Stoke Mandeville Stadium, home of British wheelchair sport.

Sir Philip Craven, President of IPC, said: "In coming to Stoke Mandeville, London is paying homage to the roots of the Paralympic Movement and catching the true spirit of Paralympic Games. I am very pleased with the progress London is making on its plans to date."

Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London 2012 Organizing Committee, said: "The Paralympic Games is one of the world's most exciting and inspiring sporting events for elite athletes, and we want to ensure that our Games in London are the best ever. The Paralympic Games will be a huge festival of sport with the whole of the world watching. London 2012 will provide a compact and inclusive Paralympic Games with high quality accessible venues, transport services and excellent village facilities for athletes, as well as for team and technical officials."

The bulk of London's Paralympic competition venues are set in two zones - the Olympic Park Zone and the River Zone. The two zones are within 15 minutes of each other, leading to one of the most compact Games ever, minimising travel times and disruption for Paralympians

Tanni Grey Thompson, Britain's five-time Paralympian said: "In five years time London will be buzzing with excitement about the start of the Paralympic Games. London will put on a great event, and also ensure that a lasting sporting legacy is left for people with a disability."

Planning for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is integrated for the first time for a Summer Games, providing an outstanding sporting experience for athletes from all backgrounds. The London 2012 Organizing Committee is also the first Organizing Committee to base the Olympic and Paralympic logos around the same core emblem.



The emblem has rarely been out of the headlines since it was launched and it appears to have survived the test of public opinion.

Although the flamboyant logo isn't to everyone's taste, it illustrates London's commitment to hosting a fully integrated Paralympic Games and promoting the Games side by side.

The London 2012 brand was created by design agency Wolf Ollins and is styled as representing access, participation, stimulation and inspiration. The logo is based on the year 2012 and it was designed to symbolise the inclusiveness of the Games, where people will be encouraged to take part as spectators and volunteers.

London 2012 Chair Sebastian Coe emphasizes the theme of inclusiveness "London 2012 will be 'Everyone's Games, everyone's 2012. This is the vision at the very heart of our brand and our promise is to use the Olympic spirit to inspire everyone and reach out to young people around the world."

The London 2012 website has also been relaunched, with more Paralympic branding and content, setting new standards of visibility for the Paralympic Movement.

Commenting on the branding efforts of London 2012, IPC President Sir Philip Craven, said: "We look forward to a very strong brand presence for the Paralympic Games in London, which fully reflects the excitement and drama of the Games and Britain's status as the founding nation of the Paralympic Movement."

For more information visit www.london2012.com

VANCOUVER 2010

Fifth IOC Co-ordination Commission Meeting

Over three days of positive meetings, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Co-ordination Commission held its fifth visit to Vancouver, the host city of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The Coordination Commission, including International Paralympic Committee (IPC) representative Rita van Driel is organized by the IOC as the body supervising the preparations of the local Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC). The overall agenda included updates on key topics, such as venue construction, finance, sports media and marketing. It also featured a working group dedicated to review the progress made with regards to the Paralympic Games.

The discussions during this Paralympic working group focused on accommodation, media services and ceremonies. During meetings around the Co-ordination Commission, the IPC also confirmed its agreement to VANOC's request to shift the date of the opening of the Paralympic Village from 5 March to 6 March while maintaining a Pre-Opening day on 5 March for certain individual groups.

Rita van Driel said: "In general we are pleased with the preparations on the Paralympic side. We can see that VANOC's integrated planning works well and that there is a good understanding of Paralympic needs. We still have some concerns regarding the accommodation situation in the mountains which we need to further discuss with VANOC".

The next Coordination Commission meeting will be held in February 2008 during a cluster of Games related test events.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: SOCHI 2014

Sochi to host the 2014 Paralympic Games

Fireworks exploded over ecstatic crowds in Sochi, Russia after it was announced the Black Sea resort had been chosen to host the 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

However, while people in Sochi partied through the night, tears were shed in Pyeongchang in South Korea who lost the bid by only four votes. The mood was also sombre in Salzburg in Austria who was eliminated in the previous round of voting.

The elections, during which Sochi secured 51 votes, took place during the 119th International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session in Guatemala City at the beginning of July. President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and IOC member Sir Philip Craven, IPC Vice President and member of the IOC 2014 Evaluation Commission Miguel Sagarra and IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez attended the event.

Applauding Sochi on its victory, Sir Philip Craven said: "During this election process, we saw excellent presentations of all bid cities, which included high quality content about the Paralympic Games. I want to congratulate Sochi for winning this election but I am sure Salzburg and Pyeong Chang would have also organized great Paralympic Games."

Sochi has pledged to stage a unique a Paralympic Games that will further strengthen and promote the Paralympic Movement by providing excellent conditions for athletes to compete in. A high level of accessibility and maximised media coverage of the Paralympic Games has also been promised.

In October the Russian Olympic Committee and the Federal Agency for Physical Culture and Sports and the Administration of the City of Sochi officially established the Sochi 2014 Olympic Organizing Committee (SOOC).

Two key figures from the Sochi 2014 Bid Campaign have been appointed to lead SOOC. Alexander Zhukov was appointed Chair of the SOOC Supervisory Board and Dmitry Chernyshenko was designated Chief Executive Officer of SOOC.

Dmitry Chernyshenko said: "The Sochi 2014 Olympic Organizing Committee has the immense responsibility of delivering the most technically advanced and excellent Games on behalf of the Russian Government, the City of Sochi and the Russian Olympic Committee. We will meet and exceed the highest standards demanded by the Olympic Movement."

ATHLETE PROFILE: ADE ADEPITAN



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Ade Adepitan at International Paralympic Day 2007

'Sport has changed my life'

"Sport has changed my life." Those are the words of former Wheelchair Basketball Champion Ade Adepitan, who still reflects on his whirlwind career with discernable disbelief. However, when Ade spoke to the Paralympian on International Paralympic Day at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin he revealed that his journey to the top wasn't easy.

The 34-year-old, who lost the use of his legs after contracting polio as a baby, said that as a teenager he had negative preconceptions about sport for people with disabilities. And it wasn't until he attended the Stoke Mandeville Games in the 1980s that he truly understood the power and excitement of Paralympic Sport.

"The Stoke Mandeville Games blew all my preconceptions about disability sport out of the window," said Ade.

It was the event that he first saw a professional Wheelchair Basketball match, where he remembers the players "flying" in state-of-the-art wheelchairs. It was at these Games that Ade first met IPC president Sir Philip Craven, who also achieved global recognition for his talent as a Wheelchair Basketball player.

It was then, at the age of 14, Ade, who was born in Lagos, Nigeria and grew up in East London, got involved with Wheelchair Basketball. But it took more than ten years for his talent and athleticism to be fully recognized. He trained hard with the National British Paralympics but didn't get his big break until the age of 26 when he was

selected for the European Championships in Holland. This event paved the way to Ade's future success, and in 2004 he realized his dreams by competing at the Paralympic Games in Athens, where he won a bronze medal.

He described taking part in the Games as one of the "most amazing" experiences of his life.

He added: "Sport has changed my life - it's opened doors for me that were previously locked, mentally and physically. It's empowering - it's all about finding your limits and pushing yourself beyond them. You find out more about who you are as a person when you get to the edge of your limits, it's interesting to see how you react and how you respond."

"It's in you whatever you do, that sense of empowerment, strength and confidence - it's a real journey."

When asked what advice he would give to aspiring Paralympic athletes, Ade said: "The sky is your limit, don't let anybody hold you back and stop you from achieving your dreams."



Photo ©: Getty Images

Ade Adepitan celebrating at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, where he won a bronze medal for Wheelchair Basketball.

SPORT CALENDAR

2nd IBSA Asia Football-5-a-Side Championships
2007 IPC Shooting MQS1 Tournament
2007 Parapan American Cycling Championships
American Regional Championships
CPISRA Football-7-A-Side World Championships

22 - 26 October 2007
27 October - 4 November 2007
8 - 19 November 2007
8 - 19 November 2007
8 - 18 November 2007

Seoul, Korea
Sydney, Australia
Santiago de Cali, Colombia
Santiago de Cali, Colombia
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Archers Hit the Mark in Korea

The city of Cheongju, Korea, was host to the 2007 IPC Archery World Championships, which took place from 2 to 10 October.

Organized by the local Organizing Committee and sanctioned by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), a total of 242 athletes from 37 countries competed in different classes (Standing, Wheelchair and Visually Impaired), in individual and team events.

The host nation Korea topped the medal tally by winning three gold, two silver and three bronze medals. China and Great Britain followed with also three gold medals but less silver and bronze medals. During eight days of competition, spectators witnessed some outstanding performances and numerous World and Paralympic records were broken. IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez attended the championships' Opening Ceremony.

"Archery is an ancient and fabled pursuit, one that is very close to the heart of Korea," said Mr. Gonzalez. "Here, it is a sport of national significance... it is, by turns, an art, a science and a philosophy known as Goong Do, or the Way of the Bow... few sports can boast such spiritual roots.

"The Paralympic Games can also be said to have followed the Way of the Bow. Indeed, the motto of the International Paralympic Committee is "Spirit in Motion" which harmonizes perfectly with the character of archery, this competition and the archers who will compete."

Archery was one of the original Paralympic sports contested in Rome in 1960 and is a test of accuracy, strength and concentration. Since then, the development of the sport has been rapid. New technology for bows, changes in the rules and the ever-increasing interest of people have made the sport accessible to more athletes and at the same time more exciting.

US Team Rocks at Sailing World Champs

Host country USA was the star performer winning two gold and two silver medals at the eighth edition of the 2007 International Association for Disabled Sailing (IFDS) World Championships. Held at the Rochester Yacht Club in Rochester, USA, it was championship the first to feature racing in all three events selected for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

From 10 to 14 September, three World Championship titles were awarded in the single-person keelboat 2.4m, two-person keelboat SKUD18 and three-person keelboat Sonar. Karen Mitchell and JP Creignou (USA) won gold in the SKUD18, whilst Rick Doerr, Tim Angle and Bill Donahue (USA) took the title in the Sonar. Paralympic gold medallist Damien Sequin (FRA) won in the 2.4m class. As these World Champs were one of the qualification regattas for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, sailors from 20 countries came to Lake Ontario to participate in this world-class event.

Footage from the IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championship can be viewed online at www.t2p.tv. For more information and results, please visit the official website at www.2007ifdsworlds.com.



European Wheelchair Basketball Champions

Germany (Women) and Sweden (Men) emerged as the new European Champions after winning the 2007 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) European Wheelchair Basketball Championships held in Wetzlar, Germany, from 23 August to 1 September.

In a repeat of the 2005 women's final, Germany won its seventh European title beating the Netherlands (61:35). Great Britain beat Spain for the bronze medal (56:29), followed by France in fifth place after a victory against Turkey (65:38). As a result, Germany, the Netherlands and France successfully qualified for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

In the men's final, the Swedish team managed to win its first European Championships title by defeating outstanding favourite Great Britain (76:66). Germany took benefit of the home advantage and beat Israel in the bronze medal match (69:56), attended by over 3,500 spectators. Overall, all four teams qualified for the Paralympic Games next year in Beijing.

For more information and all results, please visit www.eurobasketball2007.de

World Para Dressage Championships

The first ever World Para Dressage Championships under the governance of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) went off without a hitch in Gloucestershire, Great Britain despite recent rainfall and intense flooding.

Despite weeks of bad weather, the sun came out and riders from all over the world competed at the competition in Hartbury between 18-22 July. The event, featuring 142 riders from 33 countries, was particularly important because it was a qualifier for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Notable competitors included ATHENS 2004 Paralympic gold medal winners Lee Pearson and Debbie Criddle (Great Britain), Irene Slaettengren (Sweden) and Ann Cathrin Lubbe (Norway).

The British team dominated the competition with excellent performances seen by Anne

Dunham on BB Call me Caine, Lee Pearson on Altino and Simon Laurens on Ocean Diamond. The German team achieved second position, followed by Norwegian team who came third.

Addressing the crowds in her closing speech, FEI President, and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Honorary Board member, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein from Jordan said: "Hartbury 2007 has hosted the first ever World Para Dressage Championships to take place under the umbrella of the FEI - and boy have you needed an FEI umbrella this week! But seriously, by hosting this Championship, Hartbury has joined the Role of Honour of historic competitions in equestrian sport."

In May 2006, the IPC and FEI signed an agreement for the transfer of governance of Equestrian for persons with a disability from IPC to FEI. The transfer came into full effect on 1 July.



Photo © FEI

A Profile in Glory (continued from page 1)



Photos ©: Lieven Coudenys



Wheelchair Basketball and Football 5-A-Side were just two of the sports featured at IPD 2007.

The 'Sheer Joy of It'

Addressing the crowds in his opening speech, IPC President Sir Philip Craven said: "This is a very special day - a time when Paralympic athletes step into the spotlight to showcase their talents for the sheer joy of it - to demonstrate their strength and skill in an atmosphere of fun and excitement that has become the trademark of the Paralympic Games. And what an amazing place to do it! Germany's most historical and recognizable monument makes a stunning backdrop and magnet for the attention of the world."

As always, one of the highlights was the Long Jump competition. The crowd gasped as Germany's Matthias Schröder jumped an astonishing 6.85m (class F13). Thomas Ulbricht (GER) came second clearing 6.24m, followed closely by Casey Tibbs (USA) with 6.14m (F44). In the women's Long Jump Germany's Katrin Müller-Rothgardt jumped furthest at 5.06m (F13).

The German men's U22 team defeated the women's Chinese National Team in Wheelchair Basketball 54:22. Cheers came from the National Team of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sitting Volleyball as they beat Germany two sets to one. Spain defeated Germany in the Football 5-a-side match.

Spectators were charmed by several well-known faces, German Swimmer and Paralympic gold medalist and world record holder Kirsten Bruhn and British Wheelchair Basketball Champion Ade Adepitan.

Commenting on the importance of the event, Ade, said: "I think International Paralympic Day is the perfect opportunity to spread the

message of the Paralympic Games. Even though the Paralympic Games have been going for quite some time, and some major achievements have been made, many people are still not aware of how talented Paralympic athletes are. They need to be here, experiencing the drama on the basketball court, watching the players crashing into each other and seeing the sparks flying."

When he was not making speeches or being interviewed by the media, Sir Philip found time to return to his love of Basketball by throwing hoops with Ade Adepitan. He also played Table Tennis with Holger Nikelis. Among those trying their hand at Biathlon and Table Tennis were IPC honorary board member and staunch supporter Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and daughter Princess Alexandra.

The Grand Duchess, was one of many high profile fans who attended the event including: the Lord Mayor of Berlin Klaus Wowereit; German Minister of Justice Brigitte Zypries; Olympic figure skating champion Katarina Witt; Gerhard Ruprecht from Allianz; Stefan Althoff from Deutsche Telekom; Hay K. Yang, President Samsung Europe; Joachim Hammacher from Otto Bock and a host of German government officials.

Samsung took advantage of the occasion to renew its sponsorship agreement with IPC in a fun ceremony involving impromptu fencing between Sir Philip Craven and Samsung President Yang.

All in all IPD was a great day for Paralympic Sport!



IPC President Sir Philip Craven enjoying the fun and excitement of IPD 2007 (above), and playing Table Tennis with Holger Nikelis, watched by the Grand Duchess and her daughter Alexandra (below).



Photos ©: Lieven Coudenys



Photo ©: Saulo Cruz

Paralympic Fever in Rio

Brazilian athletes stormed the 2007 Parapan American Games in Rio de Janeiro and came away with 83 gold medals. Brazil won a total of 228 medals, followed by Canada with 49 gold medals and 112 medals in total. The USA and Mexico shared third place with 37 gold medals each (117 medals in total).

Around 280,000 people attended the Games, held at the Parapan American village from 12 to 19 August, to watch more than 1,132 athletes from all over the world compete in Athletics, Football 5-a-side, Football 7-a-side, Judo, Powerlifting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Tennis.

During the spectacular opening ceremony, the President of the Americas Paralympic Committee (APC) Andrew Parsons summed up the excitement of the event before the first starting gun was fired. He said: "It's time to share the energy and feel the power of the Paralympics."

After Sergio Cabral, Governor of Rio de Janeiro State, officially opened the event and the Parapan American Torch, lit at the Second World War Monument at Aterro do Flamengo from the Flame of Nations, finished its journey around the venue, the first day of competition was underway. The power and excitement that Mr Parsons referred to became tangible.

Strong performances in Athletics, Powerlifting and Swimming broke 28 world records and 101 Parapan American records. In athletics, visually impaired sprinter Lucas

Prado (BRA) and wheelchair athlete Saul Mendoza (Mexico) whipped up excitement in the Joao Havelange Stadium by winning three gold medals each. Prado won the 100m, 200m and 400m (class T11), Mendoza finished first in the 800m, 1,500m and 5,000m (class T54). Swimmer Clodoaldo Silva was awarded seven gold medals and one silver medal, closely followed by Canada's Stephanie Dixon who won five golds and one silver.

Mexico won five out of six medals during the Powerlifting tournament. During the women's event, the gold went to Amalia Perez, who set a new world record on the 52kg event, lifting 130,5Kg. The silver went to her team mate, Laura Cerero, who lifted 90kg setting a new Parapan American record for the 40kg event. The bronze went to Miriam Aguilar, who lifted 85Kg.

The Games will also be remembered for the exciting Football 7-a-side match where Brazilian team defeated Argentina - a victory that earned them a place at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Wheelchair Basketball was dominated by the United States which won both the men and women's finals. In the women's final the USA team, Paralympic Games gold medalists, proved they were still at the top of their game by beating Canadian rivals 50-44. The men's final was closely fought until the end, with the USA narrowly beating Canada 52-50.

The Table Tennis contest was dominated by Brazil, but it was Cuba who was celebrating after winning Judo tournament. Gold medals were given to Anayasi Hernández (70 Kg+ category) and Yangaliny Dominguez (100 kg+ category).

In the toughly fought sitting volleyball final, held at the Riocentro pavilion 3B, Brazil defeated the United States 3-2. In the first phase of the competition the American's were in the lead, but Brazil took the gold after winning 3-2 in the final match.

It wasn't just the medalists that left the Rio 2007 Parapan Games feeling satisfied - the event also represented many victories for the Paralympic Movement and Paralympic Sport. For the first time in history, the Parapan American Games took place in the same venue directly after the Pan American Games. The joint organization of these events had a number of key benefits, including the development of first-class sporting facilities that meet the needs of Paralympic Athletes.

To continue this breakthrough association, Dr. Carlos Andrade and Carlos Hermosillas, representatives of 2011's Pan American Games host city Guadalajara, IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez and APC President Andrew Parsons signed an agreement to again hold the Parapan American Games in conjunction with the Pan American Games in 2011. The Mexican National Commission of Sport (CONADE) also confirmed its support for hosting the Parapan American Games in 2011.

The Rio Games also provided the setting for IPC's 47th official Governing Board meeting. During three days of meetings, the GB discussed and approved several issues, including the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, the budget for the financial Year 2008, as well as the framework of the budget for 2009, which will be proposed for the IPC General Assembly for adoption in November.



Photo ©: Saulo Cruz



Photo ©: Daniel Fachinni



Photo ©: Saulo Cruz



Photo ©: Saulo Cruz

NPC PROFILE: SUDAN

The newly elected President of the Sudan National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Mohamed Abdel Gadir has a clear, uncomplicated goal: he wants to see his athletes win gold medals at the Paralympic Games. In order to make this dream a reality, Mr Gadir has been working hard to empower and engage as many people as possible in the excitement of Paralympic Sport.

During his visit to the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) HQ in September, he took time out to talk to the Paralympian about his future plans for the NPC based in Khartoum. In the interview he also highlighted the valuable role sport plays in rebuilding communities, stressing how valuable it could be in rehabilitating people injured during the ongoing conflict in western Sudan.

Mr Gadir, who spent two years with the Sudanese Union for Sports for the Disabled, before being elected as president of the NPC in October 2006, said: "So many people become disabled through war - it's very hard for those that have been affected by war to integrate themselves back into the community."

"I think sport can contribute to the peace building process because when you bring people together in any area you reduce the differences between them, bringing everyone under one umbrella. Sport is one of the best ways of bringing people together. It's wonderful to see the spirit of the people when they participate together in any one of the games", he added.

"It's very hard for those that have been affected by war to integrate themselves back into the community."

Throughout the past year, the NPC has focused on organizing its office and developing links with other regional organizations that cater for persons with a disability. Despite having to deal with a host of administration problems early on in his presidency, Mr Gadir remains very optimistic for the future.

He hopes to expand the Sudan NPC, composed of 13 members, and increase the number of sports performed by athletes, who currently take part in Athletics, Powerlifting, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball. He also hopes to improve sport facilities and get more people involved in Paralympic Sport by promoting the Paralympic Movement in Sudan's cities.

There are also plans to hold a central competition in Khartoum, during which talented athletes will be selected for other sporting events. In order to achieve these goals, Mr Gadir aims to generate more funding through sponsorship deals with companies and businesses.

IPC Site Inspections for Athletics World Champs: Christchurch and Barcelona

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has conducted its first site inspection for the 2010 IPC Athletics World Championships.

IPC Athletics Sport Manager Helen Murphy and IPC Athletics Head of Technical Control Craig Cascadden met in Christchurch, New Zealand, with representatives from the bid authority to discuss the bid documents, give constructive feedback, answer questions and get a first impression of the city and proposed venues. The site inspection visit to Barcelona will follow from 16 to 18 October.

"This site inspection visit is a landmark occasion for IPC Athletics in terms of the IPC Competition Management Process," said Ms. Murphy. "Never has such a detailed bid process been applied to IPC Sport World Championships."

In 2006, several cities from around the world followed a call for expressions of interest to host the 2010 International Paralympic

Committee (IPC) World Championships in Athletics and submitted the bid application questionnaire.

In January 2007, the IPC reviewed the submitted material and selected Barcelona (Spain) and Christchurch (New Zealand) to continue in the formal bid application process. Since then, the applicants were required to submit the completed bid application, which has been reviewed by the IPC.

In November, the bid applicants will be invited to present their final bid proposal to the IPC World Championships Bid Evaluation Committee. The Committee will recommend the preferred bid to the IPC Governing Board, who will then award the 2010 World Championships in November 2007.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

A taste of the excitement to come: Running for gold at the IPC 2006 Athletic World Championships.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



China's National Women's Basketball Team in action at IPD 2007

Photos ©: Lieven Coudenys

Asian Women in Paralympic Sport set to gain from Leadership Summit

Asian women in Paralympic Sport will benefit from a summit dedicated to their issues along the same lines as previous events held in the Africa, and Europe. On 9 September, Xavier Gonzalez, CEO of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and Zainal Abu Zarin, President of the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC), signed a host agreement in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the APC to organize the Asian Women in Paralympic Sport (WIPS) Leadership Summit to be held in Malaysia in 2008.

The International Paralympic Committee aims to implement Women in Paralympic Sport Leadership Summits in each of the five IPC regions by the end of 2009. The two-day

Summits are designed to bridge existing gaps in opportunities for girls and women with a disability in Paralympic sport. They provide a forum for dialogue, policy and leadership development. Participants receive information on good practices and have the opportunity to contribute to creating a Regional Action Plan that will increase gender equity for girls and women in Paralympic sport in Asia.

Sport is a proven catalyst for empowerment, self-appreciation, leadership development, and promoting gender equity. One goal of IPC's development programming is use participation in Paralympic Sport to help girls and women realize these benefits.

Next Step Conference Promotes Young Leaders in Sport

The Next Step 2007 Conference, hosted by UK Sport and the Namibian Government, took place from 19 to 22 September in Windhoek, Namibia.

The Conference, entitled 'Sport - Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today' is a major international forum on human development through sport. It focused on sport's contribution to the building of a peaceful and better world by empowering young leaders to grasp the sporting values of friendship and fair play, while bringing together key policy makers to highlight the value of educating and developing young people through sport.

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Sir Philip Craven and IPC Development Manager Amy Farkas were amongst the attendees and speakers from throughout the international sport for development movement, presenting on social development and inspiration through sport. Representatives from National Paralympic Committees of Namibia, Zambia and Rwanda also actively contributed to the conference. Involvement in this activity is a key part of the implementation of IPC's Organization Development Initiative.

The conference will actively contribute to the work of the UN International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace by demonstrating the power of sport as a vehicle to reach the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the fields of education and youth development, gender equality and empowerment of women, combating HIV/Aids and other communicable diseases.

For more information, please visit www.nextstep2007.org.

Scientific Proof of Talent in the Rink

Competitive Ice Sledge Hockey players whose performance is often judged by the number of goals they score in the rink may be interested to know that the strength of their ability can also be proved scientifically.

As autumn comes to an end and sport enthusiasts turn their attention to Paralympic Winter Sports, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is in a great position to further elevate the growing profile of Ice Sledge Hockey, one of its most popular seasonal sports. This is because of important research carried out into the ability and performance of players.

The 'Development of a Skills Observation Protocol for Ice Sledge Hockey' by a team of scientists from Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, was one of five studies approved by IPC to be conducted at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games, and is one of few research projects carried out on this rapidly growing sport.

The study highlighted that the successful future of Ice Sledge Hockey depends on a thorough assessment of all elements of the game and, therefore, primarily focused on athletic performance and skill execution.

Ice Sledge Hockey players at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games were not only followed by TV crews and press photographers they were also extensively filmed to develop detailed criteria for the study.

Eight ice sledge hockey teams, consisting of 15 players were filmed during tournaments at the Games. The players were filmed on and off the ice for a total of ten to 20 minutes over the games they played.

"The successful future of Ice Sledge Hockey depends on a thorough assessment of all elements of the game."

After analysing the footage, scientific experts identified eight skills with between four and six criterion for each component of the game.

A total of 20 players were then selected from winning teams and lower scoring teams. Five players from each team were evaluated using the protocol.

And the study concluded that the protocol had achieved its goals because it adequately identified differences in the observable skills between players who rose to supremacy at Torino and those that were less successful.

Scientist identified a number of ice hockey what they described as 'offensive skills', including skating with the puck, dribbling, skating without the puck, receiving check, passing and shooting.

Angling, checking with contact and intercepting passes were among the defensive skills identified.

The IPC is confident that this protocol will become a valuable tool for coaches and athletes, as it can be used to optimize training and skill execution. It could also become an important part of the team selection process.

Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

International Convention explores the Advancement of Science and Human Movement

A week before the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games researchers from all over the world will attend a convention dedicated to the advancement of science and the practice of human movement. The 2008 International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport will take place in Guangzhou, China from 1-5 August.

Representatives from The International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education and the International Federation of Sports Medicine attended a precursor event to the convention in Guangzhou earlier on this year.

Peter Van de Vliet, IPC Medical and Scientific Director, who attended the event, said: "The IPC is pleased with the Conventions' emphasis on integrated scientific symposia and thematic sessions. A get together of scientists with the same interest, but targeting a different population (able-bodied athletes versus athletes with a disability) is of extreme interest to all partners. To this

extend, the Convention is very important to the further development of sports sciences in the Paralympic Movement."

The convention, themed Sport Sciences and Harmonious Society in the 21st Century aims to develop sport science, while highlighting the role that physical activity play in bridging cultural divides.

Around 2,500 delegates are expected to attend the event, during which all areas of sports and exercise science, sports medicine, physical education and social science will be discussed.

The convention will also explore the role that western and traditional Chinese medicines have in health promotion, rehabilitation and the cultural and philosophical and psycho-social dimensions of sport.

Researchers, authors and scientists have been invited to submit papers to the convention in the areas of exercise science, sports science, physical education and sports medicine and any sports-related social science.

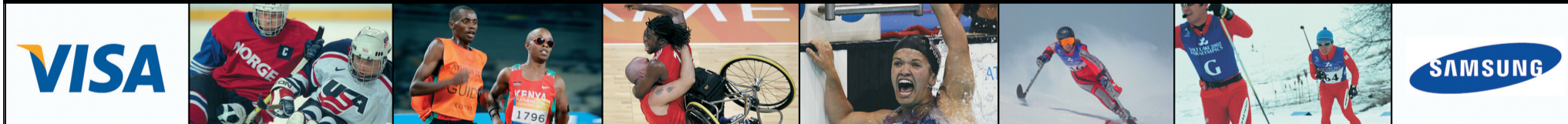
For more information about Paralympic Sport and the Paralympic Movement go to www.paralympic.org

All abstracts should be received by 30 November 2007. More detailed information can be found at www.icsemis2008.org.



Photo ©: Phil Cole

KEEP WATCHING



ParalympicSport.TV



Brazilian President Lula receives Paralympic Honour, Photos ©: IPC

Paralympic Honour for President of Brazil

International Paralympic Committee Governing Board member Jose Luis Campo presented President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of the Federal Republic of Brazil with the Paralympic Honour at the Parapan American Games. The award is bestowed on high-ranking dignitaries, officials and other persons outside the Paralympic Movement who have contributed significantly to the Movement.

President Lula visited the Parapan American Games Village in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and talked to athletes, staff and volunteers of the Rio 2007 Parapan American Games Organizing Committee (CO-RIO).

A welcome ceremony for the Brazilian President was attended by the Brazilian team, various high-ranking officials

including Brazilian Minister of Sport Orlando Silva, CO-RIO President Carlos Nuzman and Americas Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons and a crowd of media. He addressed the athletes saying: "You are not just bringing medals to your country but also demonstrating that barriers are there to be overcome", said Mr. Lula da Silva.

The list of recipients for Paralympic Honour includes Dr. Kazuo Hatada, President of Far East and South Pacific Games of the Disabled (FESPIC); Vladimir Putin, President of Russia; Prof. Dr. Horst Köhler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany; Wen Jiabao, Premier of People's Republic of China; Ferenc Gyurcsany, Prime Minister of Hungary; and, Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

IPC SPONSORS

Samsung Steps Up Again

Samsung has renewed its commitment as IPC's Worldwide partner until the end of 2008. The extension of this agreement was signed during International Paralympic Day 2007, which took place at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin at the end of August.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven marked the event in an impromptu fencing match with Hay K. Yang, Samsung Electronics President. "Since the launch of our partnership in early 2006, Samsung has proven to be a committed supporter of the Paralympic Movement," said Sir Philip. "I am delighted to extend our relationship and to offer Samsung the benefits of association with the Paralympic Movement."

Hay K. Yang, Samsung Electronics President added: "We hope to enable Paralympic athletes to achieve excellence in sports while inspiring people all over the world through their outstanding performances. This spirit of sport corresponds with the Samsung Corporate Agenda to contribute to humanity. Samsung has endeavoured to make sport available to all people around the world through the essential support of programmes. We believe this can be achieved through the great work of the International Paralympic Committee."

With the support of Samsung, IPC will be able to communicate the inspiration and excitement of Paralympic Sport to a wider audience, as well as to invest in the long-term growth of the Paralympic Movement. The agreement also reestablishes Samsung as a Presenting Sponsor.

Watch Paralympic Sport live on the Internet at:
www.ParalympicSport.TV

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International Paralympic Committee
Adenauerallee 212-214
D-53113 Bonn, Germany
Phone: +49-228-2097-200
Fax: +49-228-2097-209
E-mail: info@paralympic.org
Web: www.paralympic.org

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