

THE PARALYMPIAN

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2007 IPC General Assembly in Seoul, Korea

PASSION FOR THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

The President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Sir Philip Craven heralded this year's General Assembly as a "landmark event" that will pave the way to glory at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Representatives from more than 70 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), nearly all sports, regions and all four IOSDs gathered in Seoul, Korea, to renew their dedication to the Paralympic Movement. High profile political figures and officials, including the Prime Minister of Korea, Han Duck-Soo, the Minister of Culture and Tourism Kim Jong Min, the President of KOSAD and the Korean NPC Jang Hyang-Sook were also in attendance.

Hosted by the NPC of Korea, from 24 to 25 November 2007, the motto of the General Assembly - "Passion for the Paralympic Movement: Striving Towards Global Development" - summed up the progressive nature of the event.

The General Assembly saw the ratification of many important milestones for the IPC, including the Classification Code - an integral framework of policies and procedures relating to Classification. After being presented with an overview of IPC's organizational performance and activities during

the last two years, the General Assembly also approved the Financial Budget for 2008 and the framework of the budget for 2009.

The membership of three NPCs (Liberia, Panama, the Netherlands) and one Regional Organization - the Asian Paralympic Committee was ratified during the event. Four International Sports Federations, the International Cycling Union (UCI), the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and the International Rowing Federation (FISA) were also welcomed as new membership bodies of the IPC.

Addressing the delegates in his opening speech, Sir Philip, said: "I call upon all of you to use the valuable discussions we will have during the next few days to focus and motivate yourselves for the tasks ahead. By drawing upon each other's strength and experience we will be able to stage the most successful Paralympic Games ever in Beijing. We owe it to Paralympic athletes all over the world to deliver the kind of excellence they produce time and time again through astonishing athletic performances.

"As we embark on this year's General Assembly my closing words are: listen, learn and be inspired."

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Editorial



We are now coming to the end of what has been a remarkable year for the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the highlights.

The beginning of the year was marked by the excitement of the IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup and Biathlon & Cross Country Skiing World Cup. During this season, which saw competitions taking place on slopes all over the world, our athletes put in some astounding performances.

And the summer months proved to be just as exhilarating for the world of Paralympic Sport. One of this year's most exhilarating events was the Visa Paralympic World Cup in Manchester, Great Britain. During seven days of intense competition in May, 15 World Records were smashed.

At the end of July, I flew to Brazil for the 2007 Parapan American Games in Rio de Janeiro. Excellent sporting performances were seen throughout the event, especially during the Athletics, Powerlifting and Swimming competitions, where a number of records were broken.

Shortly after Rio, I was boarding a plane to Germany, where IPC staged its largest International Paralympic Day (IPD) in the fabulous setting of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. It was hugely satisfying for me to see so many people experiencing the excitement of Paralympic Sport by watching their favourite athletes compete and having a go themselves. And we were delighted to have HRH Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and her daughter HRH Princess Alexandra as our honorary guests.

It has also been hugely encouraging to assess the progress being made towards Beijing 2008, Vancouver 2010, London 2012 and Sochi 2014. The Beijing medals have now been unveiled and the construction of the London stadium will soon be underway. Months of suspense came to an end when Vancouver's charming Paralympic Mascot Sumi was introduced to the public, and huge progress is being made towards the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi with the creation of the Co-ordination Commission.

Towards the end of the year IPC had the chance to reflect on what we have achieved, as well as map out our course for 2008 and beyond. Of course, our General Assembly in November, which took place in Seoul, Korea provided the perfect opportunity for the Paralympic Family to prepare for the challenges ahead with an increased sense of togetherness.

Due to the remarkable accomplishments of this year, I am confident that we will start the New Year with an increased sense of unity. Be in no doubt, IPC is in excellent shape to stage the best ever Paralympic Games in Beijing, where, once again our athletes will inspire and excite the world.

Season's Greetings.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President

PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

Medals for Beijing Unveiled

The medals for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games are ready - all that's required now is for the athletes to win them.

The Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG) unveiled the medals on 14 November during a press conference at the Beijing Olympic Media Centre.

Leading officials from BOCOG and the China Disabled Persons' Federation, Paralympic athletes and a representative of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Medal Sponsor BHP Billiton were in attendance.

The design concept and pattern of the medals for the Beijing 2008 Paralympics is similar to the one for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Made out of gold, silver, bronze and jade, the medals have been designed to signify the concept of "One World One Dream."

Research and planning for the medal design started in November 2006. An analysis of the experiences from previous Paralympic Games led to the formulation of the concepts, requirements, creation methods and development scheme for the Beijing Paralympic Medals.

Based on their experience of designing for the Olympic Games, specific designers were invited to create the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Medals.

The designers were from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, the Academy of Fine Arts at Tsinghua University and China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation. All of the designers had submitted entries to

a campaign launched to find the best design schemes for the Beijing Olympic Games medals.

The materials, distinctiveness, weight, measurements and pattern of the medals have met the approval requirements of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).



Photo © BUCOG



PARALYMPIC GAMES: LONDON 2012

Stadium Construction Due to Start

The stadium design for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games has been unveiled by the Olympic Delivery Authority and construction is due to start in 2008.

The 80,000 seat stadium, located at the south of the Olympic Park within short walking distance of the Olympic Village and warm up area, will host both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and athletic competitions during the Games. It is expected that the project, designed and built by Team Stadium will be complete by 2011.

Since the bowl-like creation was unveiled at the beginning of November, many remarks have been made about its multi purpose elements, which will allow it to be converted to a permanent 25,000 seat stadium after the Games have finished, providing sports facilities for professional athletes and the wider public.

The main features of the design, budgeted at €693m (£496m), include a sunken bowl, built into the ground and designed to bring spectators closer to the action; a cable supported roof stretching 28 metres around the whole stadium and demountable seating. Catering and merchandising will be grouped into self-contained 'pod structures' around the access level of the stadium.



In his response to the stadium design Sir Philip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), said: "What really impresses me about this design is that it embraces the vision of legacy through its incorporation of temporary and permanent elements, which will create further opportunities for the development of sport in Great Britain. This is one way in which London will benefit in the long-term from hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games."

Chair of the London 2012 Organizing Committee Lord Seb Coe said: "We talk a lot about milestones, but few will be more exciting than this, the unveiling of the Olympic Stadium, which will be the centre piece of our Olympic Park. The stadium will stand for everything we talked about in the bid: it will be inspiring, innovative and sustainable - the theatre within which the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will be played out, leaving behind top class sporting and community facilities after the Games."

Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell decribed the design as a "stunning" and "truly imaginative concept." "We will ensure that the Olympic Stadium leaves a lasting legacy for London and the UK - a flexible venue with athletics at its heart."

PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

Mascot Sumi Introduced to the World

Months of mystery and anticipation finally ended in November after Sumi, Miga and Quatchi, the mascots for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games were introduced to the public.

Sumi, the Paralympic Mascot, unveiled on 28 November, is the animal spirit who wears the hat of the orca whale, flies with the wings of the mighty thunderbird and runs on the furry legs of the black bear. With a name that is derived from the Salish word 'sumesh,' meaning 'guardian spirit,' Sumi is passionate about the environment and is a fan of all Paralympic sports. Miga, a snowboarding sea bear, and Quatchi, a shy and gentle giant, both mascots for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, were presented at the same time.

Designed by the Vancouver-based company Meomi Design, the Olympic and Paralympic Mascots were inspired by Aboriginal mythological creatures and also strongly influenced by popular culture, modern animation styles, the Olympic and Paralympic Movements, the culture and wildlife of British Columbia and Canada.

Joining the three mascots is a friend, or 'sidekick,' by the name of Mukmuk. Mukmuk is a rare marmot unique to the mountains of Vancouver Island. While he is not officially a Mascot, Mukmuk is considered an honorary member of the team and enjoys surprising his friends by popping up on occasion to share in the spirit and fun of the Games.

"Miga, Quatchi and Sumi are ambassadors for Canada and we are thrilled to introduce them to Canadians and people from around the world," said John Furlong, CEO for the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC). "Great care has been taken in

developing and designing these Vancouver 2010 characters. They will tell a unique story about the Games and they will appeal to children across Canada and around the world. The mascots truly represent the people, geography and spirit of British Columbia and Canada, while personifying the essence of the 2010 Winter Games."

Sir Philip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) said: "The mascot for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games is an excellent choice and I am sure that it will be loved by children all over the world. It represents the values of the Paralympic Movement, but also links to the Aboriginal Canadian culture and tradition."

For more information visit the official website www.vancouver2010.com.



Photo ©: Jeff Vinnick / Kim Stalknecht VANOC

PARALYMPIC GAMES: SOCHI 2014

Vice President Joins Co-ordination Commission

The International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Vice President Miguel Sagarra has joined the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Co-ordination Commission for Sochi 2014.

Mr. Sagarra, who was a former member of the IOC Evaluation Commission for the Sochi 2014 Winter Games, will be one of 13 people who will assist the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games during the seven years leading up to the Games.

The commission will act as a link between the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the IPC, the Organizing Committee, the International Federations (IFs) and the National Olympic and Paralympic Committees.

The commission's Chairperson, Jean-Claude Killy has met with the Russian Prime Minister Victor Zubkov and representatives of Sochi 2014 to conduct a Sochi Orientation Seminar in Moscow, Russia, last week.

The members of the IOC Co-ordination Commission are: Jean-Claude Killy (FRA), Rémy Charmetant (FRA), Ottavio Cincuenta (ITA), Philippe Drevon (FRA), René Fasel (SUI), Gian-Franco Kasper (SUI), Gunilla Lindberg (SWE), HRH The Prince of Orange (NED), Miguel Sagarra (ESP), Juan Antonio

Samaranch Jr. (ESP), Rebecca Scott (CAN), Tsunekazu Takeda (JPN), Cesare Vaciago (ITA).

And for the first time after Sochi's election to host the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez and IPC Fundraising and Sponsorship Director Sergio Furman visited the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee in Moscow, Russia.

At the beginning of December, the IPC representatives met with Sochi 2014 CEO Dmitry Chernyshenko and received a general overview of the planning for the 2014 Games, discussing several aspects, including the organizational structure, legacy and integrated planning.

"This visit was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and get a first overview of the Paralympic Winter Games organization and transition. We are looking forward to working with the Organizing Committee to stage a great Paralympic Winter Games in 2014", said CEO Gonzalez.

Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Furman also had the opportunity to meet with Sochi 2014 Director of Strategic Planning, Dmitry Mosin, Russian Paralympic Committee First Vice President, Pavel Roshkov, and former Paralympian Mikhail Terentiev, who has been appointed as Sochi's Director of Paralympic Games.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

IPC Vice President Miguel Sagarra



Photo ©: Aronson

Heidi Makes a Splash for the Paralympic Movement

Dr. Ludwig Guttmann's passion and commitment for Paralympic Sport has survived the test of time and lives on through future generations of his family.

Californian teenager Heidi Aronson has always taken a special interest in the Paralympic Movement since she learned that her great grandmother's brother Dr. Guttmann was the man that founded it. And it is this piece of family history, coupled with Heidi's enthusiasm for the Paralympic Games that prompted her to do swimathon to raise money for the Paralympic Movement.

The 13-year-old, who attends Blach Intermediate School in Los Altos, California, raised a massive €2727 (\$4000) after swimming 200 lengths of an Olympic sized pool - a total distance of 10km. More than 40 people sponsored Heidi who completed her challenge in just 3:09.

Heidi, who started swimming at the age of seven, said: "Well at the hundredth length, I just kept thinking, I'm half way there - I don't have that much more left to do.

"When I finished I was really tired but really happy and when I got home I just slept."

"Everyone should do this - it feels really good

to raise money for such a great cause. People should just think of something that they really like to do and do it to raise money for something they really like", she added.

Lew Aronson's Grandmother, Alice Bamberger emigrated to the East Coast of the United States with her husband in the 1940s, around the same time that her brother Dr. Guttmann left for Stoke Mandeville in the Great Britain, where he set up a spinal injuries centre at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1944. In his treatment of injured Second World War soldiers Dr. Guttmann used sport as a central part of remedial treatment and rehabilitation of persons with a disability.

Sport used for rehabilitation purposes rapidly developed into recreation sport, which was eventually practiced at a competitive level. On 28 July 1948, the day of the Opening Ceremony of the 1948 Olympic Games in London, Dr. Guttmann organized the first competition for wheelchair athletes which he named the Stoke Mandeville Games.

In 1970s, Lew saw Dr. Guttmann on his 80th birthday party and remembers him as being remarkably similar to his grandmother. Lew described him as a very determined man who "spoke what was on his mind."

Reflecting on his daughter's courage and determination Lew said: "We are very proud of how she has been doing and how she did in this event, and that she took such a strong interest in it.

"You can do these things - it's well within your grasp but something like this would overwhelm a lot of people and prevent them from getting started."

IPC's Fundraising and Sponsorship Director Sergio Furman also acknowledged the importance of Heidi's achievements: "It is the compassion, dedication and commitment of supporters like Heidi that enable more Paralympic athletes to reach their potential. Funds raised through donations are extremely important because they help IPC to globally promote Paralympic Sport and create even more opportunities for people to achieve empowerment and inspiration through the Paralympic Movement. Every Paralympic supporter should follow Heidi's example and contribute, even if it's a small gesture or donation, since it all adds up at the end"

If you would like to support the Paralympic Movement by donating to the IPC, click on the "donations" link on www.paralympic.org.

ATHLETE PROFILE: KIRSTEN BRUHN

Spirit of Sport

German Swimmer Kirsten Bruhn, Paralympic gold medallist and world record holder, revealed that sporting success lies in the power of the mind.

"I'm doing many things with my mind - mental attitude is very important for me. It's exciting every time whether I'm in a competition or training", she explained. At the height of her endurance Kirsten tells herself to "go through it, go through it - it's not going to kill you."

"I think the spirit of sport for every person is the same and it doesn't matter who you are or if you have a disability or no disability. If you want to be free in your mind and in your body sport is the only way you can do that."

After Kirsten sustained serious injuries and lost the use of her legs as a result of a motorbike accident in Greece, she had to draw upon vast amounts of inner strength to come to terms with what had happened.

Commenting on how she felt after her accident, Kirsten said: "You try to reflect on it but it doesn't work. You have to realize what really happened - you have to handle it every day and get used to the reality."

Kirsten, who has always been a keen swimmer, took up the sport again in 2002. Since then her career as a Paralympic swimmer has taken her all over the world and she has become one of the most admired athletes of her generation.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

However, Kirsten has worked hard to achieve global recognition as an athlete and this is illustrated through her strict training regime. She trains six days a week for four hours and in the run up to a professional competition she trains every day for eight hours.

"It's a very busy routine but we have to do that to get to the top", she said.

Encouraging others to get involved in the excitement of sport, she added: "I think the spirit of sport for every person is the same and it doesn't matter who you are or if you have a disability or no disability."

"If you want to be free in your mind and in your body sport is the only way you can do that."



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Tributes Paid to Joan Scruton



Photo ©: Peterhouse

Tributes have been paid to the late Joan Scruton MBE for her outstanding commitment and dedication to the Paralympic Movement as the esteemed colleague of Dr. Ludwig Guttman.

Joan, who died 1 November 2007, worked with Dr. Guttman in the spinal injuries unit at

the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury Great Britain. Born in 1918 in Yorkshire, she was a qualified administrator and was posted in 1944 to Stoke Mandeville to receive injured soldiers.

And in her role as Secretary General for the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation (ISMWSF) she was hugely instrumental in Dr. Guttman's work to develop Paralympic Sport. In the late eighties she worked with other sport organizations to establish the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). In 1999, she received a Paralympic Order for her outstanding and long-lasting contributions to the Paralympic Movement.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven, said: "Joan was a highly revered member of the Paralympic Family. Her hard work and commitment in those early years contributed to making Paralympic Sport the inspirational phenomenon it is today. I offer condolences to Joan's friends, family and loved ones. She will be sadly missed but her spirit will always live on in the remarkable achievements of Paralympic athletes for years to come."

Tony Sainsbury, Head of the Paralympic Planning at London 2012, also offered his condolences. He said: "Joan's contribution to

the Paralympic Movement is incalculable. Probably the saddest aspect of this incredible lady's life is that she never realized or understood that the Games she helped to mould would be coming home in 2012 - had she known there would have been a huge party with Joan right in the middle."

SPIRIT IN MOTION
For more
information about
the IPC, Paralympic
Sport and the
Paralympic
Movement visit
www.paralympic.org

A Remarkable Presidency

When Spyros Stavrianopoulos took the helm of the Hellenic Paralympic Committee (HPC) in 2004 one of his first challenges was the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games. Despite having successfully come through the biggest test of his presidency, in his first term of office, Mr. Stavrianopoulos equalled this remarkable achievement in the subsequent work he has done for the Paralympic Movement in Greece.

Since the Paralympic Games, Mr. Stavrianopoulos, having been re-elected for a second term, pioneered the introduction and propagation of two Paralympic sports in Greece - Wheelchair Dance Sport and Shooting. He also took up several positions on organizations committed to disability rights issues and was the founding member of two federations and clubs set up to improve the lives of persons with a disability through sport.

It was these and other achievements that earned Mr. Stavrianopoulos a Paralympic Order - the most prestigious award offered to individuals involved with the Paralympic Movement. Mr. Stavrianopoulos, who received his award at the International Paralympic Committee's General Assembly in Seoul, Korea, said: "It fills me with joy that such a big honor is awarded to me. But it also fills me with responsibility to offer even more to the Paralympic Movement, and work even harder to promote the Paralympic Movement in Greece and all over the world."

And when asked about the importance of promoting the values of the Paralympic Movement, he said: "Sport is a social phenomenon, contributing, not only, to the improvement of a person's physical health but also to the development of team spirit, solidarity and respect, fostering social cohesion and contributing to the evolution of a young athlete into a complete and well balanced personality."

The Paralympian had the chance to talk to Mr. Stavrianopoulos about the work of the Hellenic NPC and how he foresees the future of the Paralympic Movement in Greece.

When and how was the NPC Greece established?

The Hellenic NPC was officially established in 2000 as a successor of previous organizations, which promoted sports for people with a disability. It came into being to co-ordinate all actions and act as an umbrella organization for all sports organizations involved in Paralympic Sport in Greece.

How many athletes does your NPC have?

Our organization caters for a wide range of athletes all over Greece who are training in 18 out of the 20 sports on the Paralympic Programme. Under the Hellenic NPC more than 65 sport clubs and 4 Sports Federations are co-operating to develop sports and spread the Paralympic Movement in Greece. It is estimated that more than 800 athletes are actively involved in training in Paralympic sports.



Spyros Stavrianopoulos receives a Paralympic Order.

How many members does your organization have?

The Hellenic NPC is comprised of 13 members. We are also in co-operation with the Hellenic Sports Federation for People with a Disability, the Hellenic Wheelchair Basketball Federation, the Hellenic Yachting Federation and the Hellenic Rowing Federation. We are also in close co-operation with the Sport Ministry. We are working with the Ministry to develop Paralympic sports and sports for people with a disability.

What has been the highlight of your presidency so far?

One of the highlights was the staging of the Paralympic Games in our country and to support the biggest organization of Paralympic Games so far. At the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, the Greek delegation was the biggest in history, consisting of 137 athletes. The Paralympic Games took Paralympic Sport to a new level of athletic performance and organizational quality. The Paralympic Games also acted as a very important tool to shift the interest of public opinion towards issues of people with a disability.

Is the NPC involved in any educational programmes?

The HPC is involved in a line of educational programmes. Every year we participate in the biggest school sport festival in Greece called Mathitiada. Schools from all over Greece participate, developing a Paralympic Park on the sports ground. This offers pupils a first-hand experience of Paralympic Sport. And as part of a programme, run by the Ministry of Education, Paralympians share their experiences with school children and promote Paralympic Sport and the Paralympic Games in schools all over Greece.

What are the biggest challenges faced by the NPC at the moment?

One of the biggest challenges we face is to reap the benefits of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games and turn them into a lasting legacy that will translate into the constant and dynamic growth of the Paralympic Movement. Another big challenge



The glittering opening ceremony of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games - the highlight of Stavrianopoulos' presidency.

is to bring new athletes into Paralympic Sport. We are in the process of inviting young persons with a disability to get involved in Paralympic sports. We have developed a programme for new athletes and discover young talented people for Paralympic Sports.

What are the main objectives of your organization?

The Hellenic NPC is the authority responsible for the development and promotion of the Paralympic Movement in Greece. It oversees the selection and formation of the Hellenic teams that represent Greece at the Paralympic Games. It promotes the Paralympic Movement in Greece and offers incentives to people with a disability and encourages people, especially young people, to get actively involved in sports and athletic activities. Our NPC offers opportunities for people with a disability to reach their maximum athletic potential and achieve excellence in sport and inspire others through their achievements. Supporting a wide range of activities from recreational sport to high performance athleticism for people with a disability, the Hellenic NPC strives to encourage people with a disability to take part in sports and feel the joy of sport. It supports the socialisation and the equal integration of persons with a disability into Greek society.

Who are your main target groups and how do you intend to reach them?

We aim to get all persons with a disability involved in Paralympic sports, while also developing high performance sport. We are trying to achieve this through a wide range of educational programmes and the Young Talent programme.

What excites you about the future?

What makes me feel very confident about Paralympic Sport is that it makes athletes develop a balanced personality, allowing them to be actively involved in society and in professional life. Besides all athletic characteristics it helps them develop traits that are very useful in social and professional life.

Rowing Excites Kenya

The Secretary General of the Kenya Rowing and Canoe Association (KRACA) Seifudin Patwa spoke to the *Paralympian* about the growth of Adaptive Rowing in Kenya and how he is preparing his athletes to qualify for the Paralympic Games.

Mr. Patwa, set up KRACA in 1995 in Mombassa, Kenya, to share his "passion" for water sports with other people in his community.

More than 12 years later, the association has set up ten clubs across Kenya and become a valuable part of the country's Paralympic Movement by creating sport opportunities for persons with a disability through Adaptive Rowing.

"I have always had a passion for water sports - Sailing and Rowing. It's all very well having a passion for yourself but you need to share the passion for it to grow. It's hugely satisfying for me to see that the sport has now spread", said Mr. Patwa.

The association included Adaptive Rowing in its programme two years ago. The International Rowing Federation (FISA) and the Kenyan Ministry of Sports provided funding for 30 boats suitable for able bodied athletes and athletes with a disability.

Commenting on the increased appeal of the sport, the 45-year-old said: "It's the treatment of a boat by another human being against the elements, the water and the waves. It's about being at one with the environment."

"Many people cannot believe the strength of the rowers, some of whom are double-amputees or polio victims. They can't believe these people are able to row a boat, let alone enter a race - this catches a lot of people's attention", he added.

"It's all very well having a passion for yourself but you need to share the passion for it to grow. It's hugely satisfying for me to see that the sport has now spread."

However, it took some time for Mr. Patwa and his colleagues to convince the athletes that they could row a boat, let alone win a race. He said: "At first it was difficult convincing people with a disability that they can do these things and take a boat out on water. Sometimes they would see it as if we are planning to go to the moon or something. That's the main barrier, breaking people's preconceptions about who can do

and who cannot do.

"Once given the chance they commit themselves fully - it's just a case of finding out that they can do it."

Mr. Patwa now wants his athletes to prove that "they can do it" at elite level by competing at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. And, as part of efforts to select a team to compete at the final qualification regatta in Munich, Germany around 17 athletes received specialist training at a series of workshops hosted by KRACA between 24 November and 1 December.

The workshops, organized in conjunction with FISA and the Kenya NPC, gave Category TA (trunk and arms) and Category A (arms only) the chance to work with professional coaches and receive medical assessments from physiotherapists.

The workshops focused on the international classification of athletes and addressed problems relating to the transportation of athletes.

SPORT NEWS

Eindhoven and Christchurch to host 2010 World Champs

The Governing Board voted in favor of recommendations put forward by the Bid Evaluation Committee that Christchurch, New Zealand (Athletics) and Eindhoven, the Netherlands (Swimming) should host the World Championships in 2010.

The announcement of the winning countries followed an extensive bid application and review process, which started in 2006 when

the IPC called for bid applications from all over the world to host the World Championships. Suitable candidates were then asked to submit further proposals and site inspections were carried out in The Netherlands, Spain, New Zealand and USA. Other candidate cities competing to host the 2010 World Championships were Barcelona, Spain (Athletics), and Minneapolis, USA (Swimming).

Viable candidates were required to complete a detailed bid application. During the review and evaluation stage, site visits were conducted and all bid applicants had the opportunity to submit further details of their bid proposal. All bid applicants presented their final proposals to the IPC World Championships Bid Evaluation Committee in November in Bonn, Germany.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven said: "I congratulate Christchurch and Eindhoven for their respective selections and extend our sincere appreciation to the bid authorities



Photo ©: Gallo images



Photo ©: Prezioso

from Barcelona and Minneapolis for their significant efforts.

"It was a hard decision for the IPC Governing Board. During the bid process, we saw strong presentations and commitments from all bid authorities. The IPC is sure that the selected cities will ensure great and exciting Championships and promote Paralympic Sport in the best way."

KEEP WATCHING

VISA



ParalympicSport.TV

Para Table Tennis European Champs

France rose to supremacy at the Para Table Tennis European Championships in Slovenia.

More than 460 athletes from 35 countries competed at the 2007 Championships in Kranjska Gora. The event, organized by ZSIS-POK, the Sports Federation for the Disabled of Slovenia, took place from 10 to 21 October.

The French team claimed 22 medals, nine of which were gold. Alena Kanova from Slovakia and Tommy Urhaug from Norway were heralded as the best players of the Championships in the Wheelchair category. And the performances of Natalia Partyka from Poland and Ivan Karabec from the Czech Republic earned them the accolade of best players in the standing category of the event.

The Championships coincided with the Slovenian National Paralympic Day, also held in Kranjska Gora on 20 October. A number of different sports were showcased at this event, including Athletics, Boccia, Goalball, Judo, Sitting Volleyball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Tennis. Visitors were given the chance to watch Paralympic athletes in action, as well put their own sporting talent to the test by trying out the sports.



Photo ©: Ivo Drinovec

Action at the Para Table Tennis Champs (left) and Hunkeler at the finish of the New York Marathon (right).

Wheelchair World Champs Qualifier

Wheelchair Curling teams from Italy and Sweden qualified for the World Championships after battling their way to victory at a toughly fought competition in Scotland.

The Wheelchair Curling Championships Qualifying Tournament, staged by the World Curling Federation (WCF) at the Inverness Ice Centre from 5 to 9 November, will be remembered for its exciting tie-breakers.

A total of nine countries (China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Sweden) came to Scotland to fight for one of the two available places at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Switzerland.

Italy won 6:4 in a tie-breaking match against Denmark - a victory that earned the Italian team a place at the World Championships in Sursee, Switzerland in February 2008. Germany won its first match against Sweden but it was the Swedes that celebrated after winning the final tiebreaker. China, the newest country to join the sport, won one match against the Czech Republic.

The tournament was the first WCF competition to be hosted in Inverness. Building work on the venue was finished days before the event opened.



Photo ©: New York Road Runners

Glorious Comeback for Edith Hunkeler

Wheelchair athlete Edith Hunkeler of Switzerland forged a record-breaking return to New York City in her first marathon since an accident in September 2006 took her out of the racing circuit. In a near-perfect comeback, Hunkeler took gold, beat her own course record by 48 seconds with her 1:52:38 finish.

Hunkeler's fall, at the 2006 IPC World Championships Marathon, crushed her right leg so severely that doctors feared they would have to amputate it. Two major surgeries later, with another procedure scheduled for next year, Hunkeler has defied the odds, and she is setting the bar high for future competitors.

Australian Kurt Fearnley, broke the tape in 1:33:58, which secured his place as champion for the second year in a row. But Fearnley revealed later that he struggled in the final stages. "With 10km left, the fast pace caught up to me," he said.

Fearnley will be back next year to take the hills again and try to break his course record from 2006. As for this year, "the finish line couldn't have come soon enough," he said.

Hunkeler, Shelly Woods, and Amanda McGrory held the lead pack until Hunkeler broke away between 35 and 40km. Woods took second in 1:54:19, while McGrory, who has been winning races since she first tried

Solleftea to Host Paralympic World Cup

The IPC and the National Paralympic Committee of Sweden signed an agreement that established the organizational elements required to stage the first ever Paralympic Winter World Cup in Solleftea, Sweden in 2009 and 2011.

The Paralympic Winter World Cup will be the biggest international biannual multi-sport competition outside of the Paralympic Winter Games.

All five Paralympic Winter sports (Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling) will be showcased at the event.

The signing ceremony on 23 November took place on the occasion of the IPC General Assembly in Seoul, Korea. IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez, Kari Marklund, President of the Swedish NPC, Stig Carlsson, General Secretary of the Swedish NPC, Eric Angstadt, IPC Winter Sports Manager and Elysabeth Bystrom and Jenny Karlsson from the Solleftea Organizing Committee, attended the event.

The Paralympic Winter World Cup will provide a platform for Paralympic athletes from all over the world to compete at the highest level and represent their country.

The Paralympic Winter World Cup will play a critical role in providing competition between Paralympic Winter Games. And the Patron of the event will be HRH Queen Silvia of Sweden.

The Paralympic Winter World Cup will replace the Solleftea Winter Games, which have taken place every two years since 1995, and will be a hotly anticipated event on the international Paralympic Winter Sport calendar.

For more information visit the official website at www.paralympicwinterworldcup.com.

the marathon distance just a year and a half ago, took third in 1:56:9.

In the men's race, Krige Schabort, finished second in 1:35:8 and Masazumi Soejima made Japan proud with a 1:36:16 third-place finish in his New York debut.

Chantal Petitclerc from Canada and Sandra Graf, of Switzerland, took fourth and fifth in the women's race. Saul Mendoza and Aaron Gordian, both from Mexico, rounded out the top five in the men's field.

With thanks to www.nycmarathon.org

Passion for the Paralympic Movement continued from page 1



Scenes from the opening ceremony of the 2007 IPC Conference and General Assembly.



IPC President Sir Philip Craven meets Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-Soo on the occasion of IPC's General Assembly

Seoul Declaration

The energy and zeal of the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) General Assembly was brought to a close with a promise to enrich the rapid growth of the Paralympic Movement.

The signing of the Seoul Declaration on 25 November symbolized a commitment between the IPC and its members and the Korean National Paralympic Committee to advance the rights of Paralympic athletes, achieve sporting excellence, promote the values of the Paralympic Movement and empower young people through Paralympic Sport.

In his closing speech Sir Philip Craven, summed up the significance of the event. He said: "I am sure that I am not the only one who will come away from this General Assembly feeling that there is an increased sense of unity and understanding between IPC and its members. It is these qualities, combined with unwavering dedication, which will pave our way to glory at Beijing. By merging organizational expertise with astonishing athletic accomplishment the 2008 Games will inspire and excite the world!"

The pledges made in the Seoul Declaration were derived from the topics of the IPC Conference, which kicked off with a glittering Opening Ceremony at the Grand Intercontinental Hotel in Seoul on 22 November.

More than 250 delegates attended the event and took part in meetings and breakout sessions on a number of different subjects, including the Organizational Development Initiative (ODI), Anti-Doping and Therapeutic Use Exemption, Paralympic Day, Paralympic School Day (PSD) and Youth Round Table. The World Academy of Sport also conducted a session on Communication and Stakeholder Relations.

Governing Board

The International Paralympic Committee staged its 48th official meeting of the Governing Board on the occasion of the General Assembly in Seoul, Korea.

During two days of meetings, which finished on 21 November, board members approved the technical delegates for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games and the Paralympic Games Chapter of the IPC Handbook, outlining principles for the organization of Paralympic Games.

A debriefing was given of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games and reports were provided on the progress being made towards the Beijing 2008, Vancouver 2010 and London 2012.

The Governing Board also received updates on the budget for the financial year 2007, the work of various IPC Standing Committees and Councils, as well as approved the transfer of governance of IPC Archery to the International Archery Federation (FITA).

The next Governing Board Meeting will take place in February 2008 in Bonn, Germany, at IPC Headquarters.



IPC's 48th official meeting of the Governing Board.

Sports' Council

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) hosted its annual Sports' Council meeting in Bad Honnef, Germany.

Representatives from 22 of the 25 sports affiliated with IPC attended the event, held from 19 to 21 October. Officials from the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG), the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) and the London 2012 Organizing Committee (LOGOG) conducted formal presentations to the Council and held side meetings to address planning for future Paralympic Games.

Representatives from the International Cycling Union (UCI), the International Archery Federation (FITA), IPC's Athletes With High Support Needs Committee, the IPC's Athletes' Council, Regions' Council and International Sports Organization for the Disabled (IOSD) Council attended the meetings.

Several topics were addressed, including the future direction and role of the IPC Sports Council, the IPC 2007 General Assembly, updates on the IPC Sport Governance and Management Initiative, the IPC Classification Code and the IPC Anti-Doping Programme.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Rights for All

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is committed to supporting and promoting human rights for all Paralympic Athletes and urges its member organizations to champion the rights of persons with a disability by staging awareness campaigns in their own countries.

On the occasion of IPC's General Assembly in Seoul, Korea, members of the Paralympic Movement received valuable training in advocacy and human rights by taking part in a series of workshops organized by the IPC, the Landmine Survivors Network and Rehabilitation International.

The workshop held from 20-21 November, aimed to deepen the participants' understanding of disability rights and how they are addressed within the international human rights framework, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. During the training sessions IPC reiterated the importance of the Convention, which stipulates that persons with a disability should have equal choice and

access to sport, while also highlighting that its measures will only be enforced once the Convention is ratified by 20 countries.

At the moment, the Convention, adopted by the UN in December 2006, has been ratified by eleven countries and signed by 118. The IPC wants people to start benefiting from the implementation of this legislation as soon as possible and is therefore keen to promote the ratification and advocacy by leaders within the Paralympic Movement.

During the workshops participants were given the opportunity to increase their campaigning skills and were taught how to develop national advocacy campaigns to call for the ratification of the Convention and promote disability rights and specifically the right to sport.

Jennifer Kamande, training participant from Kenya, said: "This training helped me to understand more about human rights and how to help others, particularly women with a disability to understand their rights."

Commenting on the importance of the training sessions IPC Development manager Amy Farkas, said: "The training was a great success. We received very positive feedback from the participants, many of whom believed that what they had learnt would enhance their work performance. I would like to thank all of our participants for renewing their commitment to instigate social change by deepening their knowledge on human rights and learning more about how to set up campaigns in their own countries."



Members of the Paralympic Movement receive training on human rights.

Classification Code

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has approved the Classification Code - a framework of policies and procedures that are essential to sustain the credibility and future progression of Paralympic Sport.

The overall objective of the Classification Code, approved at IPC's General Assembly, is to support the development of sport focused classification systems to ensure athletes will be able to compete in the fairest environment possible by harmonizing classification procedures and outlining a set of policies that are common to all sports. International Federations (IFs) will have to ensure that their Classification Rules will comply with the Code.

The Code is concerned with the international classification of athletes and will ensure that athlete evaluation is done on the basis of the impact an athlete's impairment has on their sport performance. Sports will need to clearly define which athletes will be eligible to compete and how athletes will be grouped for competition in a particular sport through robust, transparent and fair processes. The need to stipulate procedures to deal with athletes who do not fully participate in

classification has also been addressed in the Code.

Commenting on the importance of the Classification Code IPC Medical and Scientific Director, Peter Van de Vliet, said: "The Classification Code sets the standard for future classification for all sports in the Paralympic Movement, and establishes a consistent philosophy on classification, specifically as it relates to the harmonization and transparency of classification procedures.

"The Code also reflects the direction of the Paralympic Movement towards sport-specific classification systems underpinned by scientific research and validated assessment methods. The Code ensures that the best practice of operations are achieved by all Sports and International Federations (IFs), thereby protecting the rights of all those involved in the classification process while ensuring accountability and principles of fair play."

Classification in Paralympic Sports is the responsibility of the respective IF that governs a particular sport. However, the

need to harmonize procedures and to give a clear directive to classification within the Paralympic Movement was recognized by the IPC in 2003 and the Classification Code was created in response to this concern.

"The Code ensures that the best practice of operations are achieved by all Sports and International Federations, thereby protecting the rights of all those involved in the classification process, while ensuring accountability and principles of fair play."

The process, which started in 2003, included a widespread consultation on classification to IPC's membership through the release of interim versions of the Code. Feedback, received from different stakeholders, including athletes, classifiers, researchers, International Organizations for the Disabled (IOSDs) and IFs.

Research Into the Race Patterns of Nordic Sit Skiers

Nordic Sit Skiers striving for gold will be interested in new research that suggests energy management is the key to success.

A research project, conducted by the Italian Paralympic Committee, the School in Sports Medicine (SSM), the University of Rome and the Inter-Universities Centre of Research in Bioengineering and Motor Sciences in Italy, sheds light into the extent of physical tiredness experienced by Nordic Sit Skiers at the end of a race.

The project is based on previous research that highlighted increased heart rates and high oxygen consumption was particularly prevalent amongst sit skiers and, focused on the performance of athletes in LW10-12 classes at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games.

After looking at data generated from analyzing Nordic Sit Skiers, who were ranked in the first and last five of a 15km race,

researchers were able to identify the changes in their race patterns. Researchers discovered that the severe physical fatigue experienced, particularly by lower ranking athletes, could be due to an inefficient movement pattern adopted during the last part of the race.

"The report concluded that all athletes should strive for a consistent energy management strategy, allowing them to utilize energy sources from the beginning to the end of the race."

It became apparent that higher-ranking athletes were able to maintain the same speed throughout the entire race with a more stable movement pattern and less physiological effort.

The report concluded that all athletes should

strive for a consistent energy management strategy, allowing them to utilize energy sources from the beginning to the end of the race.

The report also highlighted that an athlete's ability to maintain high-energy levels and the maintenance of sufficient levels of muscle power were essential to win the race.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Nordic Sit Skiers in action at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games.

A Celebration of Talent and Commitment



IPC President Sir Philip Craven at the 2007 Paralympic Awards Gala.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) celebrated the achievements of people whose talent, commitment and spirit have enriched the Paralympic Movement and elevated the profile of Paralympic Sport. Paralympic Awards for outstanding contributions in the areas of media, science and sport were presented at a glittering ceremony held on the occasion of IPC's General Assembly in Seoul, Korea.

Commenting on the Paralympic Awards Gala Ceremony, sponsored by IPC's worldwide partners Ottobock and Samsung, IPC President Sir Philip Craven, said: "Several incredible people have played a vital role in raising the profile of the Paralympic Movement. And it was a joy and an honor to recognize the remarkable achievements made in the areas of science, media and sport through the Paralympic Awards ceremony."

Dr. Garry Wheeler, an exercise physiologist and registered psychologist from Canada, was awarded the Paralympic Science Award for his extensive work to promote health and elite sports activities for persons with a disability at home and abroad. Dr. Wheeler, also the Vice President of the Alberta Division and Edmonton Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, has worked with the Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology and National Fitness Accreditation and Certification Association (FACA). Dr. Wheeler was also a member of the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Sport Science and Education Committee.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) was selected as the winner of the 'Broadcast' category of the Paralympic

Paralympic Orders

Paralympic Orders - the most prestigious accolade given to people connected with the Paralympic Movement - were presented on the occasion of IPC's General Assembly.

The President of the Hellenic Paralympic Committee Spyros Stavrianopoulos was given a Paralympic Order in recognition of his contribution to the success of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games and his ongoing commitment to promote the Paralympic Movement in Greece. Silas Chiang, a sports executive from Hong Kong, received a Paralympic Order for long-lasting contributions to the Paralympic Movement



Paralympic Awards to recognize outstanding contributions.

Awards for Media for its coverage of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games. The award for the written category went to the BBC Sport Website for its long-standing commitment to cover the Paralympic Games and sport for persons with a disability.

During the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games, the BBC Sport website helped to spread the spirit and dynamism of Paralympic Sport by providing daily news reports of the event. Swedish freelance photographer Mikael Helsing, based in Madrid, Spain, also impressed the judges for capturing the excitement of the Paralympic Games. His winning photo showed visually impaired Alpine Skier Eric Villalon and his guide Hodei Yurrite during the Slalom event at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games.

Paralympic Sport Awards went to Nordic Skier Brian McKeever (class B3) from Canada who won the Best Male Athlete category. Brian has already won a total of seven Paralympic medals in his career, including two gold, one silver and one bronze at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. He has also won several World Championship medals, including five gold at the 2005 IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships.

The talent and determination of Canadian Alpine Skier Lauren Woolstencroft (class LW1-9), earned her the award for the best female athlete. Lauren took centre stage at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, where she won both a gold and silver medal. Before this, she had already won a total of six Paralympic medals, including three gold.

and, in particular for his assistance in organizing the FESPIC Games. Mr. Chiang has also taken an active role to represent Hong Kong during the Paralympic Games.

Governing Board member, Ann Cody accepted a Paralympic Order on behalf of Carol Mushett. Ms. Mushett was chosen to receive this award in 2005 for work carried out in her previous positions as IPC Executive Technical Officer. She also worked as Technical Officer and Classifier for the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA).

Lauren also has also won numerous World Cup events, World Championship medals and World Cup titles.

The award for Best Team Performance went to the Canadian Ice Sledge Hockey Team, who won their country's first Paralympic gold medal in the sport. Team Canada has enjoyed a tremendous run of success over the last three years, winning the vast majority of their exhibition games, culminating in their gold medal winning performance at Torino.

Swiss athlete Thomas Pfyl's astonishing performance on the slopes of Torino earned him the award for Best Games Debut. Thomas won a gold and silver medal for Alpine Skiing at Torino (class Standing LW 9-2) and the European Cup ranking 2005/2006 and World Cup ranking in 2007.

Dr. Karl Quade's excellent work as Chef de Mission of the German Paralympic Team during the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games won him the accolade of Best Games Official. Dr. Quade will continue carrying out this role at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

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

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