

editorial



Dear Friends,

"Beijing 2008: One Year To Go!" – We were just at the University World Cup in Lima, Peru, a few weeks ago, when CNN International was giving live broadcast all day long of the grand-scale ceremonies held in the Chinese capital marking the count-

down of the last 365 days to the start of the next Olympic Games. What we saw on TV was most imposing, confirming our previous personal impressions collected at an inspection of the Olympic venues and facilities in April, earlier in the year.

8.8.2008 – that day will mark the launch of the Games of the XXIXth Olympiad. They say

that eight is a magic number, an especially lucky number for the Chinese. Well, it will certainly be a very lucky date for those 260 weightlifters, men and women, who can march into the new Olympic stadium as proud Olympians a year from now.

Who would believe that already three years have passed since those magic days

The President and General Secretary at the building site in Beijing with Olympic Technical Delegate Attila Ádámfi

in Athens? Since 25th August 2004, when Iranian Hossein Reza Zadeh put the icing on the cake with his 263.5kg clean and jerk world record. In the coming weeks and months

IWF inspection with the BOCOG officials visit in the Beihang University Olympic Weightlifting Stadium nearing completion





hosted the weightlifting world championships ten years ago in 1997 is most likely to welcome the largest field ever to participate in this sport between 17 and 26 September 2007. The Royal WWC – destined to commemorate His Majesty King Bhumiphol's 80th birthday, will shape the bulk of the Olympic fields for Beijing.

For us it only remains to wish the best of luck to the hosts and participants alike. See you in Thailand!

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IWF President

Yannis Sgouros
IWF General Secretary

Photos: Sgouros

the focus is increasingly going to be on the next Games, the all-important Olympic qualification.

Before that, however, let us stop for a moment and look back on what has happened in the world of weightlifting in these last three years. In 2005, 2007 and so far in 2007, our sport has shown modest but steady progress. It should be noted, namely, that world records are not the only index with which to measure progress in weightlifting. A more expressive indication of a positive trend is, for instance, the fact that new countries have joined the mainstream, new nations have signed in their athletes as medal winners of major championships and new talent strives to outshine past heroes. Speaking of a growth in the family, we should not forget that new countries, new cities have added their names to the list of recognised hosts of world competitions. Two very small nations, Qatar and the Dominican Republic staged World Championships. Busan in South Korea and Hangzhou in China are now also registered as hosts to successful Junior World Championships,

venues of new world records. The tiny town next to Nice, Villeneuve-Loubet in France entered the weightlifting annals as the exemplary organiser of the University World Cup. Lima in Peru – though not new to world events in the sport – re-entered the top ranks in weightlifting by successfully hosting the 10th edition of the University World Cup.

Thanks to a constant development of technology by the IWF, the sport's events can enjoy an increasingly high technical and organisational standard, with many innovations and spectacular additions serving both participants and the public.

A very significant technical change has also marked this last quadrennial: the half kilos have disappeared from weightlifting. Therefore, Beijing will open a new page in Olympic history with new standard records to be outscored, new total kilo figures to be remembered.

While our telescope is focused on Beijing, our eyes are on ChiangMai, Thailand on the imminent Olympic Qualification World Championships. The city that had already

The weightlifting venue will be ready to host the Olympic Test Event next January

