

# 2009 Goyang WWC

## Go(ing) Young in Korea?

The first senior World Championships held in Korea was one of the best ever organised in this sport. This statement will not be questioned by anyone who had the chance to attend the 77<sup>th</sup> men's and 20<sup>th</sup> Women's World Championships held in Goyang City, just off Seoul, in Korea, 20<sup>th</sup>

disproven by the 2009 Goyang WWC, while naturally not surpassing the Chinese miracle it certainly came very close to the 2008 highlight in more than one respect. The large, comfortable and beautiful venue at the KIN-TEX Exhibition Centre, the top level management of the event, spectacular and elegant opening and closing ceremonies, the luxurious accommodation, the reliable and precise transport system and the kind hospitality of the hosts must be credited to the Organizing Committee headed by Goyang City Mayor *Kang Hyun-Suk* and the experienced staff of the Korean Weightlifting Federation,



*Dr. Aján, Goyang City Mayor Mr. Kang, KWF President Mr. Yeo and Mr. Yodbangtoey cutting the cake*

to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009, whether in the capacity of athlete, coach, official or journalist. After the magnificent Beijing Olympic Games the word was out that it was the ultimate peak, the maximum, and no other host would ever be able to match its standards. Now, such assumptions were partly

under its President *Yeo Mu-Nam*. Participants, in turn, offered an array of highly exciting and open-to-the-last-minute battles, unexpected winners, bravura performances by new countries and new champions. The Championships' slogan was, formed from the host city's name, "Go Young" and



*Even the ceremonies hosted by the Koreans were true to the WWC slogan "Lift the Limit!"*

"Road to London". And indeed, as often happens in post-Olympic years, many of the protagonists "went young" and – though not an official qualification event to the 2012 Olympic Games - the WWC proved to be the first important stop on the Road to London. The expected change of guards did come about; with some of the former great champions either having retired or eventually defeated at Goyang, and new shooting stars representing the younger generation emerging. Of the 196 male participants only 56 had stood on the Beijing stage and 87 of them were

rookies at senior world championships. Among the ladies, out of the 133 competitors we had seen only 28 (!) in Beijing just a year ago, while 66 of them were first-timers on the world championships platform.



*The most enthusiastic World Championships fan*



## Russian men failed to win any gold medals

Russia won their first world champion title in 1899, then, after some break, Russian weightlifters restarted to collect such titles in 1993 and continued to pile up the gold medals until now. The Russian male team came to Korea as the owner of 39 gold medals – and it left with the same number.

## Indonesia entered the log of nations with senior men world champion titles

Having assiduously collected various medals for the last few years, *Eko Yuli Irawan* changed categories and in the same move traded his earlier silver and bronze medals for gold ones. He thus captured Indonesia's first men's world title. Yet the Indonesian women are still leading with their five world championship gold medals tally. Indonesia is the 48<sup>th</sup> country boasting men's world champions.

## Kazakhstan soaring

*Ilya Ilin* raised Kazakhstan into the world's elite by his senior world champion titles



*Sibel Özkan Öz* excelled for Turkey



*Sedov* stepped in for *Ilin* and retained the title for Kazakhstan

Goyang City the women's team collected eight medals, of which seven are (!) gold – one more than the Chinese.

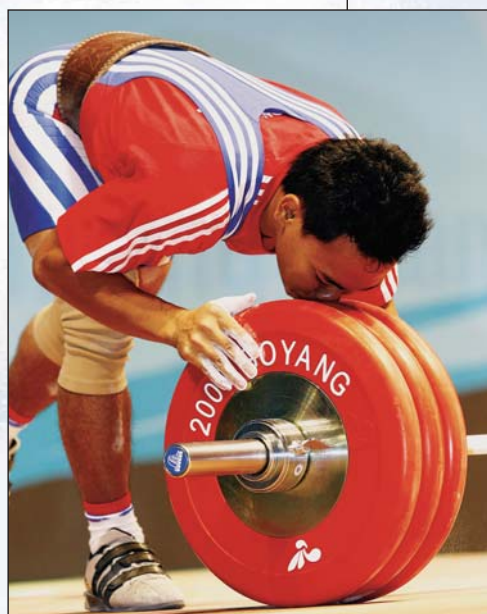
## Armenia and Turkey celebrate their first female world champions

*Nazik Avdalyan* made the hat trick for Armenia. She was, at the same time, one of the biggest surprises of 2009 WWC as she defeated

Olympic and world champions offhandedly. As for Turkey, *Sibel Özkan Öz* opened their golden source by winning the clean and jerk. So far, 23 countries have won women's gold medals.

## Same country to produce heaviest men's and heaviest women's world champions

In the history of the world championships it happened for the first time that the same country – Korea – gave both the men's and the women's world champions in the superheavyweight category. Unknown internationally, *An Yong-Kwon* scored an unexpected, top favourite Olympic and world champion *Jang Mi-Ran* captured an expected victory for the host country. The latter's new 187kg world record is the heaviest weight ever lifted by a woman.



in 2006. In 2009 *Sedov* confirmed Kazak supremacy, but at the same time the country's women also started to amaze the world. In

*Irawan*, Indonesia



The world's strongest man in 2009: *An Yong-Kwan* from Korea